

BERWICK-UPON-TWEED TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Town Council Environment and Regeneration Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 10 December 2008 at 6.00 pm at The William Elder Building, Castlegate, Berwick-upon-Tweed

PRESENT:

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

S Finch, Clerk

One member of the public

ER017/08 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence had been received.

[NOTE: Apologies were received by Councillor Houghton on 11 December.]

ER018/08 2. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 October 2008 were agreed and signed as a correct record.

ER019/08 3. STATEMENTS BY THE PUBLIC

There were no statements by members of the public.

ER020/08 4. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Councillor Herdman declared a personal interest in Item 8, Berwick Museum and Art Gallery.

Councillor McNeely declared a personal interest in Item 7, Berwick Environmental Enhancement Scheme.

Ch'n initials

ER021/08

5. LOCAL HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT ISSUES

- (i) School crossing outside Tweedmouth Middle School. Councillor Routledge reported that in the absence of a school crossing attendant, children crossing Billendean Terrace were at risk. There was no adequate signage or warning.

RESOLVED: The Clerk to raise the issue with the Highways Division; to suggest to Councillor Smith that funding of warning lights would be a valuable use of his Councillor's small allowance scheme; and to seek advice from the Borough Council's Community Safety Officer about other possible solutions.

- (ii) Pedestrian crossing outside the Co-Operative Store. Members were concerned at the lack of progress. The Clerk reported that the Borough Council's Environmental Maintenance Manager had advised the matter had reverted to a further consultation at the request of local residents
- (iii) Gritting of roads.
Members raised the failure of the County Council to grit roads within the town area during the recent period in which a severe weather warning was in place and roads were particularly icy.

RESOLVED: The Clerk to raise the Council's concern with Highways and seek assurances that this situation would not occur again.

- (iv) Loose flagstones in Golden Square.
The Clerk reported that she had been advised that Highways had issued a request for repairs.
- (v) Pier Road.
Councillor Herdman drew attention to the need for a lower speed limit, preferably 20 mph, because of the 'boy racers' using Pier Road.

ER022/08

6. MARKET

The Clerk had tabled copies of the revenue estimates provided by the Borough Council, which showed the final outturn for 2006-07, the revised estimate for 2007-08 and the estimate for 2009-09. These showed a reducing surplus.

The Clerk also reported that the Head of Public Protection at the Borough Council had advised that the unitary authority, as the successor to the current lessees, was preparing to take on responsibility for the running of the market from 1 April 2009. It was noted that the succession arrangements for the Freemen Trustees, as lessors, required to be clarified before the Town Council could consider a possible role in relation to the market.

ER023/08

7. BERWICK ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT SCHEME

Members noted the application form which had now been prepared and which could be distributed to applicants for grants. A media release had been prepared which would be provided to the Berwick Advertiser.

RESOLVED: Councillors Simpson, Robertson and Routledge would comprise the working group to consider grant applications as they were received

ER024/08

8. BERWICK MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY

Members discussed the consultation which was currently underway and which proposed changes in the management arrangements and staffing of Berwick Museum and Art Gallery. The Town Council had not been invited to comment and had learned of the consultation coincidentally.

Members agreed that the loss of local control would be to the detriment of the Museum and Art Gallery, and that at a time when interest was being sought in progressing the Berwick's Future proposals, the apparent diminishing of these facilities sent out a negative message.

RESOLVED: The Clerk to write to the Head of Leisure, Culture and Tourism, copying the letter to the NSP, expressing the Committee's

concern that the Town Council had not been included in the consultation, and the view that the proposals were not in the best interests of the facilities or for Berwick-upon-Tweed, and sent the wrong messages to potential investors in Berwick's Future.

ER025/08

9. OUTSIDE BODIES

It was noted that Councillor Robertson had agreed to become the second Town Council representative on the Cittaslow Berwick Steering Group.

RESOLVED: To recommend to Council that Councillor Robertson be the second Town Council representative on the Cittaslow Berwick Steering Group.

Councillor Robertson advised members that at the recent meeting of the Steering Group concern had been expressed about correspondence received by the Chairman from Councillor Houghton. It was noted that this correspondence had expressed Councillor Houghton's personal views, and did not in any way reflect the view of the Town Council. Members agreed that this highlighted the importance of adhering to the Council's protocol on communications, and noted the Clerk would be writing to Mr Shaw to clarify that the Town Council as a body wished to support Cittaslow Berwick, recognising the considerable achievement in having achieved Cittaslow status.

Councillor Robertson reported in addition that the group's main aim in 2009 was to raise the profile of Cittaslow Berwick.

RESOLVED: To invite representatives of both the Slow Food Group and Cittaslow Berwick to a future meeting of the Town Council to make a presentation and discuss opportunities for developing closer links.

ER026/08

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be held on 18 February 2009 at 6 pm in The William Elder Building, Castlegate, Berwick-upon-Tweed.

Ch'n initials