

BERWICK-UPON-TWEED TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Town Council Events Committee Meeting held on Monday 1 June at 6.00 pm at The Town Hall, Marygate, Berwick-upon-Tweed

PRESENT:

Councillors: H Bettison (In the Chair for Item 2 onwards)
J Beresford
P Herdman
J Smith
F Simpson (In the Chair for Item 1)
J Waterhouse

IN ATTENDANCE:

S Finch, Clerk
Councillors B Douglas and M McNeely
Terry Garnick, Northumberland County Council
Yvonne Balfour and Carol Pringle of Berwick Events Group
One member of the public

E001/09 1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED: That Councillor H Bettison be appointed Chairman of the Events Committee for the year 2009/2010.

The Chairman took the Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

E002/09 2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

E003/09 3. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED: That Councillor J Waterhouse be appointed Vice Chairman of the Events Committee for the year 2009/2010.

E004/09 4. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 6 April 2009 were agreed and signed as a correct record.

E005/09

5. STATEMENTS BY THE PUBLIC

By agreement, the members of the public present, raised their statements under Item 9 (Christmas lights).

E006/09

6. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

The Chairman declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Item 10 (application for financial assistance, Spittal Gala).

E007/09

7. BERWICK EVENTS GROUP

The Chairman welcomed the Chairman and Secretary of Berwick Events Group. All agreed that it was in the interests of successful events in Berwick for all active groups to communicate and work together. Berwick Events Group invited the Events Committee to have formal representation on their group.

RESOLVED: The Chair of the Events Committee to represent the Committee on the Berwick Events Group, and, if agreed by the Council at its next meeting, Councillor McNeely to join the Town Council Events Committee and be an alternative representative of the Committee as required.

E008/09

8. NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL

The Chairman welcomed Terry Garnick, Northern Area Manager, Neighbourhood Services, to the meeting. Having outlined his role, he said he was hoping to thoroughly review the current services, before taking the next step of discussing how the Northumberland Charter for Local Councils, and in particular the proposed devolution of services, could be delivered.

Mr Garnick emphasised that he was looking forward to working in partnership with the Town Council, and it was agreed that he would meet with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman to discuss how this could be taken forward.

E009/09

9. CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

The Chairman invited Mike Richardson of the Rotary Club to bring the committee up to date with plans for Christmas lights in Berwick.

Members agreed that they were supportive of Christmas lights in the town, and would ensure this topic was a standing item on the Committee's agenda, and would consider, and refer to the Finance and Resources Committee as appropriate, any requests for assistance with funding.

E010/09

10. APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

RESOLVED: That grants be made as follows:

Spittal Improvement Trust

£250 towards the costs of entertainment and medals for children's races at Spittal Gala.

Berwick Community Trust

£500 towards the cost of toilet facilities at the Border Green Festival.

E011/09

11. APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

There were no requests for appointments to outside bodies that had not been dealt with earlier on the agenda.

E012/09

12. EVENTS IN 2009

The Clerk advised members that all local councils had received a letter from the Head of Support Services at Northumberland County Council, advising that no assistance would be provided with Remembrance Day ceremonies in 2009. She advised members that this was contrary to the information provided by the County Council when all local councils had been assured that they would not be expected to take on, in 2009-10, any services which had previously been provided by borough or district councils.

Members agreed that the Chairman and Vice-Chairman should meet with the Head of Support Services to seek a resolution to this, given the importance of the event to Berwick-upon-Tweed.

E013/09

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be on 7 September 2009 at 6 pm in the Town Hall.