

BERWICK-UPON-TWEED TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Monday , 24 January 2011 at 6 pm at The Town Hall, Marygate, Berwick-upon-Tweed

PRESENT:

Councillors:	J Waterhouse (Town Mayor)	M McNeely
	H Bettison	A Reid
	A Bowlas	J Robertson
	I Dixon	C Routledge
	P Herdman MBE	F Simpson
	G Hill	J Smith
	I Hunter	

IN ATTENDANCE:

S Finch, Town Clerk
K Bartlett, Northumberland County Council
R Horne, Northumberland County Council
2 members of the public

The Town Mayor welcomed everyone present to the meeting.

OPEN SESSION

No matters were raised by members of the public present.

CO62/10 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from the Sheriff.

CO63/10 2. MINUTES

The minutes of the Berwick-upon-Tweed Town Council meeting held on 11 January 2011 were agreed and signed as a correct record.

CO64/10 3. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Councillors Bowlas, Herdman, Hill and Hunter all declared a personal interest in Item 5 (Barrack Options Report); and Councillor Reid declared a personal interest

in Item 7 (Bus Services Up-date).

CO65/10

4. TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Town Mayor reported on events which she and the Civic Party had attended since the last meeting. These included the pensioners supper, the installation of Reverend Matthew Knox at Tweedmouth Parish Church and attendance at the Active Berwick Awards. She reported the annual Boxing Day Dip had raised £3,100.

Members were reminded that a public consultation session on the proposals for Coronation Park and Castle Vale Park was being held on Thursday 27 January in the Guildhall.

CO66/10

5. BARRACK OPTIONS REPORT

The Mayor welcomed Rob Horne to the meeting to outline the options which were being proposed for The Barracks in the report prepared by consultants Place First. The aim was to develop a mixed use facility incorporating residential units, work units, serviced and self-catering visitor facilities, a new location for the records office, and a revised space for the KOSB. The next step would be to identify a development partner, and as an expected £16 million project, it would require to be advertised throughout Europe.

Members were supportive of the proposals as a means of restoring and maintaining the fabric of the buildings and providing a range of facilities which would enhance Berwick. Points raised which they wished to be taken into account as the project went forward included:

- i. The need to retain the parade ground for the use of cadets and visiting troops
- ii. The importance of retaining the local archives and records within Berwick and ensuring local groups involved with the archives and local history were kept informed as plans as they developed
- iii. Concern about security if the Grade 1 listed building was available for residential and visitor use

Mr Horne confirmed that the proposal would not proceed if a development partner

was not identified; nor could it proceed in piecemeal fashion.

The Mayor thanked Mr Horne for attending.

CO67/10

6. NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL LINKS WITH PARISH AND TOWN COUNCILS

The Mayor welcomed Kevin Bartlett, Localities Officer for Northumberland County Council.

Mr Bartlett said that roles and responsibilities at the County Council continued to be fluid as the Council adjusted to financial constraints, but at the present time he could report as follows:

- i. There were no plans to create any more Community Forums at present; the Town Council was in many respects the equivalent of a Community Forum through picking up on issues of importance to Berwick and creating opportunities for the wider public to participate in debate about them
- ii. It was confirmed that local councils would not be expected to take on local services in 2011-12, but from 2012 there would be certain services which the County Council would reduce or cease to provide. Local councils would then need to take a view on whether they wished these services to continue, and consider how they may be financed.
- iii. The major services listed in the Local Charter's Appendix 3 would be subject to review and local consultation over the forthcoming year.

In all three areas Mr Bartlett confirmed his role would be as a conduit to the relevant officers at the County Council and to offer support to the Town Council in moving forward.

Members voiced individual concerns about the possibility of losing services unless the Town Council stepped in, and the additional responsibilities for the voluntary unpaid members. It was also noted that there was value in the Council continuing its work with other bodies to ensure issues of common interest, including delegation of local services, were shared.

The Mayor thanked Mr Bartlett for attending.

CO68/10

7. BUS SERVICES UPDATE

Members were advised that it had be learned shortly after the last Council meeting that the decision on whether the proposed revised timetables could be implemented now rested with the Manager of the Tesco store in Berwick. As yet no decision had been made.

RESOLVED: A letter should be sent to the Manager of Tesco Berwick-upon-Tweed urging him to agree to the proposed changes and if no reply was received to seek a meeting with him.

CO69/10

8. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN (TOWN MAYOR)

Members considered the paper which had been circulated proposing a revised arrangement for the ceremony of installing the new Chairman (Town Mayor) following his or her election at the annual meeting.

RESOLVED: (i) The Chairman (Town Mayor), and Vice-Chairman (Deputy Mayor) be elected at the annual meeting and before any other business; and (ii) The Mayor-making ceremony, at which no other business would be conducted, to be held one week later.

CO70/10

9. REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES

No requests had been received for representation on outside bodies.

CO71/10

10. EVENTS COMMITTEE

Councillor McNeely reported that a meeting of events organisers' and other relevant individuals had been held on 20 January; circumstances had prevented him from attending but he would report once minutes were available.

RESOLVED: To adopt the minutes of the Events Committee meeting held on 10 January 2011.

CO72/10

11. ENVIRONMENT AND REGENERATION COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: To adopt the minutes of Environment and Regeneration Committee meeting held on 10 January 2011.

CO73/10

12. FINANCE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Councillor Bowlas reported that the Finance and Resources Committee had

considered estimates for the year 2011-12 and agreed that on the basis of proposed expenditure the precept requirement would be £100,456, representing just over £27.37 per Band D property, compared with £24.32 in the current year.

RESOLVED: To adopt the minutes of the Finance and Resources Committee held on 18 January 2011.

CO74/10

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Council would be held on Monday 21 March 2011 at 6 pm in the Town Hall.