

BERWICK-UPON-TWEED TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Monday 19 March 2012 at 6 pm at The Town Hall, Marygate, Berwick-upon-Tweed

PRESENT:

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

S Finch, Town Clerk

S Cozens, Assistant to the Clerk

J Benton, Sergeant at Mace

L Robson, Sheriff

I Smith, Berwick Advertiser

Ross Bullerwell, Highways North Area Maintenance Manager, Northumberland County Council

Derek Sharman, Tour Guide and Heritage Project Manager.

Eight members of the public

The Town Mayor welcomed everyone present to the meeting.

OPEN SESSION

No matters were raised by members of the public.

CO85/11 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies.

CO86/11 2. MINUTES

The minutes of the Berwick-upon-Tweed Town Council meeting held on 30 January 2012 were agreed and signed as a correct record.

CO87/11

3. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Councillor J Beresford declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Item 8 (Rented Garages).

Councillor H Bettison declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Item 8 (Rented Garages).

Councillor C Routledge declared a personal interest in Item 7 (RMT (Rail Maritime and Transport Union) Conference in April 2013).

CO88/11

4. TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor reported that Peregrine John Wishart Fairfax, former Sheriff of Berwick-upon-Tweed, had passed away on 23 February of this year and a Thanksgiving Service was to be held in Berwick Parish Church on Wednesday 21 March 2012 at 2.30pm.

Also the Mayor had attended an event in the Guild Hall on 28 February 2012 when Berwick-upon-Tweed was awarded Fair Trade status.

CO89/11

5. BERWICK PROJECT – TEAM THREE FIELDS

Ross Bullerwell introduced himself to the meeting and gave a verbal explanation of the previously distributed reports on the Three Fields project, indicating that at least one year would be required to see if the project was working successfully or not.

RESOLVED: That the Town Council agree their support for the project and further discussions to take place after approximately one year to consider the possibility of becoming a partner.

CO90/11

6. MOUTH OF THE TWEED PROJECT

Derek Sharman, a local tour guide, gave a verbal report on the Mouth of the Tweed Project. He explained it was a not-for-profit group comprising of people from local organisations. The aim of the Project was to roll out events and marketing projects in the next few years within a 15-16 mile radius of the mouth of the Tweed, with the objective of raising awareness of the strong produce and other heritage of the local area, which in turn would stimulate the visitor economy. Derek Sharman also explained that at present the Project was looking for good will from the Town Council. The meeting agreed to support the initiative and asked Derek Sharmen to report back to a future Town Council meeting with more details.

CO91/11

7. RMT (RAIL MARITIME AND TRANSPORT UNION) CONFERENCE IN APRIL

2013

The meeting considered whether the Town Council should, as requested by the organisers, host a Civic Reception to be held during the RMT (Rail Maritime and Transport Union) Conference in April 2013.

RESOLVED: To contact the RMT Union to seek more information on what is required and report back to a future meeting.

CO92/11

8. RENTED GARAGES

NOTE: Councillors J Beresford and H Bettison, having each declared a personal and prejudicial interest, left the room during consideration of this item.

Several members had received representations from their constituents expressing concern about the difference in levels of rent for garages charged by Berwick Borough Housing to private tenants and to Berwick Borough Housing tenants.

RESOLVED: The Town Council to write to Berwick Borough Housing alerting them to the concerns over differences in rental prices.

CO93/11

9. PLANNING COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: To adopt the minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 21 February 2012.

CO94/11

10. EVENTS COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: To adopt the minutes of the meeting of the Events Committee held on 5 March 2012.

CO95/11

11. ENVIRONMENT AND REGENERATION COMMITTEE

Councillor J Smith proposed that the Town Council should pay the annual membership fee of £170 of European Walled Towns. It was agreed not to pay this at the meeting of the Environment and Regeneration Committee held on 5 March 2012 (Minute ER085/11). Councillors duly voted on this proposal.

RESOLVED: (i) To uphold the decision made by the Environment and Regeneration Committee held on 5 March 2012 (Minute ER085/11) not to pay the annual membership fee of £170 of European Walled Towns; (ii) To adopt the minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Regeneration Committee held on 5 March 2012; and (iii) To write to a local resident who offered to pay the annual membership of European Walled Towns thanking him for his

offer and referring him to Mr Bernard Shaw, who had made the request to the Town Council.

CO96/11

12. FINANCE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: To adopt the minutes of the meeting of the Finance and Resources Committee held on 6 March 2012.

CO97/11

13. REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES

There had been no requests for representation on outside bodies.

CO98/11

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Council would be held on Monday 14 May 2012 at 6 pm in the Town Hall.