

## BERWICK-UPON-TWEED TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Town Council Environment and Regeneration Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 15 October 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

**ER007/08**

#### **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillor Houghton.

**ER008/08**

#### **2. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 September 2008 were agreed and signed as a correct record.

**ER009/08**

#### **3. STATEMENTS BY THE PUBLIC**

There were no statements by members of the public.

**ER010/08**

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

Councillor McNeely declared a personal interest in the Item relating to Berwick Environmental Enhancement Scheme.

**ER011/08**

#### **5. LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN**

The Chairman highlighted those items in the Proposed Highways Schemes for the current year 2008/9 which related to locations within the Town Council area. This information had been provided following the attendance by Richard Mackenzie of the County Council Highways Division at an informal meeting of members.

It was noted that the consultation timescale for the 2009/10 programme had not

allowed participation by the Town Council, but that the Borough Council had compiled a list of schemes which they were proposing to submit to the Highways Division.

**RESOLVED: (i) To note the current programme; (ii) The Clerk to write to the Highways Division to express the Council's view that the lifting and relaying of the flagged footway in Tweed Street should have priority, and that the additional car parking at the station should be a priority rather than confined to the reserve list; (iii) The Clerk to request that Berwick-upon-Tweed Borough Council keep the Town Council up-dated on the completion of schemes and to enquire when the pedestrian crossing at the Co-operative store was likely to be completed; (iv) The Clerk to report faulty downlighters in West Street.**

**ER012/08**

#### **6. BERWICK'S FUTURE – STEERING GROUP MEMBERSHIP**

The Chairman of 'Berwick's Future' had invited Berwick-upon-Tweed Town Council to nominate two members to join the Steering Group.

It was agreed in discussion that a representative from both north and south of the River Tweed would be preferable.

**RESOLVED: That Councillors McNeely and Robertson represent the Town Council on the Berwick's Future Steering Group, these appointments to be confirmed at the meeting of the Town Council on 10 November 2008.**

**ER013/08**

#### **7. MITCHELL MEMORIAL HALL**

Following the site visit on 5 October 2008, members agreed that the Mitchell Memorial Hall was an asset which should if possible be retained for community use.

**RESOLVED: (i) The Clerk to write, as agreed at the Council meeting on 23 June 2008, to Berwick-upon-Tweed Borough Council and to Northumberland County Council to register the Town Council's without prejudice interest in acquiring the Mitchell Memorial Hall subject to its undertaking a feasibility study; (ii) To recommend to the Finance and Resources Committee the undertaking of a feasibility study of the continued**

**use of the Mitchell Memorial Hall as a community facility.**

**ER014/08**

## **8. CHARTER MARKET**

Members discussed the future role of the Town Council in relation to the market currently operated by Berwick-upon-Tweed Borough Council under lease from the Berwick-upon-Tweed Corporation (Freemen) Trustees.

It was agreed that irrespective of whether the Town Council was to be the successor body to the Borough Council in relation to the Freemen's Guild, the Charter Market should if possible remain the responsibility of a local body after Local Government Reorganisation on 1 April 2009, and any income retained within the town.

It was however recognised that whilst the Market currently made a surplus, this had reduced over recent years.

**RESOLVED: The Clerk to identify and provide to the Committee, for its consideration at its next meeting, an assessment of the income and expenditure of the Charter Market over the past three years.**

**ER015/08**

## **9. BERWICK ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT SCHEME**

Members considered the proposal to create a small fund to assist local organisations with projects to improve the environment in the area of the Town Council.

**RESOLVED: (i) To set aside of a sum of money to support small-scale environmental enhancements, for use in the current financial year; (ii) To recommend to the Finance and Resources Committee that a minimum sum of £2500 be set aside for the current financial year; (iii) To nominate a small working group to work together on agreeing how the grants should be allocated, and to consider the grants when agreed; (iv) To invite residents, through the press, to nominate the areas which they feel could most usefully benefit from such a scheme.**

**ER016/08**

## **10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting would be held on 10 December at 6 pm in The William Elder Building, Castlegate, Berwick-upon-Tweed