

BERWICK-UPON-TWEED TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Monday 26 September 2011 at 6 pm at The Town Hall, Marygate, Berwick-upon-Tweed

PRESENT:

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

S Finch, Town Clerk

J Benton, Sergeant at Mace

12 members of the public

The Town Mayor welcomed everyone present to the meeting.

OPEN SESSION

Neighbourhood Sergeant Keith Smith reported that there had been a marked drop in recorded crimes between July and September, compared with the same period in 2010. Crime detection rate had increased from 45% in 2010 to 55% in 2011. Sgt. Smith also outlined other actions which the police had been taking over the summer, including tracking counterfeit goods. The Mayor thanked Sgt Smith for his encouraging up-date.

Anne Sherriff, representing BRiC-work Consortium, outlined the plans for a project in the Three Fields area for which she had been contracted by Northumberland County Council. She expected the project to take six months, and would be exploring ways of delivering local services and developing partnerships among service providers. She would welcome the opportunity to discuss issues with Councillors. The Mayor thanked Ms Sherriff for attending and suggested she should provide up-dates to future meetings.

David Cook, Do Shaw and Fiona Aungier asked the Town Council about its position on jet-skis in the Tweed estuary. Each made statements about the concerns about nuisance, noise and potential damage to wildlife and ecology. The Mayor offered the services of the Town Council in looking at the issue on behalf of residents.

Tracy Randall expressed concerns about the possible loss of the new play area at Highcliffe. The Clerk advised that there was no intention to remove the play area; steps were being taken in partnership with the County Council and police to try and resolve some of the issues which had arisen since the play equipment had been installed.

Councillor Smith raised the proposal by the County Council for an air show in Berwick, about which the Events Committee had already been consulted. There was urgency about providing a view to County, to enable them to submit an expression of interest to the Red Arrows. The Clerk would email members seeking their views, and provide a consensus direct to County.

CO37/10

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors V Pauline and A Reid.

CO38/11

2. MINUTES

The minutes of the Berwick-upon-Tweed Town Council meeting held on 25 July 2011 and 22 August 2011 were agreed and signed as a correct record.

CO39/11

3. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

No interests were declared.

CO40/11

4. TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor reported on events attended, including Minden Day, Mayor's Sunday, the Film and Media Festival. He also reported on the presentation of the award of Honorary Freeman of Berwick-upon-Tweed to Henry McCreath, who had asked the Mayor to pass his thanks to members for conferring this special honour.

CO41/11

5. PRESENTATION BY HILARY BROWN AND RACHEL CHAPMAN

Ms Brown and Ms Chapman, representing the NHS North of Tyne, described the changes which were due to take place from 2013, leading to practice-based commissioning. The aim was to deliver local services to local people, through the establishing of Clinical Commissioning Groups. These would take over all contracting and commissioning from Primary Care Trusts. In Northumberland the

47 practices would be grouped into four localities.

Members raised issues relating to the special circumstances created by the distance of Berwick from main services and centres. They also sought, and were given, assurances that the new arrangements would not lead to any current services being lost.

The Mayor thanked Ms Brown and Ms Chapman for attending, and suggested they return to a future meeting to provide a progress report.

CO42/11

6. OPEN PUBLIC SERVICES WHITE PAPER

Members had been provided with an extract from the White Paper 'Open Public Services', which focused on local services and the greater role which the government saw for local councils in delivering these.

Members expressed concerns that local services were expected to be delivered by local councils which did not have the resources or expertise required.

It was agreed that the Clerk, in consultation with the Chair, should compile an appropriate response to the proposals.

CO43/11

7. QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE 2012

Members considered the paper which had been circulated proposing ways in which the Town Council could mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

RESOLVED: (i) The Council should participate in the Beacon Project to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee; and (ii) the Council should take forward proposals for further planting projects to mark the Jubilee.

CO44/11

8. NEW UNIFORMS FOR SERGEANT AT MACE AND HALBERDIER

The paper which had been circulated was considered by members. A proposal by Councillor Herdman that in addition to the three piece suits there should be a cape was also considered.

RESOLVED: (i) There should be no change in the colour of the uniforms for the Sergeant at Mace and Halberdier; and (ii) Capes should not be provided.

CO45/11

9. EVENTS COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: To adopt the minutes of the meeting of the Events Committee meeting held on 12 September 2011, subject to it being noted that

Councillor Bettison advised she had tendered her apologies.

CO46/11

10. ENVIRONMENT AND REGENERATION COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: To adopt the minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Regeneration Committee meeting held on 12 September 2011.

CO47/11

11. FINANCE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

(i) RESOLVED: (i) To adopt the minutes of the Finance and Resources Committee meeting held on 13 September 2011; and (ii) To defer implementation of the recommendations relating to retirement payments to allow appropriate consultation with the officers.

(ii) RESOLVED: To approve and accept the annual financial return for the year ending 31 March 2011, following receipt of the external auditor's certificate.

CO48/11

12. REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES

There had been no requests for representation on outside bodies.

CO49/11

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Council would be held on Monday 28 November 2011 at 6 pm in the Town Hall.