

BERWICK-UPON-TWEED TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Monday 22 March 2010 at 6 pm at The Town Hall, Marygate, Berwick-upon-Tweed

PRESENT:

Councillors:	F Simpson (Town Mayor)	I Hunter
	J Beresford	M McNeely
	H Bettison	V Pauline
	A Bowlas	J Robertson
	I Dixon	C Routledge
	B Douglas	J Smith
	P Herdman	J Waterhouse

IN ATTENDANCE:

S Finch, Town Clerk
J Hutchinson, Sheriff
4 members of the public

OPEN SESSION

The Town Mayor welcomed everyone present.

Mr McNeely, speaking on behalf of the Riverside Project Group, outlined the current views of residents within the vicinity of the site at Dock Road identified for regeneration. It was the view of residents that the proposals should be revisited to incorporate the Goody Patchy and former coating/blending works, as well as the town green in Dock Road; it was understood that the current permission for residential units at the coating works site would soon lapse. The Project Group was working on proposals and planned to invite public discussion and involvement of these in due course.

Members noted the report provided by Mr McNeely.

The Town Mayor welcomed Neighbourhood Inspector Duguid to the meeting. He reported that

priorities for Berwick Police continued to be to caution boy racers over issues such as faulty exhausts; issues related to drugs and public order; and focusing on drink-related Anti Social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs).

Inspector Duguid said there had been a significant drop of 30% in ASBOs since the beginning of February.

He also reported that Berwick had been selected by the Home Office to be a Pathfinder Area for Neighbourhood Agreements, a project in which it was hoped residents would have a greater involvement in policing. Members welcomed this news.

Other issues raised by members included: penalty notices for excessive car radio noise, working to resolve noisy neighbour situations, parking enforcement and the problem of day-time drinking in areas such as The Shambles and Tweedmouth Bowling Green. Councillor H Bettison reminded members that the Local Multi-Agency Partnership, on which she represented the Town Council, could consider these issues.

CO85/09 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors G Hill.

CO86/09 2. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of Berwick-upon-Tweed Town Council held on 25 January 2010 were agreed and signed as a correct record.

The Town Mayor reported that the Boxing Day Dip had raised just under £800, and the Valentine's Day Ball had raised £350.

The Town Mayor reported that Alice Burn had confirmed that she was looking for a contribution to expenses (CO75/09) but no additional payment; members agreed that on this basis it would be an asset to the Council to be able to call on Ms Burn as piper for key civic occasions.

CO87/09 3. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Councillor I Hunter, as a member of the steering group, declared a personal interest in Item 5, Berwick Pilot.

Councillors J Beresford and H Bettison declared personal and prejudicial interests in Item 13, Environment and Regeneration Committee, (b), Spittal Improvement Trust; Councillor I Dixon declared a personal interest in the same item.

CO88/09

4. TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Town Mayor informed members of the success of Berwick in receiving support from Government under the Low Carbon Challenge programme; the Town Council had added its support to the application.

The Civic Party had attended a number of events including the Valentine's Day Ball, and Councillor H Bettison was thanked for her work in organising this event; the Tweedmouth OAP supper and the opening of the new ASDA store had also been attended. Forthcoming events included the first admission of daughters of Freemen to the Freedom of Berwick on 13 April, a home-coming parade by B Company 1 SCOTS on 28 April, the Riding of the Bounds on 1 May. Members were also reminded that the next Area Committee North, at which the issue of parking in Marygate would be raised, was on 10 May in the William Elder Building.

CO89/09

5. BERWICK PILOT

John Kirton, Northumberland County Council, was welcomed by the Town Mayor and gave a presentation on the Berwick Pilot which had been initiated from within Family Services in the County Council with the aim of developing a community based service delivery offer that addressed, comprehensively, the requirements of families where they live.

Parents and carers had indicated that services for children and young people were perceived as not being coordinated, consistent, local or client-focused.

The aim was to enable an integrated approach to service delivery across all council departments in such a way that outcomes for families was improved. This in turn could lead to improvements for the local economy through improvements in the capacity and capability of the workforce.

Members warmly welcomed the Project, in which Mr Kirton said the Town Council would have a developing role. He suggested, and it was agreed, that he should attend future meetings to provide up-dates on the Pilot.

RESOLVED: Councillor I Hunter to represent the Town Council on the Berwick Pilot.

CO90/09

6. NORTHUMBERLAND CHARTER FOR LOCAL COUNCILS

Members noted the letter of 10 March which had been received from the County Council advising of the proposed timescale for devolving services which had not been accepted by the Council for the year 2010-11.

Councillors again expressed concern that information provided so far was inadequate, especially in relation to play areas; and the importance of a detailed report on the condition of any assets which were to be transferred.

CO91/09

7. BERWICK RAMPARTS

Members considered the paper which had been circulated seeking views on options for management of public access to the ramparts, which was being reviewed at the request of the Coroner following a death.

RESOLVED: The Council to advise Northumberland County Council that members supported Option 1, which proposed no changes in the current arrangements.

Councillor B Douglas felt that the paper did not, nevertheless, cover all possible options.

CO92/09

8. RESOLUTION

The resolution proposed by Councillor H Bettison that the annual Mayor-making ceremony should take place at midday was defeated.

CO93/09

9. BERWICK-UPON-TWEED AS A FAIR TRADE TOWN

Members considered the report which had been circulated outlining the requirements for Berwick-upon-Tweed to become a Fair Trade Town.

RESOLVED: Councillor F Simpson to represent the Town Council at meetings of the embryonic steering group which had been established and to report back to the Town Council.

CO94/09

10. ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

The Town Clerk reminded members that the Annual Town Meeting, a meeting for

all electors and at which all electors were entitled to vote, would be held on 24 May at 6 pm. Suggestions for a topic of current interest in the town were invited.

It was proposed and agreed that the health services in Berwick would be of considerable interest to residents.

[NOTE: Councillor P Herdman, as Chairman of the League of Friends and with other links to health service provision within Berwick, declared a personal interest when this proposal was made].

C095/09

11. REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES

RESOLVED: Councillor I Dixon to represent the Town Council on the Management Committee of Berwick Youth Project.

C096/09

12. FINANCE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: To adopt the minutes of the Finance and Resources Committee meetings held on 25 January 2010 and on 9 March 2010.

CO97/09

13. ENVIRONMENT AND REGENERATION COMMITTEE

(i) RESOLVED: To adopt the minutes of the Environment and Regeneration Committee meeting held on 8 March 2010.

Councillor Robertson, Chairman of the Committee, highlighted the resolution to budget annually for town centre planters; he also proposed that an annual contribution to Berwick in Bloom should be included in the budget. This would be referred to the next meeting of the Committee.

(ii) Members discussed the application which had been made by Spittal Improvement Trust for assistance in purchasing the Sandstell Road Fishing Shiel. Three applications had been submitted by the Trust to the Environment and Regeneration Committee meeting, and discussions held with the Secretary to establish the fishing shiel took priority. Some concerns were expressed about how the project sat with Berwick's Future and the Spittal Master Plan.

RESOLVED: To make a grant of £1500 to Spittal Improvement Trust to assist with the purchase of the Sandstell Road Fishing Shiel.

[NOTE: Councillors J Beresford and H Bettison, having declared personal and prejudicial interests in this item, left the room during the discussion.]

CO98/09

14. EVENTS COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: To adopt the minutes of the Events Committee meeting held on 8 March 2010.

CO99/09

15. PLANNING COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: To adopt the minutes of the meetings of the Planning Committee held on 16 February and 16 March 2010.

CO100/09

16. STAFFING COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: To adopt the minutes of the meeting of the Staffing Committee held on 1 February 2010.

CO101/09

17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be held on Monday 17 May 2010 in the Council Chamber of the Town Hall.