

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

**Minutes of the Town Council Environment and Regeneration Committee Meeting held on Monday, 10 September 2012 at 6.00 pm at The Town Hall, Marygate, Berwick-upon-Tweed**

### **PRESENT:**

Councillors: J Robertson (Chair)  
A Bowlas  
I Dixon  
I Hunter  
C Routledge  
F Simpson  
J Smith  
J Waterhouse

### **IN ATTENDANCE:**

S Finch, Town Clerk

S Cozens, Assistant to the Clerk

13 members of the public

#### **ER026/12 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence had been accepted from: Councillor A Reid (personal).

Absent: Councillor B Douglas

#### **ER027/12 2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on 2 July 2012 were agreed and signed as a correct record.

#### **ER028/12 3. STATEMENTS BY THE PUBLIC**

A resident spoke of the large amount of work being undertaken by Town Council officers; the Chair responded that the Town Council was committed to looking at staffing levels for the next year.

#### **ER029/12 4. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**

There was no disclosure of interests.

**ER030/12**

**5. SPITTAL SPLASH PARK**

The Clerk advised that the issue of daily maintenance, the extent of which had not been appreciated, had led to concerns about resolving issues over management responsibility and ongoing maintenance. A meeting had taken place between Northumberland County Council, the Town Clerk and the project administrator at which it was agreed that the Service Level Agreement which would need to be in place would need to be more detailed than that for other play areas. It was confirmed that until a transfer of the asset was in place, the Splash Park was entirely the responsibility of the County Council.

**ER031/12**

**6. LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN (LTP) PROGRAMME 2013-14**

The Council had been requested by the County Council to submit its three top priorities for the 2013-14 Local Transport Plan Programme.

**RESOLVED: The three priorities for the 2013-14 Local Transport Programme were to be (i) a pedestrian crossing in Marygate; (ii) additional parking at Berwick Railway Station; and (iii) Coach parking at Chapel Lane.**

**ER032/12**

**7. NORTHUMBERLAND TOURISM ADVERTISING 2013**

The Clerk confirmed a full page would be taken in the Northumberland Tourism main 2013 Holiday Guide at a cost of £1,600 net which had been agreed under delegated powers. A full panel in the 2013 Days Out Leaflet would cost £1200, and listings for 8 attractions, as last year, would be an additional £600. This was agreed by Members at the meeting.

**ER033/12**

**8. BERWICK PLAY STRATEGY**

The idea was proposed that a Play Strategy be written for the Town Council in return for funding/contributions towards the Sure Start's Play Outreach Project. This was agreed by Members at the meeting.

**RESOLVED: The Town Council to agree to the proposal that Jan Casson write a play strategy for the Town Council, in return for three years' funding (£2500 per annum) for the Play Outreach Project, to provide a weekly street play session on the Eastcliffe/Highcliffe estates.**

**ER034/12**

**9. DOG FOULING**

The Clerk advised that as residents and visitors regularly raised dog fouling as a problem throughout Berwick-upon-Tweed, information had been provided through

the Berwick Deserves Better group of the Berwickshire scheme entitled WOOFs (Waste Off Our Footpaths). Anybody signing up to the voluntary scheme, agreed to pick up after their dog and carry extra bags to distribute to other dog walkers if requested. In return for this they were given 40 free dog bags per dog per month. Members discussed the opportunity this provided for sponsorship and for raising awareness of other issues such as lack of waste bins.

**RESOLVED: The Town Council to agree to the principle of a voluntary scheme with the aim of reducing dog fouling, the detail to be discussed with appropriate partner organisations to establish its viability.**

**ER035/12**

#### **10. STREET LIGHTING AND MAINTENANCE**

The Chair and Clerk had had discussions with Northumberland County Council over several issues regarding street lighting including repairing the cabling along one side of the New Bridge to ensure Christmas lights would be displayed on both sides.

**RESOLVED: The Town Council to agree in principle to sharing the costs with the County Council of funding priority repairs and maintenance to that street lighting which enhances the appearance of the town; each case to be considered individually and on the receipt of a detailed estimate of costs from the County Council.**

**ER036/12**

#### **11. SHOP LOCAL SCHEME**

The Clerk said that preliminary investigation of a Shop Local Scheme was being undertaken, with a view to boosting local business. This item would be a standing agenda.

**ER037/12**

#### **12. SEAGULLS**

The Clerk advised that in view of the ongoing nuisance from seagulls, advice had been sought from the County Council on whether or not 'Do Not Feed the Seagulls' posters could be placed in appropriate locations in the town; and also what procedure might be involved in introducing a byelaw making it an offence to feed the gulls. Members agreed the proposal of posters but any proposal for a byelaw should be considered at a meeting of Full Council. Councillor Smith advised that the County Council was also actively considering ways of mitigating the problems caused by gulls.

**ER038/12**

#### **13. LICENCE TO CULTIVATE NCC LAND**

The Clerk advised that the Council had been approached by members of the

public wishing to maintain garden areas belonging to the County Council. Advice had been sought from County about what permissions might be required; this depended on who had operational management of the land, and licences and indemnities would be required which may or may not attract a charge.

Councillor Hunter offered to find out what arrangements were in place for the Belford Environmental Champion, who co-ordinated voluntary efforts in that area.

**ER039/12**

**14. CHANGE TO SECTION 106**

Members considered the paper advising that the Department for Communities and Local Government was consulting the public on a proposal to allow developers to re-negotiate their Planning Obligations under Section 106. Members agreed the Council should take a view and comment on this and agreed to defer this item to the next Planning Committee Meeting on Tuesday, 25 September 2012.

**ER040/12**

**15. COMMUNITY RIGHT TO BID – LOCALISM ACT 2011**

Members considered the paper which had been circulated outlining the provisions of the Localism Act which allowed local people to nominate valued land and buildings in community use, and the opportunity to buy them if and when they came onto the market.

**RESOLVED: To alert the community to the provisions of the Localism Act and invite members of the community to nominate those sites and buildings which were used and valued by the community and where it was felt they should be kept in use for the community.**

**ER041/12**

**16. SUMMARY REPORTS ON ENVIRONMENT AND REGENERATION PROJECTS**

A paper summarising current areas of work had been tabled for members' information. Members noted the work programme.

**ER042/12**

**17. BUDGET PREPARATION 2013-14**

Members agreed that the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Clerk should meet before the next meeting of the Environment and Regeneration Committee to consider proposed expenditure plans for 2013-14.

**ER043/12**

**18. APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

None had been received.

**ER044/12**

**19. APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES**

No invitations had been received.

**ER045/12**

**20. TRANSPORT ISSUES**

**RESOLVED: To exclude the press and public during the discussion of this agenda item, which included issues of a commercially sensitive nature.**

**RESOLVED: To re-open the meeting to the press and public for the remainder of the meeting.**

**ER046/12**

**21. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting would be held on Monday 12 November 2012 at 6.00pm.