

BERWICK-UPON-TWEED TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Monday 9 July 2012 at 6 pm at The Town Hall, Marygate, Berwick-upon-Tweed

PRESENT:

Councillors:	J Robertson (Town Mayor)	G Hill
	J Beresford	I Hunter
	H Bettison	V Pauline
	A Bowlas	C Routledge
	I Dixon	F Simpson
	F Grant	J Smith
	P Herdman MBE	J Waterhouse

IN ATTENDANCE:

S Finch, Town Clerk

S Cozens, Assistant to the Clerk

Sergeant Keith Smith, Northumbria Police

Paul Liversidge, North East Ambulance Service

Catherine Wheeldon, Northumberland County Council

Gary McBride, Northumberland County Council

1 member of the public.

The Town Mayor welcomed everyone present to the meeting.

OPEN SESSION

Paul Liversidge of North East Ambulance Service (NEAS) outlined the Accident and Emergency Review for which he was responsible. He explained that the review was taking place as the last full review was completed in 2006. NEAS were working towards an implementation date of April 2013 although some changes may occur sooner. Councillors expressed concerns over the availability of ambulance cover when vehicles already present were 'called out'. Anything other than a very minor injury resulted in the ambulance not going to Berwick Infirmary, but the patient being taken a long distance, for example to Wansbeck Hospital, which meant the area could be without ambulance cover for a considerable time. This could be a major issue as the area moved into the busy tourist season.

Mr Liversidge explained that NEAS used a dynamic system, resources being moved around to meet the demands that were placed on it. Members raised a number of issues, and thanked Mr Liversidge for attending the meeting; he advised that any individual queries would be addressed by Mark Cotton following the meeting.

Sergeant Keith Smith of Northumbria Police updated the Council on current crime figures. The crime figures for the previous 28 day period remained low; the issue of illegal outside drinkers was still a work in progress and this was being tackled with some long term measures. The Chair thanked Sergeant Smith for attending.

CO20/12 **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence had been accepted from: Councillor A Reid (personal).
Absent: Councillor B Douglas.

CO21/12 **2. MINUTES**

The minutes of the Berwick-upon-Tweed Town Council meeting held on 18 June 2012 were agreed and signed as a correct record.

CO22/12 **3. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**

There were no disclosures of interests.

CO23/12 **4. TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Town Mayor reported on the success of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and Olympic Torch Relay events and commented on the unfortunate weather conditions for events such as the Spittal Gala.

CO24/12 **5. COMMUNITY RESILIENCE**

Catherine Wheeldon of the Civil Contingency Team from Northumberland County Council gave a presentation to the meeting on the way forward for a Community Resilience Plan. The particular risks for the area would need to be identified and the community could be included in this process. There was Cabinet Office assistance available such as the Community Emergency Plan Template. This document allowed for relevant contact names and numbers etc to be inserted. The meeting noted the presentation and thanked Catherine for attending.

CO25/12 **6. SUBSIDIES TO BUS SERVICES**

Gary McBride, Transport Manager of Northumberland County Council briefed the meeting. He said that while NCC was still spending the same amount of money on bus services, extra costs such as the rise in fuel prices meant services would be affected. Services around Robert's Lodge, the West End and out to Horncliffe, Seahouses and Beadnell were at risk. Feedback would be welcomed on these

issues.

NCC was working with the WRVS on the Getabout scheme where volunteer drivers collect and deliver passengers, however there were no concessions. There was also the Northumberland Sustainable Community Transport Initiative. Organisations could apply for funding to this scheme and it might be an appropriate way to deliver the 'hoppa' bus through Berwick town centre, which NCC and the Town Council had discussed. The meeting agreed these discussions should continue.

CO26/12

7. NORTHUMBERLAND LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN CORE STRATEGY

Members agreed that they should consider the consultation document and relay any comments to the Clerk by Friday 20 July 2012. The Chair, Deputy Chair, Councillor Herdman and the Town Clerk would then meet to agree a response.

CO27/12

8. CODE OF CONDUCT

RESOLVED: As required by the Localism Act 2011, to adopt the new Code of Conduct which had been circulated.

CO28/12

9. COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

The Clerk advised that a complaints procedure to assist local residents to deal with complaints against actions of the Council's staff, or its administration, had been agreed by the Finance and Resources Committee and required to be formally adopted by the Council.

RESOLVED: To agree the Complaints Procedure for the Town Council which had been circulated.

CO29/12

10. REVIEW OF STANDING ORDERS

The Clerk advised that a review of standing orders was now due, as this should take place annually at the first meeting of the year.

RESOLVED: The Chair, Deputy Chair and Councillor Herdman to undertake a review of Standing Orders.

CO30/12

11. PLANNING COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: To adopt the minutes of the meetings of the Planning Committee held on 22 May 2012 and 26 June 2012.

CO31/12

12. EVENTS COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: To adopt the minutes of the meetings of the Events Committee held on 22 May 2012 and 25 June 2012.

CO32/12

13. ENVIRONMENT AND REGENERATION COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: To adopt the minutes of the meetings of the Environment and Regeneration Committee held on 28 May 2012 and 2 July 2012.

CO33/12

14. FINANCE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: To adopt the minutes of the meetings of the Finance and Resources Committee held on 29 May 2012 and 3 July 2012, subject to it being noted that Councillor Hunter had been elected as Chair of Finance and Resources Committee, and not Environment and Regeneration Committee (F001/12, 29 May).

CO34/12

15. REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES

RESOLVED: Councillor Dixon to represent the Town Council on St. Aidans' Hall (Berwick) Trust.

Councillor Bowlas agreed to continue representing the Town Council on the Board of Berwick Community Trust.

CO35/12

16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Council would be held on Monday 24 September 2012 at 6 pm in the Town Hall.