

## BERWICK-UPON-TWEED TOWN COUNCIL

### Minutes of a Meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 20 March 2017 at 6.00 pm at The Town Hall, Marygate, Berwick-upon-Tweed

Councillors:	I Dixon (Town Mayor)	G Hill
	H Bettison	P Hodgson
	D Blackburn	J Lang
	A Forbes	G McLean
	T Forrester	B Parkin
	A Gibson	G Roughead
	E Goodyer	C Seymour
	K Graham	G Smith

#### IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr Gareth Davies, Interim Town Clerk

Steve Cozens, Assistant to the Clerk

Mr Brian Douglas, Sherriff

Joyce Benton, Sergeant-at-Mace

8 members of the public, 1 member of the press.

#### OPEN SESSION

During the open session it was suggested, in response to a question, that the Town Clerk contact the Homes and Communities Agency with regard to their landholdings and their intentions.

#### **C300/16 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies for absence.

#### **C301/16 2. MINUTES**

The minutes of the Berwick-upon-Tweed Town Council meeting held on 27 February 2017 were agreed and signed as a correct record.

#### **C302/16 3. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**

Cllr H Bettison declared a personal interest in Item 23.

Cllr I Dixon declared a personal interest in Item 23.

Cllr A Gibson declared a personal interest in Items 12 and 14.

- C303/16**      **4. REQUEST FOR DISPENSATION**  
There were no requests for dispensation.
- C304/16**      **5. TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**  
The Mayor reported on various engagements, including a meeting with visitors to the Town from Fishguard Town Council.
- C305/16**      **6. COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS**  
The reports were noted; members adopted the Town Clerk's suggestion that no more reports should be received during the purdah period.
- C306/16**      **7. CORRESPONDENCE**  
Members **RESOLVED** without division to note the correspondence log.
- C307/16**      **8. NOTIFICATION OF PAYMENTS MADE BY BERWICK-UPON-TWEED TOWN COUNCIL**  
It was **RESOLVED** to note the schedule of payments.
- C308/16**      **9. CLERK'S RULING**  
It was **RESOLVED** to note the ruling and its consequent proposal that a Complaints Policy be added to the Forward Plan.
- C309/16**      **10. 5 MILITARY INTELLIGENCE BATTALION**  
It was **RESOLVED**, on the motion of Cllr Bettison, seconded by Cllr Roughead, that 5MI Battalion be offered the freedom of Berwick.
- C310/16**      **11. NEW LEISURE CENTRE**  
Members suggested that the Town Clerk be requested to write to Active Northumberland, expressing their concern at the lack of stakeholder engagement in the project, and **RESOLVED** to note the report.
- C311/16**      **12. PLAY PARK MAINTENANCE**  
It was **RESOLVED** on the motion of Cllr Bettison, seconded by Cllr Hill that
1. Council adopted Appendix (i) of the report as the basis of the Play Areas Maintenance plan, and delegated to the Town Clerk authority to convene a further working group meeting to scope out the details of proposed work, and costs.
  2. To delegate to the Town Clerk authority to spend up to £1000 from operational reserves to resolve the issues outlined in Appendix (ii) to the report, and
  3. To note the ongoing implications of the legal briefing note provided, and to instruct the Town Clerk to bring forward a further report as necessary.
- C312/16**      **13. SEAGULLS**  
It was **RESOLVED** on the motion of Cllr Goodyer, seconded by Cllr Bettison
1. That council review its litter bin provision, especially in areas where there is a

perceived scavenging bird problem, and seek to improve bins to prevent scavengers being attracted by waste.

2. That council seek expert advice from NCC on litter prevention, and
3. That council approach the Chamber of Trade to seek the support of its members for a focussed campaign on the reduction of food waste and litter in the Town Centre.

**C313/16 14. CHRISTMAS LIGHTS FOR 2017-2018**

It was **RESOLVED** that council wished to continue its programme of acquiring new Christmas lights via the existing contractor, and that the Town Clerk should bring forward a further report itemizing the proposals.

**C314/16 15. MARINA / YACHT MOORING PROJECT**

It was **RESOLVED** by 9 votes to 1, on the motion of Cllr Goodyer, seconded by Cllr Hodgson, that council agreed to allocate £10,000 from operational reserves to finance a feasibility study into hydrological conditions, to be delivered by the Coastal Communities Team, subject to due diligence being undertaken by the Town Clerk.

At this point Cllr Seymour left the meeting.

**C315/16 16. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

It was **RESOLVED** on the motion of Cllr Goodyer, seconded by Cllr Bettison, to adopt the background papers as tabled. Cllr Bettison then moved, to unanimous acclamation, a vote of thanks to Cllr Goodyer for his work.

At this point Cllr Blackburn left the room.

**C316/16 17. COMMITTEE STRUCTURE**

It was **RESOLVED**, on the motion of Cllr Bettison, seconded by Cllr Goodyer, that the Town Clerk progress this work by bringing a draft committee structure to a future meeting, and exploring the possibility of some meetings commencing at 18:30.

**C317/16 18. MEMBER INDUCTION PLAN**

It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to note the report.

**C318/16 19. STAFF APPRAISALS**

It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to note the report and the proposed objectives.

**C319/16 20. FORWARD PLAN**

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

**C320/16 21. PLANNING COMMITTEE**

It was **RESOLVED** on the motion of the Mayor, seconded by Cllr Smith, to adopt the minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 17 January 2017.

**C321/16**

**22. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Council will be held on Monday 10 April 2017 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.

**C322/16**

**23. SPITTAL VENETIAN PAVILION**

It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to bring forward a limited feasibility study on the proposals.