

BERWICK-UPON-TWEED TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Town Council Environment and Regeneration Committee Meeting held on Monday, 29 February 2016 at 6.00 pm at The Town Hall, Marygate, Berwick-upon-Tweed

PRESENT:

Councillors:	I Dixon (Chair)	Goodyer
	Bettison	Graham
	Blackburn	Mclean
	Forbes	Roughead
	Gibson	Smith

IN ATTENDANCE:

W Pattison, Town Clerk

4 members of the public

OPEN SESSION

Mr Stewart expressed concern regarding the Old Bridge and advised most of the monitoring equipment had been washed away.

ER077/15 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been accepted from: Councillors J Lang, C Seymour and G Hill.

ER078/15 2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 18 January 2016 were agreed by all and signed as a correct record.

ER079/15 3. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Cllr Roughead, Hoppa Bus.

Cllr Roughead was asked by Councillors why he always declared an interest in the Hoppa Bus and Cllr Roughead advised it was because the bus drove through Tweedmouth.

ER080/15 4. REQUEST FOR DISPENSATION

None.

ER081/15 5. EMERGENCY PLANNING

Mr Ian Clough, NCC, delivered a very interesting and informative talk on Emergency Planning and mentioned he had been in touch with the Clerk due to a potential risk re an 8-10 hour power failure late last year. The Swan Centre and Berwick Academy will be used in case of an emergency and mention re the whereabouts of a mortuary was made by Cllr Gibson and was advised that the field at Shielfied next to the Football Pitch would be used. A Community Risk register is available to all residents if required. **Suspend Standing orders** - Mr Darling advised his concerns re the shortage of Ambulances in the Berwick area. **Re-instate Standing orders.** Mr Clough suggested that BTC put together an Emergency Plan for Berwick and this was agreed by Councillors.

RESOLVED: To arrange a meeting with Mr Clough to discuss an Emergency Plan for Berwick.

ER082/15 6. DOG BIN FOR SPRINGHILL

Cllr Gibson advised that Springhill already had a Dog Bin, however, it was thought that 2 dog bins on Cemetery Road were quite close together and could be moved further apart with one of them located towards the Etal side of the road. Cllr Graham will look at the dog bin provision in this area and report back to Council.

RESOLVED: Cllr Graham will personally check on the dog bin provision and advise Council accordingly.

ER083/15 7. COMMEMORATION OF THE QUEENS 90TH BIRTHDAY

Councillors thought it was a good idea to plant and mark with a plaque three trees with supporting tree guards in Berwick, Spittal and Tweedmouth and a location needed to be found for them as a matter of urgency as the time to plant the trees was running out. A suggestion to seek Berwick in Bloom's advice was suggested and agreed, **Suspend Standing orders** – Mr Stewart thought the new town team officers could plant the trees. **Re-instate Standing orders.** Cllr Goodyer pointed out there was possibility of a grant available to purchase the trees. The Clerk advised this would be too late for this year re planting season. Cllr Bettison

though the idea to hold small celebrations at the planting/dedication of each tree was a good one.

RESOLVED: TO ask for advice from Berwick in Bloom re the right areas to plant the trees.

ER084/15

8. COMMUNITY ORCHARD

The Clerk advised Councillors that the attached appendix regarding how to start a Community Orchard was in main to generate interest in the various communities across Berwick. Cllr Bettison advised Council that Wooler now had a community orchard and it was a very successful project.

RESOLVED: To look and discuss this initiative again in the future.

ER085/15

9. TEENAGE MARKET

The Clerk advised Councillors that the Teenage Market would be held on Sunday 3rd July 2016. A meeting was held on Friday 26th February with schools and youth organisations and everyone was very positive and encouraging. **Suspend Standing Orders**, Mr Haswell wanted to know if the Council would be providing the pop up stalls, the Clerk advised they would be provided free of charge and had also requested if Rotary could help with some of their stalls also and they were happy to do so. **Reinstate Standing orders.**

There will be another meeting to discuss the market further on March 21st 2016 at 4pm at Berwick Academy. Cllr Mclean thought the Market would be a tremendous initiative for Berwick and will bring people into the Town and also help businesses. Cllr Bettison also thought it was time Berwick led the way.

ER086/15

10. OLD BRIDGE

Councillors agreed the Old Bridge was looking tired and needed work to maintain the structure. Cllr Roughead thought that there should be a new survey done to assess damage and NCC officers/surveyors should come up to Berwick to look at it. **Suspend Standing orders** – Mr Michael Stewart advised the Bridge was Grade 1 listed and that the monitoring equipment had mostly been washed away - **Reinstate Standing Orders**. Cllr Blackburn also agreed the bridge was looking tired and worn and suggested BTC consult on various options with NCC, Cllr Goodyer though the Clerk should contact Steve Fletcher, NCC to come to Berwick and assess the bridge and also contact Lee McFarland, Historic England.

A traffic survey was also suggested. Cllr Blackburn thought he would be in favour of a closure to protect the bridge but quite understood the strain which would be put onto town centre traffic exits especially on the New Bridge.

RESOLVED: The Clerk will contact NCC and ask them to come up and do a thorough survey of the bridge.

ER087/15

11. DIGITAL BOARDS

The poles are now in place and the only delay will be the connection to the electricity supply by Scottish Power, which could take up to 8 weeks. Cllr Bettison advised she was looking forward to seeing them up and running.

ER088/15

12. BEACON ON THE RAMPARTS

Cllr Gibson advised Councillors that it had been suggested to light the beacon on the Ramparts to celebrate the Queen's 90th Birthday on 21st April. However, the beacon column was found to be broken and one quote to replace had been received as coming in at around £1k to repair. **Suspend Standing orders.** Mr Haswell thought a decent fire in the beacon should be provided this time instead of the very low flame which was lit for the Diamond Jubilee. **Reinstate Standing orders.** Councillors discussed which Committee this could be approved at and it was finally decided to bring to the Council meeting on March 21st and 2 more quotes will also be provided.

RESOLVED: To provide 2 more quotes up to £1,500 for final approval at the Council meeting.

ER089/15

13. HOPPA BUS TIMETABLE

The new timetable was agreed but Councillors requested that the photo on the front of the timetable should be changed. Berwick Holiday Centre are kindly printing this on BTC's behalf.

RESOLVED: Approval of the new timetable with a new photo supplied for the front.

ER090/15

14. APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

None.

ER091/15

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be held on Monday 13 June 2016 at 6.00pm.