

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

### **Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Monday 30 January 2012 at 6 pm at The Town Hall, Marygate, Berwick-upon-Tweed**

#### **PRESENT:**

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

#### **IN ATTENDANCE:**

S Finch, Town Clerk  
S Cozens, Assistant to the Clerk  
J Benton, Sergeant at Mace  
I Smith, Berwick Advertiser  
Two members of the public.

The Town Mayor welcomed everyone present to the meeting.

#### **OPEN SESSION**

Do Shaw asked the Town Council what progress had been made regarding concerns of residents over river craft using the Tweed estuary? The Town Clerk replied that the Town Council did not have the powers to make byelaws and that the County Council had been contacted in September and had asked for details of launching points and land ownership. Archive files of the former Borough Council had been obtained and help sought to inspect these though unfortunately none had been forthcoming so it has not been possible to progress the matter. The Harbour Commission had stated that Carr Rock was the main launching point, and had offered to meet with the Town Council to discuss the issue; this offer was welcomed.

Neighbourhood Sergeant Keith Smith reported that Inspector Sharon Wilmore-Greaves' temporary post in Berwick was due to finish at the end of January and there was no further information on who would fill the role after this. Sgt Keith Smith also stated that December had been a busy month with a number of operations put in place and on a positive front there was a reduction in crime for the period. The issue of response times on 101 calls compared to 999 calls was raised. Sgt Keith Smith explained that 101 is a low priority, non-emergency number and that 999 is still the emergency number and response times are different.

**CO69/11            1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence had been accepted from Councillor I Dixon (journey delay).

**CO70/11            2. CASUAL VACANCY**

The Town Mayor formally welcomed the newly elected Councillor William Forbes Grant to the meeting. He also welcomed back Councillor Ann Reid after her leave of absence.

**CO71/11            3. MINUTES**

The minutes of the Berwick-upon-Tweed Town Council meeting held on 28 November 2011 were agreed and signed as a correct record.

**CO72/11            4. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**

Councillor I Hunter declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Items 7 (Northumberland County Council's Public Transport Strategy) and 9 (Local Parking Issues – Proposals For Change).

Councillor G Hill declared a personal interest in Item 9 (Local Parking Issues – Proposals For Change).

**CO73/11            5. TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor reported on events attended since the last Council meeting and also proposed a letter of congratulations be sent to Her Majesty the Queen on reaching her Diamond Jubilee.

**CO74/11            6. BERWICK PROJECT – TEAM THREE FIELDS**

A report entitled 'Summary Feedback from Three Fields Workshops, 19/20 January 2012' was tabled and duly noted by Members.

**CO75/11            7. NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL'S PUBLIC TRANSPORT STRATEGY**

Reference was made to the recognition for the need for more parking facilities at Berwick Railway Station. There was also recognition of the anomaly of bus

shelters being included in a Northumberland County Council Strategy when responsibility was being devolved to local councils. Members duly noted the report.

**CO76/11      8. AMBULANCE SERVICES – BERWICK**

During the course of discussion recognition was given to how important this service is to the area.

**RESOLVED: That the Town Council write to the Ambulance Service stating their opposition to any loss of service and inviting representatives of the service to attend the next Town Council meeting.**

**CO77/11      9. LOCAL PARKING ISSUES – PROPOSALS FOR CHANGE**

**RESOLVED: The Chair, Vice-Chair and Town Clerk to meet and consider a response which would be put to all Councillors before a formal response to Northumberland County Council.**

**CO78/11      10. PLANNING COMMITTEE**

**RESOLVED: To adopt the minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 24 JANUARY 2012.**

**CO79/11      11. EVENTS COMMITTEE**

**RESOLVED: To adopt the minutes of the meetings of the Events Committee held on 28 November 2011 and on 16 January 2012.**

**CO80/11      12. ENVIRONMENT AND REGENERATION COMMITTEE**

**RESOLVED: To adopt the minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Regeneration Committee held on 16 January 2012.**

**CO81/11      13. FINANCE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

The Finance and Resources Committee had considered estimates for the year 2012-13 at the meeting held on 19 December 2011 and agreed that on the basis of proposed expenditure the precept requirement would be £100,456, representing £27.45 per Band D property.

**RESOLVED: To adopt the minutes of the meetings of the Finance and Resources Committee held on 19 December 2011 and on 17 January 2012.**

**CO82/11      14. REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

There had been no requests for representation on outside bodies.

**CO83/11      15. CALENDAR OF DATES FOR 2012-13**

**RESOLVED: To adopt the calendar of meetings for 2012-13.**

**CO84/11      16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Council would be held on Monday 19 March 2012 at 6 pm in the Town Hall.