

BERWICK-UPON-TWEED TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Town Council Events Committee Meeting held on Monday, 1 June 2015 at 6.00 pm at The Town Hall, Marygate, Berwick-upon-Tweed

PRESENT:

Councillors:	I Dixon	(In the Chair for Item 1)
	J Lang	(In the Chair for Item 2 onwards)
	J Beresford	
	G Hill	
	C Seymour	

IN ATTENDANCE:

W Pattison, Interim Town Clerk
S Cozens, Assistant to the Clerk
4 members of the public

E001/15

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Cllr Joe Lang was proposed as Chairman by Cllr Dixon and seconded by Cllr Beresford and agreed by all.

RESOLVED: That Councillor J Lang be appointed Chairman of the Events Committee for the year 2015-16.

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

E002/15

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been accepted from: Councillor H Bettison (delayed).

E003/15

3. APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRMAN

Cllr J Beresford was proposed by Cllr G Hill and seconded by Cllr I Dixon .and agreed by all.

RESOLVED: That Councillor Beresford be appointed Vice Chairman of the Events Committee for the year 2015-16.

E004/15

4. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 2 June 2014 were agreed by all and signed as a correct record.

It was thought that too long a time had elapsed since the last events committee and Cllr Dixon advised he thought this had been due to requests for funding going straight to the Finance and Resources Committee.

E005/15 **5. STATEMENTS BY THE PUBLIC**

There were no statements by members of the public present.

E006/15 **6. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**

Cllr Hill declared a personal interest in Berwick Literary Festival and Cllr Lang also declared a personal interest in the Autumn Festival and the Literary Festival.

E007/15 **7. REQUEST FOR DISPENSATION**

There were no requests for dispensation.

E008/15 **8. BERWICK WALKING FESTIVAL**

Unfortunately, a report from Mr John Shepherd in regard to last year's 2014 Walking Festival was not submitted in time for discussion. Councillors agreed it was difficult to discuss the success or failure of the festival without figures or feedback.

RESOLVED: To wait for the report and to discuss further.

E009/15 **9. BERWICK AUTUMN FESTIVALS**

The Festival consists of Food and Beer Festival, Film Festival and a Frontier Music Festival. £2,700 was awarded last year and a request for £2,100 has been proposed for this year, a £600 reduction. Items budgeted will consist of AA signs for display on the A1 to bring visitors into Berwick and also through the Town, banners for display in Marygate and a recommendation to put bottom bars onto the 7 lamp posts in Marygate to firmly anchor the banners against the wind. Although the banners had previously been displayed on the bridge leading into Berwick and were extremely effective, they had soon blown down with high winds and it was agreed to display in Marygate only.

Councillors also agreed that a report detailing the budgeting of all events past, present and future would be helpful and would aid better discussion, agreement and decisive decision. It was also thought a budget setting meeting would be beneficial and inclusion of representatives from the groups benefitting would also be helpful. Assistance with the completion of grant request forms was discussed and it was thought advice on form completion would be of assistance.

RESOLVED: To recommend approval of budget for £2,100.00.

E010/15 **10. REMEMBRANCE DAY**

Last year's figures for Remembrance Day were £1.093.00 and there were also some extra Staffing considerations to be taken into account. Cllr Hill recommended her approval for this year and this was agreed unanimously by all Members present.

RESOLVED: To recommend approval of the budget for 2015.

E011/15

11. EVENTS ROUND-UP 2015-16

Spittal Gala takes place during June and the Spittal Splash Park is also up and running and currently very busy! The Tweedmouth Feast takes place on July 16th and the Floats will parade on Sunday 19th July. There is also a Church Service on the same day and all Councillors are invited to attend.

E012/15

12. APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Standing Orders Suspended

Mr Chris Smith, Berwick Literary Society spoke to Councillors and advised them of the success of last year's 2014 Literary Festival. Mr Smith was asking for the same amount to be awarded as last year of £2,500, but, the Festival was also taking place over 3 days and not over 2 days as in 2014. Mr Smith advised that in 4 years time the Festival should be financially viable and self-supporting. Different amounts will be charged for different events with children paying the smallest amount. There will be a 'local flavour' to the event and more talks will take place in Spittal in St John's Church and Martins the Printer also in St Cuthbert's and the Parish Centre. Some well-known authors will be in attendance including Michael Block, Michael Chapman and Michael Ross. The Literary Festival committee is working in partnership with Berwick Rotary, Berwick 900 and are also developing links with the Maltings.

Mr Smith also wanted to thank Mr Robert Leetham, BTC Finance Officer for his assistance and help. It was felt that the timescales, stipulated on grant application forms should be relaxed for those annual events, contained within the budget, in order for these applications to be able to be considered at the Finance Committee Meeting on the 16th June.

Standing Orders Resumed

RESOLVED: To unanimously recommend approval of granting £2,500.

E013/15

13. APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

No invitations had been received.

E014/15

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be held on Monday, 6 July 2015 at 6 pm in the Ante-Room, Town Hall.