

BERWICK-UPON-TWEED TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Monday 25 July 2011 at 6 pm at The Town Hall, Marygate, Berwick-upon-Tweed

PRESENT:

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

S Finch, Town Clerk

S Milner, Director of Public Health and Protection for Northumberland

1 member of the public

The Town Mayor welcomed everyone present to the meeting.

OPEN SESSION

Councillor Douglas raised the issue of the Car Parking Strategy for Northumberland and the importance of members being aware of what was being proposed, and ensuring there was local input to the debate as it moved towards local consultation.

CO21/11 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Beresford, Bettison, Dixon, Pauline and Smith.

CO22/11 2. MINUTES

The minutes of the Berwick-upon-Tweed Town Council meeting held on 23 June 2011 were agreed and signed as a correct record.

CO23/11 3. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

There were no disclosures of interest.

CO24/11 4. TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

This item was postponed to a future meeting..

CO25/11

5. PRESENTATION BY SUE MILNER, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND PROTECTION FOR NORTHUMBERLAND

Ms Milner described the background to, and nature of, the 'Berwick Project':

- One of six workstreams in the County's Transformation Programme'
- The objective is to try and find ways of spending money more effectively in a geographical locality, by improving delivery of services through a programme of related projects
- The focus was high need households with complex needs, and the basis of the project would be work being carried out in the Three Fields area, and involving a local team.

In response to questions, Ms Milner reported that:

- A project initiation document (PID) set out time-lines for outcomes
- The project was underway already
- Similar work had been trialled elsewhere,
- A lack of consultation with local bodies including the Town Council was acknowledged, although it was recognised that local knowledge was valuable

The Chair thanked Ms Milner for attending the meeting.

CO26/11

6.NCC CONSULTATIONS

(i) Polling districts and polling places

Councillors had no comments to make on the review of polling districts and polling places

(ii) Grounds Maintenance

The Council had been invited to complete a questionnaire from the County Council about the standard of grounds maintenance; it was agreed that members would collate responses individually which would be forwarded to County by the Clerk.

CO27/11

7.GRIT BINS

Councillor Routledge said he wished to raise the issues of grit bins, to ensure action could be taken well in advance of winter conditions.

The Clerk advised that having contacted the County Council it was understood a

survey was being carried out of existing bins; she was asked to request that this information be forwarded to Town Councillors when available, so that they could add suggested new sites.

CO28/11

8.USE OF TOWN COUNCIL PREMISES

Councillor Douglas expressed concerns that the Town Council premises were being used for meetings by a voluntary group. It was pointed out that this facility was being made available in the same way that the Borough and County Councils made premises available, and that the Town Council had representatives on the group in question.

RESOLVED: The use of the Town Council premises should be at the discretion of the Town Clerk.

CO29/11

9.EVENTS COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: (i) To adopt the minutes of the meetings of the Events Committee held on 23 May 2011 and on 4 July 2011; and (ii) to agree to the grants of £750 (Berwick Events Group) and £1380 (Tweedmouth Feast Crowning and Carnival Committee).

CO30/11

10.ENVIRONMENT AND REGENERATION COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: To adopt the minutes of the meetings of the Environment and Regeneration Committee held on 23 May 2011 and on 4 July 2011.

Councillor Robertson reported that the Northumbria in Bloom judges had visited Berwick, Spittal and Tweedmouth on 22 July and had noted the improvements to planting and floral displays. Councillor Robertson made special reference to the work of Mick Tully and officers from the County Council's Neighbourhood Services team in preparing the town for the inspection.

CO31/11

11.FINANCE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: To adopt the minutes of the meetings of the Finance and Resources Committee held on 24 May 2011, on 13 June 2011 and on 5 July 2011.

CO32/11

12.PLANNING COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: To adopt the minutes of the meetings of the Planning Committee held on 17 May 2011 and on 21 June 2011.

CO33/11

13.REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES

There had been no requests for representation on outside bodies.

CO34/11

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Council would be held on Monday 26 September 2011 at 6 pm in the Town Hall.