

BERWICK-UPON-TWEED TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 22 January 2018 at 6.00 pm at The Town Hall, Marygate, Berwick-upon-Tweed

Councillors:	G Roughead (Town Mayor)	A Forbes
	H Bettison	T Forrester
	A Bowlas	A Gibson
	R Bruce	B Parkin
	I Dixon	G Smith
	B Douglas	L Stevenson

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr Gareth Davies, Town Clerk

Steve Cozens, Assistant to the Clerk

Joyce Benton, Sergeant-at-Mace

County Councillor G Hill

County Councillor C Seymour

11 members of the public, 1 member of the press

OPEN SESSION

A number of members of the public addressed council on a variety of topics.

County Cllr G Hill indicated that the committee responsible for organising Tweedmouth Feast would not be pursuing their grant application, so Agenda Item 11 was withdrawn by the Mayor.

C175/17 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs K Graham, C Lewis, H Nicholls and G Thompson.

C176/17 2. MINUTES

The minutes of the Berwick-upon-Tweed Town Council meeting held on 18 December 2017, including the amendment to the draft minutes previously circulated by the Town Clerk, were agreed and signed as a correct record.

- C177/17** **3. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**
Given the withdrawal of Agenda Item 11 there were no disclosures of interests relating to business to be considered.
- C178/17** **4. REQUEST FOR DISPENSATION**
There were no requests for dispensation.
- C179/17** **5. TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**
The Mayor advised members that he had attended Tweedmouth Pensioners Dinner, the Rail Connectivity Event at the Town Hall and NALC County Committee, at which there had been an interesting discussion on social media.
- C180/17** **6. NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL CONSULTATION ON CAR PARKING IN BERWICK UPON TWEED**
After a full discussion it was **RESOLVED**, on the motion of Cllr Gibson, seconded by Cllr Forrester, that the issue of car parking be considered at an informal meeting of council before returning to full council.
On the motion of Cllr Bettison, seconded by Cllr Forrester, it was **RESOLVED** to adopt the concerns expressed in the Town Clerk's report, and to urge NCC to undertake a further more detailed study, and on the motion of Cllr Parkin, seconded by Cllr Bettison, it was **RESOLVED** to urge NCC to take steps to renew the planning permission for the Castlegate overflow car park as soon as possible.
- C181/17** **7. CORRESPONDENCE**
Members **RESOLVED** without division to note the correspondence log.
- C182/17** **8. QUERY RE MINUTES OF COUNCIL 28.11.2017**
Cllr Dixon raised a concern with the Town Clerk's proposed amendment to the minutes, since it was his belief that he had not cast a vote during the debate; subject to that further amendment, it was **RESOLVED**, on the motion of Cllr Bettison seconded by Cllr Bruce, to adopt the amendment to the minutes.
- C183/17** **9. BUDGET MONITORING**
It was **RESOLVED** without contention to note the report.
- C184/17** **10. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN**
It was **RESOLVED** without contention to note the Medium Term Financial Plan previously presented to the Budget and Administration Committee.

C185/17 **12. PUBLICATION OF MEETING PAPERS**

It was **RESOLVED**, on the motion of Cllr Bettison, seconded by Cllr Bruce, that there was no breach of law or good practice in the publication of papers for, and announcement of, the meeting of Budget and Administration Committee on 13th November 2017.

C186/17 **13. JOB DESCRIPTION**

It was **RESOLVED** on the motion of Cllr Bruce, seconded by Cllr Bettison, to adopt the proposed job description.

C187/17 **14. EAST COAST MAIN LINE ROUTE STUDY**

It was **RESOLVED**, on the motion of Cllr Bettison, seconded by Cllr Parkin that Berwick Town Council respond to the consultation, setting out its ambitions for:

- a. An hourly local service connecting all ECML stations in Northumberland to Newcastle and Edinburgh,
- b. Power supply upgrades to the ECML to support increased traffic,
- c. Passing loop upgrades between Berwick and Newcastle to support increased traffic and station re-openings in North Northumberland, and
- d. For the power supply upgrade programme to prioritize replacement and relocation of the substation at Berwick station to enable vacant land to the northwest of the station to be used for car parking or other public transport schemes.

C188/17 **15. CHRISTMAS LIGHTING**

It was unanimously **RESOLVED** that council authorize the Town Clerk to hold a meeting with interested parties to discuss future and alternative arrangements for Christmas lighting in Berwick.

C189/17 **16. BUS STOPS**

It was **RESOLVED** on the motion of the Mayor, seconded by Cllr Parkin, to delegate to the Local Services Committee a programme of planned maintenance for all the stock of bus shelters, and a programme of hardening work for those bus shelters adjudged most at risk of damage, and to return that programme of work to council.

C190/17 **17. BUDGET AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE**

- i. It was **RESOLVED** on the motion of Cllr Forbes, seconded by Cllr Smith, to adopt the minutes of the meeting of the Budget and

Administration Committee held on 11 December 2017.

- ii. It was **RESOLVED** on the motion of Cllr Forbes, seconded by Cllr Bowlas, to note the list of payments received by the Budget and Administration Committee at its meeting of 8 January 2018.
- iii. The minutes of the meeting of the Budget and Administration Committee held on 8 January 2018 were held over until the next meeting.

C191/17 18. PLANNING COMMITTEE

It was **RESOLVED** on the motion of Cllr Roughead, seconded by Cllr Forbes, to adopt the minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 15 November 2017.

C192/17 19. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Council will be held on Monday, 19 February 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.

C193/17 20. DIGITAL SIGNAGE BILLING DISPUTE

It was **RESOLVED**, on the motion of the Mayor, seconded by Cllr Bettison, to delegate to the Town Clerk authority to implement recommendations (b) and (c) of the confidential report.

C194/17 21. FIVE ARCHES

It was **RESOLVED** on the motion of Cllr Forrester, seconded by Cllr Bettison, to work towards the development of a management plan for the park, and to delegate to the Town Clerk sufficient authority to undertake such meetings with other parties as may be necessary.

C195/17 22. TOWN COUNCIL WEBSITE

It was **RESOLVED** on the motion of Cllr Bettison, seconded by Cllr Gibson to appoint the proposed contractor to develop a new Town Council website.