

BERWICK-UPON-TWEED TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Town Council Events Committee Meeting held on Monday, 6 September 2010
at 6.00 pm at The Town Hall, Marygate, Berwick-upon-Tweed**

PRESENT:

Councillors: J Waterhouse In the Chair
 J Beresford
 H Bettison
 A Bowlas
 P Herdman
 J Smith

IN ATTENDANCE:

S Finch, Town Clerk

Four members of the public

E012/10

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Dixon, McNeely and Reid.

E013/10

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 June 2010 were agreed and signed as a correct record.

E014/10

3. STATEMENTS BY THE PUBLIC

Jim Herbert, Cultural Development Officer (North) with Northumberland County Council, explained his role with the County Council and his willingness to assist and offer advice to organisers of events within Berwick. Members welcomed the support he was able to give, and would ensure other community groups were aware of the expertise and help he could provide.

E015/10

4. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Councillors Beresford and Bettison each declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Item 8 (Applications for Financial Assistance).

E016/10

5. CHRISTMAS LIGHTS 2010

The Chair reported that a small group had convened to co-ordinate Christmas lights for 2010. A smaller group had met to consider the arrangements for the switch-on, which would take place on Sunday 5 December at 4 pm. Extending the ceremony outside the central town centre area was being discussed, to encourage people to visit traders in all parts of Berwick; if successful, this would be extended to Spittal and Tweedmouth in future years.

The Clerk reported that Councillor McNeely had compared sources of Christmas trees and had asked the Events Committee to agree that he be authorised to proceed with the best value supplier.

RESOLVED: (i) Purchase of Christmas trees at the appropriate time to be authorised without further reference to Committee; and (ii) a 25 foot tree for lower Spittal to be included in the order.

The Clerk also advised that she was awaiting detailed information on existing lights and fittings, to enable her to provide a specification for potential electrical contractors and also for the Council's insurers. Additional lights had been ordered for Marygate, using a donation from Berwick Chamber of Trade.

E017/10

6. STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY

The Chair reminded members that the County Council's Statement of Licensing Policy had been accessible on-line for consideration. Having read the Statement she proposed that the Council take the view that there were no further comments to be added. This was agreed.

E018/10

7. FORWARD PLAN

The Clerk said the paper which had been circulated followed an informal meeting of councillors earlier in the year, and represented a proposed plan for actions by the Council and partners over the medium-term.

Members considered the actions relating to events.

RESOLVED: (i) To agree the actions in the Forward Plan relating to events;

and (ii) to agree that an additional sum of £500, over and above what made be given via the Events Committee small grants scheme be made available annually to one event which the Committee considered could benefit from additional investment; for the year 2011-12 it was agreed this sum should be made available to the Tweedmouth Feast and Salmon Queen event.

Whilst the Committee was supportive of the Border Bridge Illuminations, members confirmed that there was no financial commitment to the project.

E019/10

8. APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Members considered the application for assistance which had been submitted.

RESOLVED: To make £900 available to the Spittal Improvement Trust to assist with the costs of 'Christmas in Spittal 2010'.

Having declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the application by Spittal Improvement Trust, Councillors Beresford and Bettison left the room during discussion of this item.

The Chair asked that members ensure that the availability of grants to assist with events should be brought to the attention of community groups.

E020/10

9. APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

No invitations had been received.

E021/10

10. EVENTS IN 2010

Councillor Bettison reported that she understood that arrangements for the Dickensian Market were progressing well. It had not been possible for a representative of Berwick Events Group to attend this meeting.

E022/10

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be held on Monday, 8 November 2010 at 6 pm in the Ante Room of the Town Hall.