

BERWICK-UPON-TWEED TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Town Council Environment and Regeneration Committee Meeting held on Monday 8 March 2010 at 6.30 pm at The Town Hall, Marygate, Berwick-upon-Tweed

PRESENT:

Councillors: J Robertson (Chairman)
M McNeely
C Routledge
F Simpson
J Waterhouse

IN ATTENDANCE:

S Finch, Town Clerk
Councillors A Bowlas and I Dixon
4 members of the public

ER040/09 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

ER041/09 2. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 November 2009 were agreed and signed as a correct record.

With reference to minute ER035/09, Councillor Robertson reported that the lights were currently safely stored at the County Council depot. The longer term solution would probably be to purchase and locate a container on that site for use by the Town Council.

ER042/09 3. STATEMENTS BY THE PUBLIC

There were no statements by members of the public.

ER043/09 4. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Councillor Robertson declared a personal interest in Item 10 (Town Centre Planters) and Item 8 (Application for grant, Berwick in Bloom).

ER044/09

5. ROYAL BORDER BRIDGE ILLUMINATIONS

The Chairman welcomed Tim Kirton and Bernard Shaw. Tim Kirton advised that capital funding was in place for the lighting scheme, but this would only go ahead if tenders came in at or below the level of capital funding secured. No capital funding was being sought from the County or Town Councils.

Annual revenue costs were not expected to exceed £5000; the County Council had agreed to underwrite these costs, but it was expected that they should be met elsewhere and efforts were continuing to find sponsors. There was no expectation that the Town Council should meet these costs.

The lighting, given technological advances, was expected to be more resilient than the lighting installed in earlier years on the 'New Bridge'. It was noted that the County Council was committed to restore the millennium lighting scheme on the 'New Bridge', and whilst the two projects were entirely separate, there might be cost savings if work was carried out on both bridges at the same time.

The Chair thanked Tim and Bernard Shaw for bringing members up to date.

ER045/09

6. LOCAL HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT ISSUES

Members raised the following issues:

- i. The poor state of the footway on North Road – no action since last meeting.
- ii. Sunnyside Crescent – work done since last meeting and an improvement
- iii. The pedestrian crossing in Golden Square (markings) – no action since last meeting
- iv. The height of the kerb in Brucegate – no action since last meeting
- v. Main access from Morrison's roundabout to Sea View in Newfields
- vi. Parking in Marygate; members raised their concerns about the hazards being created by the continued, and worsening, illegal parking in Marygate. They felt that resolving this issue was not a priority of County

Officers, and elected unitary councillors were not being adequately supportive, but that the reintroduction of parking in Marygate should be revisited as a matter of urgency on the grounds of safety. Members agreed that the best forum in which to raise this matter was Area Committee North, which would ensure the issue was drawn to the attention of elected members as well as officers. They therefore asked the Clerk to ensure that this item be raised at the next available meeting.

- vii. Potholes at the access at The Elizabethan into Westfield
- viii. Extra bollards needed outside the Post Office in West Street
- ix. Expansion joints on the road bridge require attention.
- x. Signage off the A1 into Berwick, coach parking signage, short-stay parking at the Parade and long-stay parking in Castlegate; these were all under consideration, and would be considered as part of the 'public realm' strategy.

ER046/09

7. BERWICK MARKETS

Members noted the report which had been circulated, advising that the County Council was facilitating the setting up of a Partnership which it was hoped would jointly run the Charter Markets, and that the Town Council was working with the County Council to identify appropriate representation and membership.

ER047/09

8. APPLICATIONS FOR GRANT ASSISTANCE

RESOLVED: To make a grant of £125 to Cittaslow Berwick-in-Bloom to cover the cost of Berwick's entry to Northumbria in Bloom 2010.

Members considered the applications from Spittal Improvement Trust for assistance with (i) Spittal Splash Park, (ii) Acquisition of the Sandstell Road Fishing Shiel and (iii) Providing planters, tools and plants to help enhance Spittal War Memorial. Members felt that these applications should be deferred to allow discussion with Spittal Improvement Trust about how the Trust would resource the delivery of three substantial projects, and establish which would have priority.

ER048/09

9. PROJECT FEEDBACK

It was agreed that recipients of grants from the Town Council should be asked to provide a report on how the money has been spent; the Clerk would write to those who had received financial assistance.

ER049/09

10. TOWN CENTRE PLANTERS

RESOLVED: The Town Council to allocate a separate budget for ensuring the town centre planters were maintained, and to transfer £500 from non-earmarked reserves into the budget.

ER050/09

11.HACKNEY CARRIAGE CONSULTATION

The Deputy Mayor said that there had been insufficient time to consider the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy which had been circulated. Members agreed that the County Council should be asked to present the policy to councillors and enable them to consider it fully. Councillor Waterhouse would in the meantime email the key issues to all councillors.

12. PROJECT PROPOSALS FOR 2010-11

This item was deferred pending a meeting with Berwick Community Trust to establish key results of the Community Plan research.

ER052/09

13.OUTSIDE BODIES

There had been no requests from outside bodies for Town Council representation.

ER053/09

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

14 June 2010 at 6 pm in the Ante Room, the Town Hall, Marygate, Berwick-upon-Tweed.