

## BERWICK-UPON-TWEED TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Town Council Environment and Regeneration Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 18 February 2009 at 6.00 pm at The William Elder Building, Castlegate, Berwick-upon-Tweed**

### **PRESENT:**

Councillors: F Simpson (Chairman)  
P Herdman  
A Houghton  
M McNeely  
C Routledge

### **IN ATTENDANCE:**

S Finch, Clerk

Two members of the public

#### **ER027/08 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence had been received on behalf of Councillor Robertson.

#### **ER028/08 2. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 December 2008 were agreed and signed as a correct record.

[NOTE: Councillor Houghton expressed concern about the discussion reported in minute ER025/08. This was noted.]

#### **ER029/08 3. STATEMENTS BY THE PUBLIC**

Miles Gregory, Chief Executive Officer of The Maltings, said that he was looking forward to working closely with the Town Council.

#### **ER030/08 4. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**

Councillor Herdman declared a personal interest in Item 5 (ii), Berwick Museum and Art Gallery; and in Item 10, Charter Market.

Ch'n initials

Councillor Houghton declared a personal interest in Item 8, Berwick Spring Clean, the proposal for which had been submitted by Cittaslow Berwick Steering Group.

**ER031/08**

#### **5. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**

- (i) School crossing, Billendean Terrace. The Clerk reported that following representations from the Town Council, the County Road Safety Officer advised that a new School Crossing Patrol had been recruited, and that a range of additional initiatives including flashing lights, traffic signs, staggered finishing times for both local schools and increased Traffic Education for pupils, were now being considered.
  
- (ii) Berwick Museum and Art Gallery. The Clerk reported that the Head of Tourism and Culture for the Joint Implementation Team had responded to the concerns expressed over the timing and nature of the consultation, advising that all views submitted would be taken into account, and expressing a commitment to developing the tourism and culture offer in Berwick.

In view of the intention to establish a new working group to consider issues around the future of the Museum and Art Gallery, the Clerk was asked to establish whether the Town Council could be represented, to ensure closer future involvement with developments.

**ER032/08**

#### **6. LOCAL HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT ISSUES**

Members expressed concern about the poor state of roads generally, following the recent period of ice and snow. Particular mention was made of potholes in the area outside Homebase. Flooding of Castlegate car park was a problem but was being addressed in the Traffic Management Plan. A leaning lamp standard at the end of the new bridge was also raised.

Councillor McNeely said he had reported the problem of large lorries turning into Main Street and received a response which suggested action would be taken.

Ch'n initials

In response to queries from members, the Clerk confirmed that highways issues reported to her on the pro-forma which had been circulated would be forwarded to the Highways division.

**ER033/08**

## **7. BERWICK ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT SCHEME**

The sub-group to consider BEES grants had considered three applications. A fourth application, relating to The Maltings, was considered by the Committee.

**RESOLVED: To recommend to the Finance and Resources Committee that grants be made as follows:**

### **Goody Patchy Steering Group**

Help to continue woodland management at the public amenity area between Tweedmouth and Spittal

**Amount: £250**

### **Cittaslow Berwick Steering Group**

Purchase of peat, compost, summer bedding and/or shrubs for open spaces within the northern approaches to the town.

**Amount: £250** (While agreeing the application for this year, the committee wished to point out that they would not be prepared to provide funding for bedding plants in the same planters/containers each year. If they put in a request for plants next year then it must for new areas that need tidying up and preferably for shrubs).

[NOTE: Members agreed that in order to guide applicants, the application form should clarify this].

### **West End Residents Association**

Refurbishment of tables, chairs and benches along the riverside.

**Amount: £325**

### **The Maltings**

Purchase of trees, planters, benches shrubs etc to enable the area in front of The Maltings to be enhanced and improved.

**Amount: £971**

**ER034/08**

### **8. BERWICK SPRING CLEAN**

Members discussed the proposal, which had been submitted by the Chairman of the Cittaslow Berwick Steering Group. It was understood that on the basis of preliminary enthusiasm expressed by local amenity groups including Berwick in Bloom, the support in principle of the Town Council was sought. If this was forthcoming, an application for financial assistance would be prepared and submitted.

Councillor Houghton advised that he had made some preliminary enquiries about equipment which might be made available by Berwick-upon-Tweed Borough Council.

Stuart Laundy, editor of the Berwick Advertiser, said his newspaper would be supportive of the initiative, and from previous experience said to be successful and on-going, it needed to be town-wide.

**RESOLVED: To welcome the proposal for a Berwick Spring Clean, and to consider applications for practical support on receipt of more detailed, fully costed, proposals.**

**ER035/08**

### **9. OUTSIDE BODIES**

The Clerk reported that the Town Council had been invited to nominate representatives to the Town Partnership and to the Board of Berwick Community Trust.

**RESOLVED: To recommend to Council that, subject to his agreement, Councillor Robertson be nominated as Town Council representative on the Town Partnership; and that, subject to his agreement, Councillor Bowlas be nominated as Town Council representative on the Board of**

**Berwick Community Trust.**

**ER036/08**

**10. CHARTER MARKET**

The Clerk advised members that confirmation had just been received from the County Council that the Town Council should take responsibility for the Berwick-upon-Tweed Corporation (Freemen) Trustees.

As successor to the Borough Council in this respect, the Town Council would have an interest in the Charter Market, which the Borough Council currently operated under a lease from the Trustees. It was understood that as an interim measure the management of the market would pass to the unitary council.

Councillor Houghton advised members that Berwick Slow Food had been identified as the lead delivery organisation for revitalising and integrating markets in the Market Town Welcome destination plan for Berwick. A feasibility study was to be carried out which could provide helpful guidance to the Town Council in its consideration of the Charter Market.

**RESOLVED: The Clerk to advise the Freemen Trustees of the Town Council's interest in the future of the Charter Market.**

**ER037/08**

**11. TOWN COUNCIL – ENSURING ENGAGEMENT IN LOCAL ENVIRONMENT AND REGENERATION ISSUES**

The Clerk advised members that following the omission of the Town Council from the visit to Highfields arranged by Berwick Borough Housing, the Association was anxious to work in partnership with the Town Council and would ensure the ward members were advised of activities in the areas in which they had an interest.

**ER038/08**

**12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting would be held on 7 April 2009 at 6 pm.