

BERWICK-UPON-TWEED TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Town Council Environment and Regeneration Committee Meeting held on Monday, 10 March 2014 at 6.00 pm at The Town Hall, Marygate, Berwick-upon-Tweed

PRESENT:

Councillors: J Robertson (Chairman)
P Elliott
A Gibson
G Hill
G Roughead
A Turnbull

IN ATTENDANCE:

S Cozens, Assistant to the Clerk

R Leetham, Finance Officer

D Cook, Project Officer

Councillor J Beresford

Councillor J Lang

(Councillors J Beresford and J Lang attended the meeting as members of the Events Committee whose meeting scheduled for Monday, 3 March 2014 was cancelled)

Derek Russell, Low Carbon Project Officer, Berwick Community Trust

7 members of the public

ER083/13 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been accepted from: Councillors I Dixon (out of country), T Forrester (work commitment), I Hunter (NCC Area Committee Meeting), G Jones (NCC Area Committee Meeting), F Simpson (holiday) and J Stephenson (unwell).

ER084/13 2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 6 January 2014 were agreed and signed as a correct record.

ER085/13 3. STATEMENTS BY THE PUBLIC

Kirsty Smyth of the Berwick Advertiser relayed the objections of the newspaper to the meeting over the possible exclusion of the press and public during Item 11

(Application For Financial Assistance For Berwick Rotary Club) in line with current legislation.

ER086/13 **4. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**

Councillor J Lang declared a personal interest in Item 10 (ii), Applications for Financial Assistance (Applications for BEES Support).

ER087/13 **5. REQUEST FOR DISPENSATION**

There were no requests for dispensation.

ER088/13 **6. LOW CARBON STRATEGY FOR BERWICK**

Derek Russell, Low Carbon Project Officer for Berwick Community Trust reported to the meeting on the Trust's plans to seek to help residents who are willing and able to get connected to the mains gas supply thus reducing energy bills. Some of the facts and figures motivating the project were also explained. The Trust (with the verbal support of the Town Council if agreed) would encourage anyone who is considering switching to gas to find out more by contacting Derek Russell.

RESOLVED: To agree the Town Council's verbal support to the project.

Standing Orders were suspended.

Ben Jenkinson updated the meeting on the work of Mitie. Work to properties in Highcliffe would be complete by the end of March. Work will still be carried out on outstanding properties in Newfields despite changes in current funding arrangements coming into force at the end of March although this part of the project will not be completed until possibly the end of May.

The Chair thanked Mr Jenkinson for his up-date.

Standing Orders were reinstated.

ER089/13 **7. PORTAS PILOT**

- (i) Members of the Environment and Regeneration Committee met at an informal meeting to discuss the applications to join the Portas Management Group.

RESOLVED: That the Portas Management Group to be made up of John Moses, Barry Allison and John Haswell (as members of the business community) Ian Timmins, Gayle Skelly and Helen Rutherford (as members of the wider community) and Councillors I Hunter, P Elliott and

J Robertson (as members of Berwick-upon-Tweed Town Council).

- (ii) A request for ongoing dispensation as a member of the Portas Management Group was received from Councillor J Robertson.

RESOLVED: The Council agreed to the dispensation requested.

ER090/13

8. BERWICK EVENTS GROUP

Due to problems within Berwick Events Group, the first Berwick-upon-Tweed Book Festival has been cancelled, although the potential to resurrect the event is being explored.

ER091/13

9. UPDATE ON ENVIRONMENTAL AND REGENERATION PROJECTS

- Local Parking Plan. Councillors I Hunter and J Robertson along with John Haswell (Chairman of Berwick Chamber of Trade) attended a meeting with Lynne Ryan (Parking Services Manager, Northumberland County Council). Items discussed included the rolling out of parking signs and discs, NCC's decisions to have a stall at Berwick Market to hand out discs and to advertise through local media and the fact that charges are still to be incurred at the Railway Station.
- The Events Leaflet for 2014 is now available. This will be distributed through a Tourism Fair in Kelso and the NNTA Distribution Day ensuring a wide distribution area.
- Bankhill Triangle. Estimates have been obtained for work on the lower part of the triangle. Planning Applications have been submitted to Northumberland County Council and English Heritage which is necessary for the work to be carried out. It is hoped that the applications will receive approval in time for the work to be carried out in the spring.
- Berwick 900. A report had previously been circulated explaining that the aim is to build a cost-effective programme of events running throughout 2015. Upcoming events include: 30 March – Promotional event in association with the Wilson's Tales Project in the Town Hall; and 5 April – B900 is planning to have a promotional stall at the Bounds Sashing Ceremony in the Town Hall.
- Hoppa Bus. A meeting is to be arranged with Adapt North East in April when the continuation of the service and route etc will be discussed.
- Community Resilience Plan. Further work to be carried out in April. An event took place to discuss flooding in Tweedmouth which was attended by Town and

County Councillors, NCC Officers and members of the public. Those who attended felt the meeting went well and solutions were found which will be put in to place.

- Bank Hill Toilet. This has now been transferred to the Berwick Preservation Trust who hope to have the refurbishment work completed by Easter.

ER092/13

10. APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

- (i) **RESOLVED: To make up to £700 available to Spittal Improvement Trust Textile Stories Craft Tour 2014 (up to £200 for workshop materials and up to £500 towards the cost of the workshop leaders) on the provision that all schools in Berwick are invited to the workshops.**
- (ii) Standing Orders were suspended.

Margaret Shaw explained that CARA did not provide financial support but instead provided support in kind. CARA is an umbrella body representing various organisations and therefore not in a position to provide financial support. A project is underway, involving several partners, to create a Community Garden at Shambles Brae and any funds received through the application for financial support will be used to buy trees for the community garden.

The Chair thanked Mrs Shaw for her up-date.

Standing Orders were reinstated.

RESOLVED: To make up to £500 available to CARA with an initial contribution of £250 only, with a further £250 being made available if CARA is unable to contribute any of their own funds.

RESOLVED: Members agreed unanimously not to exclude the press and public during the discussion of the following item.

ER093/13

11. APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM BERWICK ROTARY CLUB

RESOLVED: (i) Members agreed unanimously that they are not prepared to discuss the application when they are unable to discuss the figures in public

and therefore, in accordance with the wishes of the applicant, the application was withdrawn at this time; and (ii) members agreed to consider the application at a future date if there is the scope to fully discuss the application in public.

ER094/13

12. APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

No invitations had been received.

ER095/13

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be held on Monday 9 June 2014 at 6.00pm.