

BERWICK-UPON-TWEED TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 18 December 2017 at 6.00 pm at The Town Hall, Marygate, Berwick-upon-Tweed

Councillors:	G Roughead (Town Mayor)	T Forrester
	H Bettison	A Gibson
	A Bowlas	K Graham
	R Bruce	C Lewis
	B Douglas	B Parkin
	A Forbes	G Smith

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr Gareth Davies, Town Clerk

Steve Cozens, Assistant to the Clerk

Joyce Benton, Sergeant-at-Mace

Representatives of the North East Ambulance Service

County Councillor G Hill

County Councillor C Seymour

15 members of the public, 1 member of the press

Bob Hodgson, Area Manager, NCC

Representatives of the North East Ambulance Service gave a presentation on changes to Ambulance Response Standards, and answered questions from councillors and members of the public.

OPEN SESSION

A member of the public proposed an alternative location for the Tourist Information Centre. The Town Clerk explained that the council was aware of alternative proposals and would give due consideration to any suggestion.

Mr Brian Darling made a series of criticisms of the Town Council's management and publicity for meetings, and the Town Clerk undertook to provide a report to the next

meeting of council. At this point Cllr Lewis left the room before returning during the introduction of the next item.

C156/17 10. REVISED SLA

The Mayor proposed, without dispute that this item be brought forward in the agenda to enable the presenting officers to leave once the item was complete.

Mr Bob Hodgson then introduced the proposed Service Level Agreement. After the presentation elected members began to debate the proposed agreement. Cllr Bettison left the room, then returned during the debate. On the motion of Cllr Graham, seconded by Cllr Gibson, it was **RESOLVED** by nine votes to none to agree to the proposed Service Level Agreement, to authorize the Town Clerk to sign the agreement on behalf of the council, and to authorize the Town Clerk to convene regular monthly meetings of the partners to the agreement.

C157/17 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs I Dixon, H Nicholls, L Stevenson and G Thompson.

C158/17 2. MINUTES

On the motion of Cllr Graham, seconded by Cllr Forrester, the minutes of the Berwick-upon-Tweed Town Council meeting held on 20 November 2017 and the Extraordinary Council meeting held on 28 November 2017 were agreed and signed as a correct record.

C159/17 3. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Cllr Parkin disclosed a personal non pecuniary interest in a planning matter that did not require him to withdraw from that part of the meeting.

C160/17 4. REQUEST FOR DISPENSATION

There were no requests for dispensation.

C161/17 5. TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Town Mayor decided to defer his announcements in light of the amount of business before council.

C162/17 6. CORRESPONDENCE

Members **RESOLVED** without division to note the correspondence log.

C163/17 7. COUNCILLOR TRAINING

It was **RESOLVED** without division for the training on planning to be provided by NCC, and for all other training to be conducted in a single session on a Saturday.

C164/17 8. SETTING OF PRECEPT 2018-19

The Town Clerk introduced his report, after which councillors debated the recommendation. Standing orders were suspended sufficiently to allow Mr Michael Stewart to speak, before being reinstated and the debate resuming. It was **RESOLVED**, on the motion of Cllr Forbes, seconded by Cllr Bettison that council wished to fund the gap between income and expenditure in 2018-19 from reserves arising as a result of the predicted outturn surplus. It was further **RESOLVED**

- a. To waive Standing Orders sufficiently to allow council to revisit the previous decision to fund the deficit from a precept requirement increase,
- b. To commit to receiving an updated MTFP in January 2018, and
- c. That this decision to fund the deficit from reserves is a one year decision, and that the matter will be further discussed in 2018 before the budget is set for 2019-20.

C165/17 9. HOEY AINSCOUGH REPORT - UPDATE TO NCC STANDARDS COMMITTEE

It was **RESOLVED** on the motion of Cllr Bettison, seconded by the Mayor to note the report of the Town Clerk, and that members wished to renew their commitment to treat each other, the staff of the council and members of the public they meet in the conduct of their duties, with respect.

C166/17 11. NCC PARKING SURVEY

It was **RESOLVED**, if possible, to delay meeting NCC officers until council had a chance to consider its topic on the matter.

C167/17 12. REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 2018

It was **RESOLVED** without dispute to note the update provided by the Town Clerk.

C168/17 13. CONSULTATION ON STREET NAMING AND NUMBERING REQUEST

It was proposed by Cllr Bettison, seconded by Cllr Forbes that the proposed name be accepted. The proposer then accepted an amendment from Cllr

Douglas that the name should be the more historically accurate Kings View, and council **RESOLVED** to adopt this suggestion unanimously.

C169/17 14. APPLICATIONS FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

The only application on which council formally resolved was:

17/04109/FUL | Change of Use of existing Chapel Street coach park into a public car park | Coach Park Chapel Street Berwick-Upon-Tweed Northumberland.

Members debated the application, with which they were all acquainted. On the motion of Cllr Bettison seconded by Cllr Gibson it was **RESOLVED** that council objected on the grounds of congestion, potential anti-social behaviour, the impact of extra traffic on the highway and the potential for the space to be misused by vehicles such as camper vans parking overnight.

C170/17 15. FORWARD PLAN

It was **RESOLVED** to note the Forward Plan.

C171/17 16. BUDGET AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

On the motion of Cllr Forbes, seconded by Cllr Gibson

- i. It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the minutes of the meeting of the Budget and Administration Committee held on 13 November 2017 (noted at the meeting of 20 November 2017).
- ii. It was **RESOLVED** to note the list of payments received by the Budget and Administration Committee at its meeting of 11 December 2017.

C172/17 17. PLANNING COMMITTEE

On the motion of Cllr Roughead, seconded by Cllr Forbes it was **RESOLVED** to adopt the minutes of the meetings of the Planning Committee held on 10 October 2017 and 25 October 2017.

C173/17 18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Council will be held on Monday, 22 January 2018 at 6 pm.

Council RESOLVED that under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 it was appropriate to exclude the media and public from the discussion of the following business on the basis that public discussion might prejudice the Council's position and staffing issues might be discussed.

At this point the Public withdrew.

At this point the Town Clerk also withdrew.

C174/17 **19. PROBATIONARY REVIEW - TOWN CLERK / RESPONSIBLE
FINANCIAL OFFICER**

Council **RESOLVED** that the Town Clerk had successfully completed their probationary period.

At the meeting of Council held on Monday, 22 January 2018 it was **RESOLVED** to amend the draft minutes of Council on 18 December 2017 as follows:

C164/17 8. SETTING OF PRECEPT 2018-19

The Town Clerk introduced his report, after which councillors debated the recommendation. Standing orders were suspended sufficiently to allow Mr Michael Stewart to speak, before being reinstated and the debate resuming. It was **RESOLVED**, on the motion of Cllr Forbes, seconded by Cllr Bettison that council wished to fund the gap between income and expenditure in 2018-19 from reserves arising as a result of the predicted outturn surplus. It was further **RESOLVED**

- a. To waive Standing Orders sufficiently to allow council to revisit the previous decision to fund the deficit from a precept requirement increase,
- b. To commit to receiving an updated MTFP in January 2018, and
- c. That this decision to fund the deficit from reserves is a one year decision, and that the matter will be further discussed in 2018 before the budget is set for 2019-20.
- d. As a consequence, to set a precept of £256020 for the financial year 2018-19