

BERWICK-UPON-TWEED TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Tuesday , 11 January 2011 at 6 pm at The Town Hall, Marygate, Berwick-upon-Tweed

PRESENT:

Councillors:	J Waterhouse (Town Mayor)	A Reid
	J Beresford	V Pauline
	P Herdman MBE	J Robertson
	G Hill	C Routledge
	M McNeely	J Smith
	V Pauline	

IN ATTENDANCE:

S Finch, Town Clerk
A Swinburne, Sheriff
Inspector Peter Duguid
3 members of the public

The Town Mayor welcomed everyone present to the meeting, which had originally been scheduled for 29 November. She wished all a Happy New Year. She also offered the Council's congratulations to Councillor Herdman and Mrs Herdman upon their each being awarded an MBE in the New Year Honours.

OPEN SESSION

Inspector Duguid reported that crime levels in the Berwick area from April to date, compared with the same period last year, were 16% lower overall. Vehicle crime remained the only category to have increased.

There had been a large police presence at the recent football match between Berwick Rangers and Celtic, and the event had passed off without incident.

Members again expressed concern about the failure to enforce parking regulations; Inspector Duguid said that in the lead up to the taking on of parking by the County Council he would ask officers to monitor Berwick. Councillor Beresford highlighted the problem of cars parking on pavements in the Highcliffe area, which Inspector Duguid confirmed was unlawful.

The Town Mayor thanked Inspector Duguid for attending.

CO46/10 **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies had been received from Councillors Bettison, Bowlas, Dixon, Hunter and Simpson.

CO47/10 **2. MINUTES**

The minutes of the Berwick-upon-Tweed Town Council meeting held on 20 September 2010 were agreed and signed as a correct record.

CO48/10 **3. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**

Councillor Herdman declared a personal interest in Item 6 (Barrack Options Report); and Councillor Reid declared a personal interest in Item 7 (Bus Services Up-date).

CO49/10 **4. TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Town Mayor reported on events which she and the Civic Party had attended. These included presiding over two ceremonies at which Freemen were admitted to the Guild of Freemen, and a variety of Christmas events. She noted that the decision had reluctantly been taken not to switch on the Christmas lights as planned because of the severe weather conditions. She had joined in the annual Boxing Day Dip, which had raised funds for RNLI.

The Town Mayor thanked Councillor Beresford for her help in arranging a party to raise funds for her charity, and Councillor Robertson for arranging the reception for guests from the former Borough Council's twin town Casey, Australia. She also thanked the Town Clerk for the arrangements made to mark Remembrance Day.

CO50/10 **5. PLAY AREAS**

The Town Clerk reported that £25,000 could be available through the Playbuilder

programme for use in either up-grading an existing play area or contributing to a new one. It was understood that these monies would need to be spent by 31 May 2011, and that issues such as identifying a site, its ownership, planning permission, and ongoing management would all need to be resolved. The Children's Centre Locality Manager had indicated that Sure Start would take the project forward, but the Town Council might be approached for support for the project, both in initiating it and its ongoing management. Members were invited to agree where a new play facility might be located should the project be taken forward.

RESOLVED: In the absence of any existing facilities, priority for a new play area should be in the Highcliffe/Eastcliffe area.

CO51/10

6. BARRACKS OPTIONS REPORT

This item would be rescheduled for discussion at the Council meeting on 24 January, when Councillor Hunter and Rob Horne, Regeneration Manager, Northumberland County Council, would be present.

CO52/10

7. BUS SERVICES UPDATE

Members were advised that following meetings convened by the County Council with Perrymans, the bus operator, a revised timetable had been proposed which met as far as possible the concerns raised by residents.

It was noted that the revisions needed to be agreed by Tesco's legal advisers, and at present they had not responded.

RESOLVED: That in view of the delay in progressing the matter of revised bus services, a letter should be sent to Tesco expressing the Council's concern and expressing the hope that a response would be given shortly.

CO53/10

8. NEW ROAD AND BERWICK PARKS PROJECT

Members were advised that the County Council had now cleared the length of the New Road, but this had uncovered further issues including the poor state of repair of parts of the stone wall, the need for re-surfacing, and damaged public seats.

33% of the cost of re-surfacing was now included in the Local Transport Plan, and it was suggested that the Town Council should consider helping to meet the costs of this and of repair or replacement of public seats. This would be considered when full information about costs was available.

The consultants retained to prepare and submit a bid for funds to restore Coronation and Castle Vale Parks had undertaken some preliminary desk research to assist in preparing the conservation statement. It was now proposed to hold a public consultation afternoon on 27 January, 12 – 4 pm in the Town Hall, to which it was hoped residents would bring recollections and photographic material, which itself might form the basis of an exhibition in due course.

CO54/10

9. LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN

The Clerk outlined the key points of the Third Local Transport Plan. It was agreed that as this was a broadly strategic document the Clerk should submit a response on the Council's behalf.

CO55/10

10. REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES

No requests had been received for representation on outside bodies.

CO56/10

11. STAFFING COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: To exclude the press and public during the discussion of this agenda item, which included issues of a personal and confidential nature.

RESOLVED: To adopt the minutes of the Staffing Committee held on 11 October 2010.

RESOLVED: To re-open the meeting to the press and public for the remainder of the meeting.

CO57/10

12. EVENTS COMMITTEE

Councillor McNeely noted that the exceptional winter weather had adversely affected events over the Christmas period, but two events, the Dickensian Market and Spittal Christmas event with reindeer had both been very successful.

RESOLVED: To adopt the minutes of the Events Committee meeting held on 8 November 2010.

CO58/10

13. ENVIRONMENT AND REGENERATION COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: To adopt the minutes of Environment and Regeneration Committee meeting held on 8 November 2010.

CO59/10

14. FINANCE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

(i) RESOLVED: To adopt the minutes of the meeting of the Finance and Resources Committee meeting held on 9 November 2010

(ii) The Clerk drew attention to a letter received from the County Council relating to local services which it was inferred should be taken on by the Town Council with effect from 1 April 2011, and advised that in view of the uncertainty which this had created, the Finance and Resources Committee meeting scheduled for 10 January would be deferred until it was clearer what impact this might have on the estimates and precept.

(iii)RESOLVED: To approve and accept the audited annual return for the year ending 31 March 2010.

CO60/10

15. PLANNING COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: To adopt the minutes of the meetings held on 19 October 2010, 16 November 2010 and 14 December 2010.

CO61/10

16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Council would be held on Monday 24 January 2011 at 6 pm in the Town Hall.