

BERWICK-UPON-TWEED TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 29 September 2014 at 6 pm at The Town Hall, Marygate, Berwick-upon-Tweed

PRESENT:

Councillors:	I Hunter (Town Mayor)	J Robertson
	J Beresford	G Roughead
	H Bettison	C Seymour
	A Gibson	F Simpson
	G Jones	G McLean
	J Lang	A Turnbull

IN ATTENDANCE:

S Finch, Town Clerk

S Cozens, Assistant to the Clerk

M Richardson, Sheriff

Paul Morgan, Halberdier

22 members of the public

The Town Mayor welcomed everyone present to the meeting including new Councillor G McLean.

OPEN SESSION

Concerns were raised regarding the ambulance service in Berwick in relation to the amount of time that people had to wait for an ambulance to arrive. A member of the public expressed concern that at the meeting of the Finance and Resources Committee on 22 September 2014 the recording equipment had stopped working and also asked how often and under what circumstances do the Council make payments before authorisation? The Mayor informed the member of the public that a written response would be provided and that the majority of the meeting in question was recorded. An enquiry was made regarding the issues that had previously been discussed regarding Spittal and the site visit and public meeting that was to be discussed with Northumberland County Council Officers. The Mayor responded by saying Northumberland County Council officers had undertaken some walkabouts and that arrangements would hopefully be put in place for site visits to specific locations of concern and a public meeting. County

Councillor Jim Smith explained that he attends various residents' associations meetings so channels of communication are available. However, the residents' associations meetings may not be widely advertised.

CO49/14 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been accepted on behalf of: Councillors I Dixon (holiday), T Forrester (work commitment) and G Hill (work commitment).

CO50/14 2. MINUTES

The minutes of the Berwick-upon-Tweed Town Council meeting held on 28 July 2014 were agreed and signed as a correct record.

CO51/14 3. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Councillor I Hunter declared a personal interest in Item 7 (Former Kwik Save Store);

Councillor G Jones declared a personal interest in Item 7 (Former Kwik Save Store);

Councillor G Roughead declared a personal interest in Item 7 (Former Kwik Save Store) and Item 9 (Bus Service Consultation).

CO52/14 4. REQUEST FOR DISPENSATION

There were no requests for dispensation.

CO53/14 5. TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor reported on events attended since the last Council meeting. The Mayor also mentioned the very successful LS Lowry exhibition at The Granary gallery which attracted nearly 18,000 visitors, bringing benefit to the local community. The Mayor also referred to the opening of the refurbished Castle Vale and Coronation Parks by the Duchess of Northumberland, attended by the Civic Party.

CO54/14 6. ELECTION OF DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR

RESOLVED: That Councillor J Robertson be appointed Deputy Town Mayor for the remainder of the 2014-15 municipal year.

CO55/14 7. FORMER KWIK SAVE STORE

John Lord introduced himself to the meeting as representing ARCH. He then gave a verbal update on the previously circulated report and noted the confidentiality of the identity of the prospective occupiers. His explanation included the points that there is no modern office space in town and that possible alternatives had been explored although none appeared viable. The current

proposal would retain jobs in the town which would provide an economic benefit.

There followed a question and answer session with Councillors and then members of the public.

The Mayor thanked Mr Lord for attending.

CO56/14

8. LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN

The Council had been requested by the County Council to submit its three top priorities for the 2015-16 Local Transport Plan Programme.

RESOLVED: The three priorities for the 2015-2016 Local Transport Programme were to be (i) additional parking at Berwick Railway Station; (ii) a re-routing of the long-distance cycle route across the old bridge and down onto the Quayside; and (iii) short-term parking on Marygate.

CO57/14

9. BUS SERVICE CONSULTATION

Members discussed the proposed changes to Services 418, X15 and X18 and felt that on route X15 there should be at least one bus a day that completes the journey between Berwick-upon-Tweed and Newcastle and likewise in the return direction thus alleviating the need to change at Alnwick.

CO58/14

10. PORTAS MANAGEMENT GROUP

Members considered a request from the Portas Management Group to re-instate Cllr John Robertson to the group.

RESOLVED: That Councillor J Robertson be re-instated to the Portas Management Group, although this would not be as Chair.

Members also reviewed the application from Northumberland County Council to the Portas Management Group for the Berwick Market Development project. Projects to a value of over £5000 were to be referred to the Environment and Regeneration Committee, but timing had prevented this. The project was therefore referred to the full Council, and it was emphasised that the application was not for Council monies but for the separate Portas fund.

RESOLVED: To support the application by Northumberland County Council for Portas funds, to a total of £28,500, for Phase 1 of the Berwick Market

Development project with funding of £20,500 for Phase 2 to follow subject to the conditions: project delivery plan to be provided showing timescales for each part of the project; a site plan showing location of anchor points to be provided; clarification on utilisation of the new stall covers relating to fitting on the existing stalls and commitment of the stall holders to use them; quarterly reports on market performance once new stalls and covers were introduced.

CO59/14

11. STRATEGY AND POLICY GROUP

The Town Council had received a request to provide information from the notes of the Strategy and Policy Group. Members considered whether the notes of Strategy and Policy Group meetings, which are closed to press and public, should be made available to members of the public. The implication of this would be that the public could potentially attend meetings and therefore the group would become a Standing Committee.

RESOLVED: That the public and press will not normally be invited to meetings of the Strategy and Policy Group as per the current arrangements.

CO60/14

12. SPITTAL PROMENADE SHELTER

Councillor I Dixon had advised that he would withdraw his proposal regarding the shelter on Spittal Promenade.

CO61/14

13. PARISH LIAISON WORKING GROUP

Members noted the report by Councillor I Hunter.

CO62/14

14. PLANNING COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: To adopt the minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 24 June 2014 and 22 July 2014.

CO63/14

15. ENVIRONMENT AND REGENERATION COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: To adopt the minutes of the Environment and Regeneration Committee meeting held on 14 July 2014.

CO64/14

16. FINANCE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: To adopt the minutes of the Finance and Resources Committee meeting held on 16 June 2014.

CO65/14

17. REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES

RESOLVED: (i) Councillor I Dixon to represent the Town Council on Berwick Community Trust; (ii) Councillor G McLean to represent the Town Council on Portas Management Group; (iii) Councillor G McLean to represent the Town Council on Berwick 900; (iv) Councillor G McLean to represent the

Town Council on LMAPS; and (v) Councillor I Hunter to represent the Town Council on Berwick-upon-Tweed Corporation (Freemen) Trustees.

CO66/13

18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Council would be held on Monday, 24 November 2014 at 6 pm in the Town Hall.