

BERWICK-UPON-TWEED TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Monday 28 November 2011 at 6 pm at The Town Hall, Marygate, Berwick-upon-Tweed

PRESENT:

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

S Finch, Town Clerk

J Benton, Sergeant at Mace, Paul Morgan, Halberdier, Lorna Chappell, PIPAN, David Gluck, BRiC-work, Gary McBride, Northumberland County Council

I Smith, Berwick Advertiser

The Town Mayor welcomed everyone present to the meeting.

OPEN SESSION

CO50/11

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been accepted from Councillors A Reid (personal) and F Simpson (personal)

CO51/11

2. MINUTES

The minutes of the Berwick-upon-Tweed Town Council meeting held on 26 September 2011 were agreed and signed as a correct record.

CO52/11

3. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Councillors Douglas and Hunter each declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Item 11 (EBDA award).

CO53/11

4. TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor reported on events attended since the last Council meeting.

CO54/11

5. TEAM THREE FIELDS PROJECT

The Mayor welcomed David Gluck, a member of the BRiC-Work consortium working on the Three Fields project. Mr Gluck outlined the progress of the project, which was intended to be a development of a previous neighbourhood agreement, involving the County Council working alongside stakeholders.

Workshops were planned for 19 and 20 January to which residents of Three Fields would be invited to discuss improved service delivery. Ideas to develop included 'Street Reps' and provision of meeting facilities.

The Mayor thanked Mr Gluck for attending, and it was agreed that a progress report should be brought to each Council meeting.

CO55/11

6. REALISTIC EXPECTATIONS FOR ROAD-BASED PUBLIC TRANSPORT SOUTH OF BERWICK

The Mayor welcomed Gary McBride, who was attending to provide an up-date on developments in bus services over the coming months.

Issues covered included:

- the Newcastle-Berwick corridor, and the service changes during the winter;
- the financial constraints relating to subsidised bus services, and the challenge of meeting the criterion of £5 per passenger subsidy;
- the problems of meeting the demand for post-16 student transport, which had increased, but which could not be met because of factors including the distance of Berwick from post-16 learning centres;
- the tourism opportunities offered by Passport/Discover rover tickets;

Councillors raised concerns about bus transport to Wansbeck and Borders Hospitals, which Mr McBride said was being addressed by both plans to try and improve bus services and by supporting the WRVS voluntary car scheme. They also suggested the current situation highlighted the need for a centre for post-16 education in or near Berwick.

The Chairman thanked Mr McBride for attending and asked that the Council be kept informed of proposals for road-based transport within the Local Transport Plan.

CO56/11

7. YOUTH COUNCIL

Lorna Chappell was welcomed to the meeting, to give a verbal report on a preliminary consultation to find out how much support there was from young people for the idea of a youth council. She had consulted with representatives from Berwick Borough Housing Youth Advisory Panel and Berwick Young Carers Group.

Overall there had been a positive response to the proposal, and there had been additional discussion about how members of the Youth Council might be appointed, and what their priorities would be. Four topics had been discussed: graffiti art, helping neighbours in bad weather, planting and gardening. There was also support for the idea of a youth input into the Town Council.

Members welcomed the report and the positive response to the idea of a Council; the findings of the report would be discussed by the Finance and Resources Committee. The Mayor thanked Ms Chappell for her work to date and the report which she had prepared.

CO57/11

8. REVISED LOCAL COUNCIL CHARTER

The revised Local Council Charter was noted.

CO58/11

9. USE OF CIVIC REGALIA

The Town Clerk reported that in the first review of the civic regalia since its transfer from the former Borough Council to the Town Council, the insurance, storage and use of the items had been considered.

Insurance had been reviewed and amended.

Quotations had been requested from three companies for new arrangements relating to storage and security of the items.

Consideration needed to be given to the use of the main items, to minimise wear and tear and exposure to risk. Members considered the recommendations and amended these as follows:

RESOLVED: (i) The Mayor's, Mayoress' and Sheriff's chains of office to be worn in the Town Council area. Should there be an event outside the Town Council area the chains of office should only be worn if appropriate facilities are available for their care and storage both in transit and during use; (ii) Estimates to be sought for the design and fabrication of new, simple chains for use with the Mayor's and Sheriff's pendants, which may be used in place of the chains of office; (iii) The Council to agree to whichever storage and security arrangements afford, in the view of the Chair and Vice Chair, the best protection for the civic regalia.

CO59/11

10. RECOGNITION FOR SERVICES TO THE COMMUNITY

The Chair proposed the introduction of a suitable award to be made to individuals or businesses which had made a substantial contribution to Berwick-upon-Tweed, but who did not necessarily meet the criteria for being appointed Honorary Freeman or Freewoman. Members felt that there were several award schemes already in place to recognise contributions to the community, and a trophy previously awarded by the former Berwick-upon-Tweed Borough Council. It might be more appropriate to consider sponsoring a class or trophy in another existing scheme.

It was agreed the proposal required further consideration before the Council took a formal decision.

CO60/11

11. EBDA AWARD

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

RESOLVED: To nominate Berwick Rotary Club, Olympus Marquees and Simpsons Malt for the Eastern Borders Development Association 2011 award.

Those members putting forward these suggestions agreed to provide the Clerk

with the required 200 words needed to support the nomination.

CO61/11

12. PLANNING COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: To adopt the minutes of the meetings of the Planning Committee held on 19 July 2011 on 20 September 2011 on 18 October 2011 and on 15 November 2011.

CO62/11

13. EVENTS COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: To adopt the minutes of the meeting of the Events Committee held on 7 November 2011.

Members noted that Councillor Waterhouse had been elected as Chair of the Committee at the immediately foregoing meeting of the Events Committee

CO63/11

14. ENVIRONMENT AND REGENERATION COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: To adopt the minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Regeneration Committee held on 7 November 2011.

CO64/11

15. FINANCE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: To adopt the minutes of the meeting of the Finance and Resources Committee held on 8 November 2011.

CO65/11

16. STAFFING COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: To exclude the press and public during the following two agenda items which included issues of a personal and confidential nature.
RESOLVED: To adopt the minutes of the meeting of the Staffing Committee held on 19 October 2011.

CO66/11

17. LEAVE OF ABSENCE

RESOLVED: Leave of absence to be granted to Councillor Reid from September 2011 to January 2012 inclusive.

RESOLVED: To re-open the meeting to the press and public for the remainder of the meeting.

CO67/11

18. REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES

There had been no requests for representation on outside bodies, but it was noted that Councillor Waterhouse had accepted an invitation to join the Local Multi Agency Partnership (LMAPs).

CO68/11

19. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Council would be held on Monday 30 January 2012 at 6

pm in the Town Hall.