

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

**Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Monday 28 January 2013 at 6 pm at The Town Hall, Marygate, Berwick-upon-Tweed**

### **PRESENT:**

Councillors:	J Robertson	G Hill
	J Beresford	I Hunter
	H Bettison	A Reid
	A Bowlas	C Routledge
	I Dixon	F Simpson
	B Douglas	J Smith
	P Herdman MBE	J Waterhouse

### **IN ATTENDANCE:**

S Finch, Town Clerk  
S Cozens, Assistant to the Clerk  
R Leetham, Finance Officer  
J Benton, Sergeant at Mace  
Sergeant Steve Crane, Northumbria Police  
Rachel Chapman, NHS North of Tyne  
Julien Lake, Chief Executive Officer, Berwick Community Trust  
Jan Casson, Berwick Community Trust  
4 members of the public

The Town Mayor welcomed everyone present to the meeting.

### **OPEN SESSION**

A member of the West End Residents Association stated that they had a number of issues regarding Blakewell Road, Blakewell Gardens and West End Road and wished to arrange a meeting with the Town Council. This was agreed and would be arranged in due course.

Sergeant Steve Crane of Northumbria Police, who would replace Sergeant Keith Smith

introduced himself to the meeting. He reported that current trends showed that retail and alcohol related crime had fallen in Berwick.

**CO72/12**

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence had been accepted from: Councillors F Grant (unwell) and V Pauline (personal).

**CO73/12**

**2. MINUTES**

The minutes of the Berwick-upon-Tweed Town Council meeting held on 26 November 2012 were agreed and signed as a correct record.

**CO74/12**

**3. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**

There were no disclosures of interests.

**CO75/12**

**4. REQUEST FOR DISPENSATION**

(i) Applications requesting a dispensation enabling them to participate in discussion and voting on Item 12 were received from all Councillors.

Applications requesting a dispensation enabling them to participate in discussion and voting on Item 6 were received from Councillor P Herdman.

(ii) The Committee agreed to the dispensations requested.

**CO76/12**

**5. TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Town Mayor reported that Mayor's Sunday would take place on Sunday, 17 March 2013. The event would be used as an opportunity to thank those who do voluntary work in Berwick-upon-Tweed

**CO77/12**

**6. BERWICK MATERNITY UNIT – PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

Rachel Chapman of NHS North of Tyne updated the meeting on the consultations regarding Berwick Maternity Unit, and explained that the two options being offered were a return to the service offered prior to 1 August 2012; or a round-the-clock on-call service. The consultation was launched on 11 December 2013 and would last for 14 weeks instead of the usual 12 weeks to accommodate the Christmas and New Year period. The consultation process would include open meetings, on-line surveys and hard-copy surveys. The distribution of posters and flyers and advertising with local media would be used to make the public aware of the process.

The consultation would end on 19 March, and a report would be passed to the

Clinical Commissioning Group after 26 March.

The Chair thanked the representatives of the NHS for attending.

**CO78/12**

## **7. BERWICK COMMUNITY TRUST**

Julien Lake and Jan Casson updated the meeting on the current role and work of Berwick Community Trust. The Trust was run by a team of people based in The William Elder Building. As well as hosting other organisations within The William Elder Building, the location was used for drop-in sessions and groups including those for young people, the elderly and job-seekers.

Some children's services were provided under contract to Northumberland County Council, and it was hoped to extend this activity. Activities included play outreach, support for young carers, a Saturday Club for children with learning difficulties and a drop-in centre for children from split families.

The Trust was also supporting Berwick families through a food-bank, and since September 2012 179 people, including 69 children, had been directly helped through this scheme.

Other activities included Renewable Energy projects and involvement in Berwick's Future.

The Trust was hoping to work more closely with the Town Council in the future

The Chair thanked Julien and Jan for attending the meeting.

**CO79/12**

## **8. STANDING ORDERS**

Councillors discussed the two items which had been proposed and seconded at the meeting on the 26 November 2012:

- (i) To consider revised Standing Orders.
- (ii) To consider resolution proposed by Councillor Hazel Bettison.

**RESOLVED: (i) To defer the revised Standing Orders to allow for amendments; and (ii) To defer the resolution proposed by Councillor Hazel Bettison to allow for further consideration.**

- CO80/12**      **9. PLANNING COMMITTEE**  
**RESOLVED: To adopt the minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 18 December 2012.**
- CO81/12**      **10. EVENTS COMMITTEE**  
**RESOLVED: To adopt the minutes of the meeting of the Events Committee held on 7 January 2013. The Chair asked that the Rotary Club should be included along with those thanked for their involvement in Christmas Lights (Minute E053/12).**
- CO82/12**      **11. ENVIRONMENT AND REGENERATION COMMITTEE**  
**RESOLVED: To adopt the minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Regeneration Committee held on 14 January 2013.**
- CO83/12**      **12. FINANCE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE**  
The Finance and Resources Committee had considered estimates for the year 2013-14 at the meetings held on 17 December 2012 and 28 January 2013 and agreed that on the basis of proposed expenditure, and taking into account the non-recurring grant being made by the County Council to reduce the impact of reduction in Council Tax base, the precept requirement would be £185,659, representing £58.68 per Band D property.  
**RESOLVED: (i) To agree the budget and precept for 2013-14; and (ii) To adopt the minutes of the meeting of the Finance and Resources Committee held on 17 December 2012.**
- CO84/12**      **13. REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES**  
There had been no requests for representation on outside bodies.
- CO85/12**      **14. CALENDAR OF DATES FOR 2013-14**  
**RESOLVED: To adopt the calendar of meetings for 2013-14.**
- CO86/12**      **15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**  
The next meeting of the Council would be held on Monday 25 March 2013 at 6 pm in the Town Hall.