

BERWICK-UPON-TWEED TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 28 July 2014 at 6 pm at The Town Hall, Marygate, Berwick-upon-Tweed

PRESENT:

Councillors:	I Hunter (Town Mayor)	G Roughead
	H Bettison	C Seymour
	I Dixon	F Simpson
	A Gibson	J Stephenson
	G Hill	A Turnbull
	J Robertson	

IN ATTENDANCE:

S Finch, Town Clerk
S Cozens, Assistant to the Clerk
M Richardson, Sheriff
J Benton, Sergeant-at-Mace
21 members of the public

The Town Mayor welcomed everyone present to the meeting.

Councillor John Robertson apologised for his part in a heated debate that took place at the Annual Town Meeting on Tuesday, 8 April 2014.

OPEN SESSION

A member of the public asked whom they should contact to apply for funding for a bike rack on Bank Hill; the details of the relevant officer at the Town Council were provided. Concerns were also raised about the state of the toilets in Spittal; and the agreed location for the coach park in Chapel Street, which it was suggested was unsuitable due to the size of the vehicles using the entrance and exit routes. It was explained that the issue of the toilets in Spittal had been raised at a meeting of the Environment and Regeneration Committee and a site visit and public meeting was to be discussed with Northumberland County Council Officers. Regarding the coach park in Chapel Street, the Planning Application had been granted approval by Northumberland County

Council.

CO34/14 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been accepted on behalf of: Councillors T Forrester (personal), G Jones (holiday) and J Lang (holiday).

CO35/14 2. MINUTES

The minutes of the Berwick-upon-Tweed Town Council meeting held on 23 June 2014 were agreed and signed as a correct record.

CO36/14 3. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Councillor H Bettison declared a personal interest in Item 7 (Stocks at Town Hall);

Councillor I Dixon declared a personal interest in Item 7 (Stocks at Town Hall);

Councillor C Seymour declared a personal interest in Item 7 (Stocks at Town Hall);

Councillor F Simpson declared a personal interest in Item 7 (Stocks at Town Hall).

CO37/14 4. REQUEST FOR DISPENSATION

There were no requests for dispensation.

CO38/14 5. TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor reported on events attended since the last Council meeting including the Can-Am Pipes and Drums and the Curfew Run. The Mayor also mentioned the forthcoming re-opening of Castle Vale and Coronation parks by the Duchess of Northumberland on 31 July 2014 and reported that the L.S Lowry in Berwick and Northumberland exhibition at The Granary Gallery had had approximately 4,000 visitors to date.

CO39/14 6. PARISH COUNCIL CONFERENCE

RESOLVED: To nominate Councillors G Roughead and F Simpson to attend the Parish Council Conference on 25 September 2014.

CO40/14 7. STOCKS AT TOWN HALL

Members considered a proposal that the Town Council take on the replacement of the replica Stocks at the Town Hall. It was noted that the Town Council had agreed to renovate the Stocks at a previous meeting of the Environment and Regeneration Committee and a replacement set had already been made. However the original idea of locating the Stocks in the Buttermarket was impractical.

RESOLVED: To replace the Stocks on the north side of the Town Hall which would involve discussions with English Heritage and the completion of a Listed Building Consent Planning Application.

CO41/14

8. STANDING ORDERS

Councillors discussed the item which had been proposed and seconded at the meeting on the 23 June 2014. Councillor J Stephenson proposed the following amendment:

‘We have a Policy and Strategy Group reviewing all council operations.

I am chairman of the Financial Services Working Group to which I believe this matter should be referred because of other possible needs like staffing and priority of possible play area costs.

I therefore propose that this matter is referred to Policy and Strategy Group as part of their review and comprehensively reported back to this Council.’

RESOLVED: To agree the amendment proposed by Councillor J Stephenson.

CO42/14

9. PLANNING COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: To adopt the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 20 May 2014.

CO43/14

10. ENVIRONMENT AND REGENERATION COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: To adopt the minutes of the Environment and Regeneration Committee meeting held on 9 June 2014.

CO44/14

11. FINANCE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: To adopt the minutes of the Finance and Resources Committee meeting held on 28 April 2014.

CO45/14

12. STAFFING COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: To adopt the minutes of the Staffing Committee meeting held on 14 April 2014.

CO46/14

13. STAFFING SUB-COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: To adopt the minutes of the Staffing Sub-Committee meeting held on 3 June 2014.

CO47/14

14. REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES

RESOLVED: (i) Councillor I Dixon to represent the Town Council on St Aidans; (ii) Representation on Berwick Community Trust deferred to the next meeting; (iii) Councillor J Robertson resigned his position on the

Portas Mangement Group leaving two vacancies. Representation on Portas Management Group deferred to the next meeting; (iv) Representation on Berwick900 deferred to the next meeting; and (v) Representation on LMAPS deferred to the next meeting.

CO48/13

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Council would be held on Monday 29 September 2014 at 6 pm in the Town Hall.