

BERWICK-UPON-TWEED TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Town Council Environment and Regeneration Committee Meeting held on Monday, 20 July 2015 at 6.00 pm at The Town Hall, Marygate, Berwick-upon-Tweed

PRESENT:

Councillors:	I Dixon (Chair)	G Hill
	H Bettison	J Lang
	D Blackburn	G McLean
	A Forbes	G Roughead
	A Gibson	C Seymour

IN ATTENDANCE:

S Cozens, Assistant to the Clerk

11 members of the public

OPEN SESSION

Mrs McLean gave an update on the application for funding for the Berwick Deserves Better Notice Boards. Mr Haswell talked about the proposed video to be added to the Visit Berwick website and other social media and mentioned parameters for the production.

ER020/15 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been accepted from: Councillor G Smith (alternative meeting).

ER021/15 2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 8 June 2015 were agreed and signed as a correct record.

ER022/15 3. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Councillor H Bettison declared a personal interest in Item 12, (Xmas Lights on the New Bridge);

Councillor D Blackburn declared a personal interest in Item 5, (Portas Management Group);

Councillor I Dixon declared a personal interest in Item 5, (Portas Management Group);

Councillor A Forbes declared a personal interest in Item 5, (Portas Management Group);

Councillor J Lang declared a personal interest in Item 5, (Portas Management Group);

Councillor G McLean declared a personal interest in Item 5, (Portas Management Group) and 8 (Berwick Deserves Better Notice Boards).

ER023/15

4. REQUEST FOR DISPENSATION

There were no requests for dispensation.

ER024/15

5. PORTAS MANAGEMENT GROUP

Councillor H Bettison thanked the ex-Chair of the group (who has recently resigned) for her work. The report on the Portas Management Group was welcomed as would be a meeting with the group. It was hoped that the group could move forward with forthcoming projects and the Chair of the Committee enquired if something could go in the local press asking interested parties to contact the Portas Management Group with ideas.

ER025/15

6. TOURISM IN BERWICK-UPON-TWEED

- a) **RESOLVED: To agree recommending approval to the Finance and Resources Committee of an advert for Northumberland Coast and Visitor Guide 2016 approximately £1,300.**
[Note: Councillor G Hill abstained.]
- b) **RESOLVED: To agree in principle to a video showcasing Berwick to go onto the Visit Berwick website, YouTube and appropriate social media and that 3 quotes should be obtained.**
- c) The idea of producing future versions of the Visit Berwick leaflet in A5 size (rather than the current 1/3 of A4) was discussed. Members agreed that the size of leaflet dispensers in such places as the Tourist Information Centre would need to be checked before this could be agreed.
- d) **RESOLVED: To agree that the Northumberland Coast and Visitor Guide tourism entry should be produced by the Tourism Officer for Berwick.**

ER026/15

7. FLORAL DISPLAYS

Costs for the floral displays, approximately £500 for winter bedding and £500 for planting, were approved by Councillors due to time factors, however, it was agreed that floral displays would be investigated in future years.

RESOLVED: To agree the costs for the floral displays, approximately £500 for winter bedding and £500 for planting.

ER027/15

8. BERWICK DESERVES BETTER NOTICE BOARDS

Cllr Seymour mentioned to the meeting that she had requested a breakdown of the costs involved.

Standing Orders Suspended

Mrs McLean gave an update on the costs and operation/wording of the Notice Boards.

Standing Orders re-instated

After Members debated the Notice Boards, Cllr Blackburn proposed and Cllr Gibson seconded to recommend approval of the proposal to full Council.

Standing Orders Suspended

Mr Stewart mentioned that the initial expensive set-up costs were Portas money and as a legacy for the town it was an excellent idea.

Standing Orders re-instated

RESOLVED: To recommend approval of the proposal to full Council and to note that minor changes to costs may be required, and that a breakdown of costs should be provided.

[Note: Councillors Dixon, Bettison, Blackburn, Forbes, Gibson, Lang, McLean and Roughead agreed with the proposal. Councillor Hill voted against the proposal although would re-consider when the item is discussed at full Council when there is more information. Councillor Seymour abstained until more information had been provided.]

Councillor Bettison suggested that if any Councillors has questions they should be sent to the Town Council office by Wednesday so they can be forwarded to Berwick Deserves Better.

ER028/15

9. PLAY PARKS

It was reported that the Town Council had held a meeting with representatives of

Northumberland County Council to discuss the transfer of the play parks. The requirement for repairs to be undertaken was noted as was the agreement to instruct a solicitor to obtain freehold transfer on the Town Council's behalf. The update report was noted.

ER029/15

10. TWEEDMOUTH WAR MEMORIAL

The Town Council have been contacted by County Councillor Jim Smith with regards to the War Memorial in Tweedmouth. County Councillor Smith advised that the names on Tweedmouth War Memorial are weathered and in need of attention.

It was also felt that the War Memorial needed cleaning.

RESOLVED: That Tweedmouth War Memorial be cleaned and that the necessary work be carried out to reinstate the names. It was agreed that three quotes should be obtained.

ER030/15

11. SEAT STRATEGY

The need to have seats around the town repaired was discussed with attention given to those in need of urgent repair. Bamburgh Parish Council's seat policy was mentioned whereby people can adopt a seat.

Standing Orders Suspended

Mr Stewart suggested the Town Council adopt a standard size and design of seat making ordering of replacement parts easier.

Standing Orders re-instated

To put this on full Council agenda of the ones that are really bad and more or less get started

RESOLVED: That Councillors report to the Town Council office (with photographs) the worst of the seats in their Wards. Three quotes would then be obtained for the repair of the seats. The Assistant to the Clerk would email Councillors with a list of seats in the Town Council area.

ER031/15

12. XMAS LIGHTS ON THE NEW BRIDGE

Discussions were on-going with Northumberland County Council regarding the electricity supply on the New Bridge that was used for the Xmas Lights provided by Berwick Rotary Club. As the Town Council was still awaiting a response from Northumberland County Council there was nothing to report.

ER032/15

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be held on Monday 14 September 2015 at 6.00pm.