

## **BERWICK-UPON-TWEED TOWN COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of a Meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 21 August 2017 at 6.00 pm at The Town Hall, Marygate, Berwick-upon-Tweed**

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

#### **IN ATTENDANCE:**

Mr Gareth Davies, Town Clerk

Steve Cozens, Assistant to the Clerk

Joyce Benton, Sergeant-at-Mace

Mr Liam Mutch, Sheriff

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

#### **OPEN SESSION**

At the beginning of the open session the Town Clerk indicated that he had received representations concerning agenda item 25, and was willing to consider recommending to council that the report be treated as an open report, provided members agreed not to discuss the circumstances of individuals who may be affected by the proposed changes to CAB operations.

A member of the public raised the issue of seating at Flagstaff Park, which the Town Clerk responded to. A reference was also made, by the Town Clerk, to the presence on the Forward Plan of an item on the future of Berwick Hospital, which could not be brought forward as the NHS trust were not clear as to their plans.

**C062/17**

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of: Cllr G Thomson.

**C063/17**

**2. MINUTES**

The minutes of the Berwick-upon-Tweed Town Council meeting held on 17 July 2017 were agreed and signed as a correct record, subject to amendment to include Cllr Bowlas on the Operation London Bridge Working Group.

**C064/17**

**3. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**

There were no disclosures of interests.

**C065/17**

**4. REQUEST FOR DISPENSATION**

There were no requests for dispensation.

**C066/17**

**CITIZENS ADVICE NORTHUMBERLAND**

The Town Clerk introduced his report, subject to the conditions outlined above, and the Mayor opened the topic to debate. After two councillors had spoken it was **RESOLVED** to suspend standing orders for this item to enable members of the public to make points of information. The debate continued with individuals suggesting alternative arrangements that could allow the current form of working to continue, and the Town Clerk offered to circulate the proposals to elected members.

After Standing Orders resumed, there being no enthusiasm for the Town Clerk's recommendations, and, being mindful of the six month rule on issues returning to Town Council, it was proposed by Cllr Bettison, seconded by Cllr Graham that the issue be deferred.

It was further **RESOLVED**, without dissent, on the motion of Cllr Graham, seconded by Cllr Bettison, to delegate authority to the Town Clerk to hold meetings and speak to interested parties as necessary.

**C067/17**

**5. TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor reported that he had attended Tweedmouth Feast, the crowning of the Salmon Queen, the RNLI Fete and events with the National Citizenship Service.

**C068/17**

**6. CORRESPONDENCE**

- i. Members **RESOLVED** without division to note the correspondence log.
- ii. Grove Gardens South Play Park - The Town Clerk explained the background

to the correspondence received, and advised members that he would keep them updated with regard to any further issues.

**C069/17**      **7. FUTURE OF CHAPEL STREET COACH PARK**

After the clerk had presented his report members **RESOLVED** to suspend standing orders to allow Northumberland County Cllr Seymour to speak.

Standing orders having been resumed the options were debated.

Standing orders were then suspended to allow members of the public to speak. After standing orders had been resumed, and some debate, Cllr Douglas moved option A, seconded by Cllr Dixon. The motion succeeded by 8 votes to 6 and it was

**RESOLVED** to indicate to NCC that Option A was the Town Council's preferred option.

**C070/17**      **8. POSSIBLE LITTERING SOLUTIONS**

The Town Clerk presented his report to members and it was **RESOLVED**, without dispute, to indicate a preference for strategies to reduce litter through education, community engagement and the provision of infrastructure rather than enforcement, whilst continuing a dialogue with NCC concerning their role in litter reduction.

**C071/17**      **9. LOCAL SERVICES SURVEY**

After expressing their disappointment with the outcomes achieved members **RESOLVED** to note the report.

**C072/17**      **10. RIDING OF THE BOUNDS**

The Town Clerk provided a verbal update concerning the planning for the Riding of the Bounds in 2018, and members **RESOLVED** without contention to note the report.

**C073/17**      **11. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

The Town Clerk commended the report to members, particularly its references to the progress being made by the Town Council. Members **RESOLVED** to note the report.

**C074/17**      **12. GREEN DOG WALKERS**

Members **RESOLVED** to note the report.

**C075/17**      **13. NCC COMMUNITY CHEST**

Members **RESOLVED** without dispute to note the report and the clerk's remarks on the topic.

**C076/17**

**14. BERWICK REGENERATION COMMISSION**

It was **RESOLVED** on the motion of the Mayor, to nominate Cllrs Bowlas, Graham and Bruce to represent the Town Council on the new body, and to delegate authority to the Town Clerk to support the work of the new body.

**C077/17**

**15. BERWICK MARINA / PONTOON PROPOSALS**

It was **RESOLVED** upon the motion of Cllr Bettison, seconded by the Mayor, to share the report with any parties wishing to proceed with this project.

**C078/17**

**16. NORTH NORTHUMBERLAND VOLUNTARY FORUM**

It was **RESOLVED** on the motion of Cllr Bettison, seconded by Cllr Forbes, to nominate Cllr Graham to represent the council on the North Northumberland Voluntary Forum.

**C079/17**

**17. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

It was **RESOLVED** without dispute to add the Market Town document to the evidence base for the Neighbourhood Plan.

**C080/17**

**18. CALENDAR OF MEETING DATES FOR 2017-18**

It was **RESOLVED** without dispute to note the new calendar of dates.

It being 8pm, it was **RESOLVED** on the motion of the Mayor to suspend standing orders sufficiently to allow the meeting to continue.

**C081/17**

**19. FORWARD PLAN**

It was **RESOLVED**

- i. To note the Forward Plan,
- ii. The Town Clerk's proposed process for enabling members to raise queries concerning the grant criteria, and
- iii. To support in principle the proposals to host a celebrations of the 900th Anniversary of the Sherifffdom of Berwick upon Tweed in 2019.

**C082/17**

**20. BUDGET AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE**

It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the minutes of the meeting of the Budget and Administration Committee held on 12 June 2017.

**C083/17**

**21. LOCAL SERVICES COMMITTEE**

It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the minutes of the meeting of the Local Services Committee held on 26 June 2017.

**C084/17**

**22. PLANNING COMMITTEE**

- i. The membership of the Planning Committee was confirmed as follows: Cllrs A Bowlas, R Bruce, I Dixon, B Douglas, A Forbes, C Lewis, G Roughead, G Smith and G Thomson.
- ii. It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 21 June 2017.

**C085/17**

**23. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Council will be held on Monday 18 September 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.

**C086/17**

**24. BARRACKS PROJECT**

The Town Clerk provided a verbal update on the arrangements for tendering for parts of the Barracks project which were being supported by the Town Council, and it was **RESOLVED** to note this report.