

BERWICK-UPON-TWEED TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Town Council Environment and Regeneration Committee Meeting held on Monday, 11 March 2013 at 6.00 pm at The Town Hall, Marygate, Berwick-upon-Tweed

PRESENT:

Councillors: J Robertson (Chair)
A Bowlas
I Dixon
B Douglas
I Hunter
A Reid
C Routledge
F Simpson

IN ATTENDANCE:

S Cozens, Assistant to the Clerk
R Leetham, Finance Officer
2 members of the public

ER076/12 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been accepted from: Councillors J Smith (alternative meeting) and J Waterhouse (personal).

ER077/12 2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 January 2013 were agreed and signed as a correct record.

ER078/12 3. STATEMENTS BY THE PUBLIC

There were no statements by members of the public present at the meeting.

ER079/12 4. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Councillor A Bowlas declared a personal interest in Item 8 (Sale of Academy Land Consultation) and Item 11 (Bank Hill Area);
Councillor I Dixon declared a personal interest in Item 6 (Spittal Splash Park);
Councillor I Hunter declared a personal interest in Item 8 (Sale of Academy

Land Consultation);

Councillor A Reid declared a personal interest in Item 8 (Sale of Academy Land Consultation);

Councillor J Robertson declared a personal interest in Item 8 (Sale of Academy Land Consultation);

Councillor C Routledge declared a personal interest in Item 8 (Sale of Academy Land Consultation).

ER080/12 5. REQUEST FOR DISPENSATION

(i) Applications requesting a dispensation enabling them to participate in discussion and voting on Item 8 were received from Councillors A Bowlas, I Hunter, A Reid, J Robertson and C Routledge.

An application requesting a dispensation enabling him to participate in discussion and voting on Item 11 was received from Councillor A Bowlas.

(ii) The Committee agreed to the dispensations requested.

ER081/12 6. SPITTAL SPLASH PARK

The original cabinet housing the control panels for the electricity and water was corroding due to the specification being inadequate for the seaside location.

Possible solutions were either repainting or replacing the cabinet.

RESOLVED: To recommend that Spittal Improvement Trust meet the costs of a replacement cabinet.

ER082/12 7. CORE STRATEGY PREFERRED OPTIONS

The Council had been invited to consider and agree a response to the Northumberland Local Development Plan Core Strategy Preferred Options; it was agreed that all members of the Council would be asked for their response which would then be collated and forwarded to County by the Clerk.

ER083/12 8. SALE OF ACADEMY LAND CONSULTATION

In response to the public consultation on the proposed sale of land at Berwick Academy to Northumbria NHS Foundation Trust for a new hospital, members agreed in principle providing that (i) assurances of feasibility could be met regarding the proposal that the two football pitches, currently on the site, should be relocated and meet with Sport England specifications; and (ii) with the sports facilities protected and enhanced there should be no loss of facilities.

NOTE: Councillor B Douglas wished it to be known that he did not participate in discussion on this item.

ER084/12

9. MARKET TOWN HEALTH CHECK

Action for Market Towns (AMT) undertakes benchmarking for towns, to help them identify their strengths and weaknesses, collect evidence and provide data to help unlock funding. This service can be purchased in its entirety in its first year, with annual up-dating undertaken by local people after training by AMT, after payment of a license fee.

RESOLVED: The Town Council to invite AMT to attend a meeting to introduce its Town Benchmarking scheme. Members felt that a member of the Portas Town Team and the Chairman of the Chamber of Trade should also be invited to the meeting.

ER085/12

10. RE-PLANTING TWEEDMOUTH BEDS

RESOLVED: To agree a proposal to re-plant beds in Tweedmouth with sustainable planting.

ER086/12

11. BANK HILL AREA

Outline proposals for works to the area east of the Parks Project were considered. Members agreed to pursue this project with relevant partners (at present with no financial commitment) and to see if there was sufficient interest in the plan to take it forward.

ER087/12

12. SUMMARY REPORT ON ENVIRONMENT AND REGENERATION PROJECTS

A paper summarising current areas of work had been tabled for members' information. Members noted the work programme and congratulated officers on the range and number of projects.

ER088/12

13. APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

RESOLVED: To make a grant of £2,000 available to Berwick Visual Arts (An initiative of The Maltings (Berwick) Trust) to assist with the cost of making the Gymnasium Gallery independent of the Barracks.

ER089/12

14. APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

No invitations had been received.

ER090/12

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be held on Monday 10 June 2013 at 6.00pm.