

BERWICK-UPON-TWEED TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Town Council Environment and Regeneration Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 2 June 2009 at 6.00 pm at The Town Hall, Marygate, Berwick-upon-Tweed

PRESENT:

Councillors: J Robertson (in the Chair from Item 2)
M McNeely
C Routledge
F Simpson (in the Chair for Item 1)
J Waterhouse

IN ATTENDANCE:

S Finch, Clerk
Rob Clow, Area Manager, Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service
One member of the public

ER001/09

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED: That Councillor J Robertson be appointed Chairman of the Environment and Regeneration Committee for the year 2009/2010.

Councillor Robertson took the Chair.

ER002/09

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence had been received.

ER003/09

3. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED: That Councillor C Routledge be appointed Vice Chairman of the Environment and Regeneration Committee for the year 2009/2010.

ER004/09

4. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 7 April 2009 were agreed and signed as a correct record.

ER005/09

5. STATEMENTS BY THE PUBLIC

There were no statements by the public.

ER006/09

6. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There were no disclosures of interest.

ER007/09

7. PROPOSALS FOR BERWICK COMMUNITY FIRE STATION

The Chairman welcomed Rob Clow, Area Manager, Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service, who outlined plans for modernizing and re-building fire stations in several locations within the county, including Berwick.

He emphasised the wider community role of the Fire and Rescue Service, and the changes in statutory duties, which would be reflected in the design of the new fire station. The new station would incorporate some community facilities.

Consultation about the new facility would be taking place with other statutory agencies and with local community groups. It was planned to hold drop-in sessions where members of the public could view and discuss the proposals.

It was expected that a planning application would be submitted in 12 to 18 months.

Following some discussion with members, the Chairman thanked Mr Clow for his presentation and for sharing with the Committee the proposals for the new facility.

ER008/09

8. TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT STRATEGY AND BERWICK'S FUTURE

Members agreed that it was important for all members to participate in a discussion about these two key documents.

RESOLVED: To hold two informal sessions on 15 June at 6.30, and 22 June at 6.30, for Council members to discuss together the Berwick's Future Action Plan and Buchanan Report, respectively.

ER009/09

9. APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Members considered the application from West End Residents Association for assistance with the costs of repairing garden walls, protective edging etc. It was agreed that this should be deferred to allow further information to be obtained about whether or not this was work which should be undertaken by the County Council.

ER010/09

10. PROVISION OF BUS STATION AND PASSENGER WAITING FACILITIES

Members agreed this matter should be considered as part of the discussion

scheduled to take place on 22 June.

ER011/09

11. PROVISION OF GROWING FACILITIES TO ALLOW SELF-SUFFICIENCY WITH PLANTING SCHEMES

The Chairman outlined a proposal which was currently being discussed to reduce the costs of floral and other plant displays around Berwick, by the provision of a glass-house facility which could be utilised by local residents or groups, if they in turn provided stock for use in the Town Council area.

This would entail a substantial capital investment, and further investigation needed to take place into possible locations and partners. Members welcomed the principal but recognised further work was required. This would also be taken into account in the activity proposed under Item 12

ER012/09

12.TOWN COUNCIL – PRIORITY SETTING

Members agreed that as projects such as that proposed under Item 11 came forward, the Council should now be considering setting priorities for expenditure which could be incorporated in budget planning for 2010-11.

RESOLVED: To recommend to Council at the next meeting on 13 July that all standing committees should identify key projects to present to the Council at its meeting on 14 September, in advance of budget preparations for 2010-11.

ER013/09

13.UP-DATE ON PROPOSAL FOR A UNIVERSITY PRESENCE IN BERWICK

The Clerk advised that the Committee had been asked to note the proposal to put in a bid under the New University Challenge, with a view to a university presence being established in Berwick. The statement of intent was being submitted by 30 June, and if accepted, a full bid would then need to be prepared. Berwick Community Trust was co-ordinating the preparatory work and wished the Town Council to be fully aware.

Members agreed they were supportive of the principal and wanted to be kept informed.

ER014/09

14.APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

There had been no requests for nominations to outside bodies.

The Chairman asked that those members who were representing the Council on outside bodies should provide reports and feedback.

[NOTE: Notes from some members are attached to these minutes].

ER015/09 15.DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be held on Tuesday 8 September 2009 at 6 pm in the Ante-Room, Town Hall.

Date:

NOTES FROM OUTSIDE BODIES ON WHICH THE TOWN COUNCIL IS REPRESENTED

GATEWAY STATION MEETING

15TH May, 2009 held in the Ante Room, Guild Hall, Berwick

This is just a brief report from the meeting I attended as Berwick Town Council Representative

Present: Bernard and Margaret Shaw. Martin Murphy (Rail Future North East), Ian Jopling, Northumberland County Council Highways Transportation,

Apologies from Stuart Henry – Cross country Rail Services and Jim Cornell Railways Heritage Trust. No apologies from National Express

Points of Interest from the Meeting –

Berwick featured as a destination on the Cross Country Rail Services Website

Hoping to refurbish Station Manager's flat for use by local Groups

Hoping to try and put back in place the Interpretation Panels that were originally in place prior to the Costa Coffee kiosk taking over the position, Costa Coffee is now closed at this site at the bottom of the steps – Panels are currently in store

Robert Stephenson – 150 years Anniversary celebration – discussed the programme of events, marketing and promotion as well as the possible illumination of the Bridge. Gateway Group are delighted to have the use of the Guild Hall by the Town Council on the 27th and 28th June for their Exhibition Stephenson 150 as well as having the use of the Ante Room for their meetings held every two months.

Gateway Group requested that they would like to send out their Agendas and Minutes on the Town Council letterhead – if Members are agreeable – as in the past they have used Berwick Borough Council letterhead and Ian Jopling from Northumberland County Council had no objection to this. Finally as the Town Council Representative I was nominated as Chairman of the Group –which is exciting as it shows that the Gateway Group are very keen to work with the Town Council

Next meeting is 3rd July 2009

BERWICK IN BLOOM

Cllr Robertson mentioned the proposal for a greenhouse in Berwick for raising plants for use in the town.

The judges were expected on 16 July at 10.30 am

Terry Garnick from the County Council was attending Berwick in Bloom meetings; he brought with him a great deal of experience from the South East of the county.

Plans were already underway for next year.

CITTASLOW

Cllr Robertson mentioned there was still a major education job to do about the philosophy of Cittaslow.

They were helping with the Robinson 150 celebrations.

They were still hoping for a joint meeting with the Town Council.

TOWN PARTNERSHIP

Cllr Robertson said this had originally been a forum for all interested bodies to keep in touch, and members were now considering whether the partnership could meet the criteria for evolving into a Community Forum.