

## BERWICK-UPON-TWEED TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Town Council Environment and Regeneration Committee Meeting held on Monday, 14 July 2014 at 6.00 pm at The Town Hall, Marygate, Berwick-upon-Tweed**

### **PRESENT:**

Councillors:	A Turnbull	(Chairman)
	I Dixon	(to Item 8 only)
	A Gibson	
	G Hill	(to Item 9 only)
	I Hunter	(to Item 7 only)
	G Roughead	
	J Stephenson	

### **IN ATTENDANCE:**

S Finch, Town Clerk

S Cozens, Assistant to the Clerk

10 members of the public

### **ER020/14 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence had been accepted from: Councillors F Simpson (personal) and J Robertson (holiday).

### **ER021/14 2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

The accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 9 June 2014 were discussed. Members agreed to a request by Councillor G Hill that within Minute ER014/14 the word 'explained' should have been the word 'said'.

The minutes of the meeting held on 9 June 2014 were then agreed and signed as a correct record

### **ER022/14 3. STATEMENTS BY THE PUBLIC**

Concerns were raised regarding the level of service provided by Northumberland County Council, especially for grass cutting and the cleaning of toilets and specifically those in Spittal. Other questions included the lack of media strategy and the amount of money spent on promoting Lowry.

Members agreed that a public meeting should be arranged with Northumberland County Council officers in attendance to answer questions and concerns. The media strategy would be discussed by the Town Council's Strategy and Policy Working Group whilst no money had been spent by the Town Council on promoting Lowry. Members of the public were made aware that if they provided contact details then any questions would be answered in due course.

**ER023/14**

#### **4. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**

Councillor A Gibson declared a personal interest in Item 10 (Proposals By Councillor A Gibson);

Councillor I Hunter declared a personal and disclosable pecuniary interest in Items 7 (Play Areas) and 8 (Local Transport Plan Programme 2015-16).

**ER024/14**

#### **5. REQUEST FOR DISPENSATION**

(i) Requests for dispensation enabling her to participate in discussion and voting on Items 7 and 8 were received from Councillor I Hunter.

(ii) The Council agreed to the dispensations requested.

**ER025/14**

#### **6. INNER WHEEL WHEELBARROW**

A representative from the Berwick Inner Wheel expressed concerns that costs had been incurred following the decision by the Town Council only to accept an Inner Wheel wheelbarrow, which had been intended for the roundabout at Morrison's, only if it were in a safer location. Having obtained approval from both the Highways and Planning departments at Northumberland County Council it was believed that the Town Council would fund the planting and future watering costs for the wheelbarrow. Members explained that the Town Council were concerned with the safety issue of watering and maintenance of the wheelbarrow on a busy roundabout. They had suggested siting the wheelbarrow in a safer location. Councillor G Jones offered to work with the representative from the Berwick Inner Wheel and to introduce her to any relevant people at Northumberland County Council to help resolve the issue.

**ER026/14**

#### **7. PLAY AREAS**

[NOTE: Councillor I Hunter left the meeting during discussion of this item and took no further part in the meeting.]

Members considered the arrangements for the transfer of play areas to the Town Council. They agreed that the transfer of the play areas to the Town Council should be kept moving forward, however, the possibility of a freehold transfer

instead of an agency agreement should be explored.

**ER027/14**

## **8. LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN PROGRAMME 2015-16**

[NOTE: Councillor I Dixon left the meeting during discussion of this item and took no further part in the meeting.]

The Council had been requested by the County Council to submit its three top priorities for the 2015-16 Local Transport Plan Programme.

Standing Orders were suspended.

Councillor G Jones (speaking in his role as a County Councillor) mentioned that in terms of traffic planning, that traffic calming systems can be placed in certain areas.

A member of the public mentioned that Councillor I Hunter had sent out a letter to residents in Prior Park asking them to complete a survey and questioned if this could be used as part of the submission to NCC. However, it was felt that there had not been a good enough response to the survey.

Standing Orders were reinstated.

**RESOLVED: Members to circulate their recommendations by email for the three priorities of the 2015-16 Local Transport Plan Programme which would be considered at a meeting of full Council.**

**ER028/14**

## **9. STOCKS AT TOWN HALL**

[NOTE: Councillor G Hill left the meeting during discussion of this item and took no further part in the meeting.]

Standing Orders were suspended.

Councillor G Jones explained he was aware of issues regarding the idea of moving the Stocks to the Buttermarket and suggested that the Conservation Officer and English Heritage could be involved in the process of the replacement of the Stocks.

Standing Orders were reinstated.

It was noted that the Town Council had agreed in the past to fund replacement stocks. These had already been produced and could replace the stocks in their current location.

The Committee became inquorate before completion of this item as the number of Members present had fallen below the required number (i.e. half of the committee) to constitute a quorum. Therefore this item along with the rest of the meeting was abandoned.