

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

**Minutes of the Town Council Environment and Regeneration Committee Meeting held on Monday, 7 March 2011 at 6.30 pm at The Town Hall, Marygate, Berwick-upon-Tweed**

### **PRESENT:**

Councillors: J Robertson In the Chair  
A Bowlas  
I Dixon  
C Routledge

### **IN ATTENDANCE:**

S Finch, Town Clerk  
1 member of the public

**ER052/10**

#### **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors McNeely, Simpson and Waterhouse.

**ER053/10**

#### **2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 January 2011 were agreed and signed as a correct record.

**ER054/10**

#### **3. STATEMENTS BY THE PUBLIC**

No matters were raised by members of the public.

**ER055/10**

#### **4. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**

There were no disclosures of interest.

**ER056/10**

#### **5. APPRENTICESHIPS**

The Chair reported that there would be an event at WorkSpace at the end of March to enable local employers to learn about the benefits of apprenticeships. It was hoped that at least ten new apprenticeships could be offered in Berwick. Members agreed details should be sent to members when available, and the Council should help promote the event.

**ER057/10**

#### **6. SCHEME OF WORKS FOR 2011-12**

Members discussed additional work which as a Committee they felt should be taken forward in 2011-12.

(i) **New Road**

It was agreed clarification was needed about the clearance of the remaining stretch between the Royal Border Bridge and the Royal Tweed Bridge.

It was also agreed the Rights of Way Officer should be asked to advise what plans there were to re-instate the full width of the footpath at Castle Hills.

A site meeting would be arranged with the County Council, site owners and the Town Council to assess what remaining work needed to be done following the initial clearance of the path, to enable a programme of work to be drawn up.

(ii) **Flagstaff Park**

Members agreed Flagstaff Park would benefit from some re-planting of beds, but that as there was no residents' association, this had not been picked up as part of the programme of environmental improvements drawn up in association with the County Council and Berwick in Bloom. Enquiries would be made to see whether a residents' association could be formed to guide any proposed improvements. If this was not possible a public meeting would be held.

**ER058/10**

**7. PLAY PARKS**

Members discussed current play park provision and where new or improved provision might be made.

It was noted that the Council had already resolved to undertake management and running costs of the proposed Spittal Splash Park, and that this would provisionally be the first play area which the Council would manage as part of the proposed local services delegation. The Council had also agreed that if funds were available through Playbuilder, facilities at Highcliffe should have priority. The Clerk would ask Jan Casson of Surestart for a progress report.

Members agreed that thereafter, consideration should be given to improved

facilities at Five Arches, Prior Park and Eastcliffe.

North of the River, it was noted that plans were in place for the play area at Newfields. New and improved facilities should also be provided at either Flagstaff Park or The Stanks.

It was noted that these proposals would be subject to resources, to agreement by the Council and to the arrangements which would be made with the County Council for service delegation. It was however agreed that the suggestions provided a basis for discussion.

**ER059/10**

### **8. PUBLIC REALM STRATEGY**

Members noted that the Public Realm Strategy had now been published; a copy was tabled.

As well as the strategy there was an accompanying audit of existing public realm, and a broadly costed list of the items proposed in the strategy.

It was agreed a separate meeting should be held to discuss the strategy and consider whether the Council should fund some of the items, in which case priorities would need to be agreed.

**ER060/10**

### **9. APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

There were no new applications for consideration.

The Clerk advised that it had been clarified with the West End Residents Association which of the estimates for the refurbishment of the War Memorial railings represented the best value.

**RESOLVED: To provide a grant of £1075 to West End Residents Association to assist with the cost of the refurbishment of the railings surrounding the Tweedmouth War Memorial.**

**ER061/10**

### **10. SPITTAL SPLASH PARK**

The Clerk advised that the Spittal Improvement Trust had been asked by one of the main funders of the Spittal Splash Park project for clarification of the Town

Council's commitment to maintenance and running costs; they had expressed concern that this commitment, for five years, was not sufficiently long-term.

Members agreed that they were committed to the project but the Council could not be tied to an open-ended agreement. It was recommended that the matter should be brought to the next Council meeting, and that Mike Greener, Secretary of the Spittal Improvement Trust, should be asked to attend if possible.

**ER062/10**

### **11. BERWICK PARKS PROJECT**

The Chair advised that the initial application to the Heritage Lottery Fund had been submitted; a decision about whether the project should move forward to the development stage would be made in June.

All those involved from the County Council and CARA were thanked for their hard work alongside consultants Southern Green in putting the preliminary work together. It had been specially pleasing that local schools had been involved in the consultation the restoration proposals.

**ER063/10**

### **12. BERWICK IN BLOOM/PLANTING AND FLORAL DISPLAYS**

The Chair reported that following discussions held with the Berwick in Bloom group, planting schemes were scheduled for Tweedmouth, and subsequently for Spittal.

The new Three Fields Residents' Association had produced plans for planting the beds opposite Aldi.

It was hoped to enter into discussion with Berwick Borough Housing (BBH) with a view to improved planting schemes in Prior Park and other BBH areas.

The Clerk advised that the Council had still not been invoiced for the work at the Castlegate bed, and had raised this with the County Council.

**ER064/10**

### **13. APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES**

There had been no invitations to be represented on outside bodies.

**ER065/10**

### **14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting would be on Monday 23 May 2011 at 6.30pm in the Ante Room, the Town Hall, Marygate, Berwick-upon-Tweed.