

## **BERWICK-UPON-TWEED TOWN COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Monday 26 November 2012 at 6 pm at The Town Hall, Marygate, Berwick-upon-Tweed**

### **PRESENT:**

Councillors:	J Robertson	I Hunter
	H Bettison	V Pauline
	A Bowlas	A Reid
	I Dixon	F Simpson
	F Grant	J Smith
	P Herdman MBE	J Waterhouse
	G Hill	

### **IN ATTENDANCE:**

S Finch, Town Clerk  
S Cozens, Assistant to the Clerk  
J Benton, Sergeant at Mace  
Acting Inspector Andy Pullen, Northumbria Police  
Sergeant Keith Smith, Northumbria Police  
Sergeant Gary Hoddinott, Northumbria Police  
Melanie Eve, CSV  
Andrew Marshall, Town Team  
1 member of the public

The Town Mayor welcomed everyone present to the meeting.

### **OPEN SESSION**

Acting Inspector Andy Pullen of Northumbria Police updated the Town Council on current trends. Overall crime figures for the year to date compared to the same time last year had fallen, 495 in 2012 against 653 in 2011. A focus on anti-social behaviour had resulted in a drop of this type of offence and this initiative would continue into the Christmas period. Acting Inspector Andy Pullen had also informed the Town Council that this would be the last time

Sergeant Keith Smith attended a meeting before his retirement. The Town Council unanimously thanked Sergeant Keith Smith for his work with the Council and service to the community. Sergeant Keith Smith thanked the Council and introduced his successor Sergeant Gary Hoddinott to the meeting.

**CO52/12**      **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence had been accepted from: Councillors J Beresford (unwell) and C Routledge (personal).

Absent: Councillor B Douglas.

**CO53/12**      **2. MINUTES**

The minutes of the Berwick-upon-Tweed Town Council meeting held on 24 September 2012 were agreed and signed as a correct record.

**CO54/12**      **3. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**

Councillor H Bettison declared a personal interest in Item 12 (900 Years Anniversary).

Councillor A Bowlas declared a personal interest in Item 7 (Portas Pilot) and Item 12 (900 Years Anniversary).

Councillor I Dixon declared a personal interest in Item 12 (900 Years Anniversary).

Councillor P Herdman declared a personal interest in Item 12 (900 Years Anniversary).

Councillor G Hill declared a personal interest in Item 7 (Portas Pilot).

Council I Hunter declared a personal interest in Item 8 (Northumberland Special Schools and Special Units Consultation); a prejudicial interest in Item 11 (EBDA Award); and a prejudicial interest in Item 17 (Finance and Resources Committee).

Councillor J Robertson declared a personal interest in Item 12 (900 Years Anniversary) and Item 17 (Finance and Resources Committee).

Councillor F Simpson declared a personal interest in Item 12 (900 Years Anniversary).

**CO55/12**      **4. REQUEST FOR DISPENSATION**

- (i) Members had been requested to consider a procedure for the Council to follow as a result of the new requirement, set out in the Localism Act

2011, for members having a disclosable pecuniary interest to request a dispensation allowing them to participate in discussions and voting. This would need to be for one or more of the statutory reasons set out in the paper circulated.

**RESOLVED: The Town Council to adopt, and bring into effect immediately, the procedure for dispensations as set out in the paper circulated to all members; and that the procedure be incorporated into the next revision of the Standing Orders.**

(ii) Members considered the requests for dispensation which had been submitted.

**RESOLVED: Councillor I Hunter to be able to participate in discussions relating to Finance and Resources Committee; Councillor J Robertson to be able to participate in discussions relating to Finance and Resources Committee.**

NOTE: The register of interests of each member will be in the public domain.

**CO56/12**

**5. TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Town Mayor reported that the Jubilee Lamp and Christmas Lights would be switched on at 3.45pm and 4.30 respectively on Saturday, 1 December 2012. The Town Mayor also thanked the Clerk and Assistant to the Clerk for their work undertaken for Remembrance Day.

**CO57/12**

**6. BERWICK VOLUNTEERS IN FAMILY SUPPORT PROJECT**

Melanie Eve from CSV reported on the Berwick Volunteers In Family Support Project. The project was a new initiative working in partnership with Northumberland County Council which aimed to strengthen families by volunteers visiting the home and providing emotional support. New volunteers were due to be trained in the New Year although recruitment was still ongoing. Melanie Eve asked those present to relay the information she had provided through their contacts and networks and to consider any organisation where it may be appropriate for her to hold a presentation. The Town Mayor thanked Melanie for her contribution.

**CO58/12**

**7. PORTAS PILOT**

Andrew Marshall from the Town Team reported on the progress of the Portas Pilot scheme. The Town Team was making slow but steady progress, assessing how they could be most effective, and envisaging a two year programme of activity covering the key issues of the market, the future of the 'high street' and the appearance of properties in Marygate and Hide Hill.

The £100,000 Portas grant had been received, together with a commitment of £10,000 from the Arts Council. The team was committed to working with partners and making the most of this opportunity. The Town Mayor suggested a meeting in due course with the Town Council to discuss how the Council might help progress the Pilot.

**CO59/12**

**8. NORTHUMBERLAND SPECIAL SCHOOLS AND SPECIAL UNITS CONSULTATION**

The meeting agreed that a response to the consultation could not take place without speaking to the Schools and Special Units first. Councillor John Robertson suggested that he contact the Head Teachers of the Schools and Special Units for their views from which he would formulate a response. This response would be brought before Council for their approval before being submitted to the County Council.

**CO60/12**

**9. YOUTH COUNCIL**

The previously distributed report outlined the progress so far of the new Youth Council and was noted by members. The Council had met twice so far and had agreed that it wanted to meet monthly. The number of youth councillors at present was 14, and they came from Berwick, Spittal and Tweedmouth. A standing item at each meeting was 'Town Alerts', under which issues of concern, and ideas for improvements, could be raised.

**CO61/12**

**10. AUDIT 2011-12**

**RESOLVED: To approve and accept the annual return following receipt of the external auditor's certificate and opinion.**

**CO62/12**

**11. EBDA AWARD**

Note: Councillor I Hunter, having declared a personal and prejudicial interest left the room during consideration of this item.

**RESOLVED: To nominate Berwick Rotary Club and Simpsons Malt for the Eastern Borders Development Association 2012 award.**

Those members putting forward these suggestions agreed to provide the Clerk with the required 200 words needed to support the nomination.

**CO63/12**

**12. 900 YEARS ANNIVERSARY**

The meeting was supportive of the idea to commemorate the 900 Years Anniversary of Berwick.

**RESOLVED: (i) To form a sub-committee of Councillors and other interested parties (provided that the Guild of Freemen agreed to this idea); and (ii) to set aside £12,000 (£4,000 from the current and the next two years' budgets) for this project.**

**CO64/12**

**13. STANDING ORDERS**

**RESOLVED: To consider the revised Standing Orders, proposed by Councillor J Robertson and seconded by Councillor P Herdman, and in accordance with Standing Order 79 adjourn this item without discussion to the next ordinary meeting of Council; and (ii) To consider the resolution proposed by Councillor H Bettison, proposed by Councillor H Bettison and seconded by Councillor A Bowlas, and in accordance with Standing Order 79 adjourn this item without discussion to the next ordinary meeting of Council.**

**CO65/12**

**14. PLANNING COMMITTEE**

**RESOLVED: To adopt the minutes of the meetings of the Planning Committee held on 23 October 2012 and 20 November 2012.**

**CO66/12**

**15. EVENTS COMMITTEE**

**RESOLVED: To adopt the minutes of the meeting of the Events Committee held on 5 November 2012.**

**CO67/12**

**16. ENVIRONMENT AND REGENERATION COMMITTEE**

**RESOLVED: To adopt the minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Regeneration Committee held on 12 November 2012.**

**CO68/12**

**17. FINANCE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

**RESOLVED: To adopt the minutes of the meeting of the Finance and Resources Committee held on 19 November 2012.**

**CO69/12**

**18. STAFFING COMMITTEE**

**RESOLVED: To adopt the minutes of the meeting of the Staffing Committee held on 15 October 2012.**

**CO70/12**

**19. REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

There had been no requests for representation on outside bodies.

**CO71/12**

**20. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Council would be held on Monday 28 January 2013 at 6 pm in the Town Hall.