

BERWICK-UPON-TWEED TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Town Council Events Committee Meeting held on Monday 5 January 2009
at 6.00 pm at the William Elder Building, Castlegate, Berwick-upon-Tweed**

PRESENT:

Councillors:	J Waterhouse	(Chairman)
	H Bettison	(Vice Chairman)
	J Smith	
	P Herdman	
	F Simpson	

IN ATTENDANCE:

S Finch, Clerk

Two members of the public

E017/08 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence had been received.

[NOTE: Councillor T Houghton had advised the Chairman of his resignation from the Committee]

E018/08 2. MINUTES

The minutes of 27 October 2008 were agreed and signed as a correct record.

E019/08 3. STATEMENTS BY THE PUBLIC

There were no statements by members of the public.

E020/08 4. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

There was no disclosure of interests.

E021/08 5. RIDING OF THE BOUNDS

The Chairman welcomed Mr David McClymont, who was attending for this item, which had been added to the agenda because of concerns about the finance and organisation after 31 March and the dissolution of the Borough Council.

The Clerk advised that she had been informed by the County Council that it was not expected that the unitary authority would be providing any financial help to local councils to help them with supporting events to which district or borough councils had previously been committed, although there might be some officer assistance available for a short period of time.

Ch'man's initials

Mr McClymont said his concern was with matters which had previously been undertaken by the Borough Council, and underwritten by them including insurance, advertising and booking of premises.

Members agreed that the Town Council should assist if necessary after 1 April, but prior to that it was assumed the Borough Council would be working on the preliminary arrangements, and that no decisions about Town Council involvement should be made until this had been clarified.

E022/08

6. PUBLIC LIABILITY POLICY

The Clerk reported that she had been advised by the Berwick Community Trust that the national association of Development Trusts was currently investigating provision of public liability insurance for events, for which local Development Trusts could be the umbrella body. Members agreed that since this could offer better arrangements than a locally negotiated arrangement, further investigation should await news from Berwick Community Trust.

E023/08

7. EVENTS IN 2009

The Chairman had received notification from Councillor Houghton of his resignation from the Events Committee, since he considered his close involvement with a number of events within Berwick would prevent him from participating fully.

The Clerk advised that it was the view of the Monitoring Officer that there was no prejudicial interest to be declared by a councillor who was also actively engaged in organising local events, except in those circumstances where the

organising body was seeking financial assistance from the Town Council.

Members expressed disappointment that Councillor Houghton felt that the committee as constituted was not equipped to make appropriate recommendations to Council. The Chairman would write and acknowledge Councillor Houghton's resignation.

E024/08

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be held on 23 February 2009 at 6 pm in The William Elder Building, Castlegate, Berwick-upon-Tweed.