

## BERWICK-UPON-TWEED TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Town Council Events Committee Meeting held on Monday, 7 March 2011 at 6.00 pm at The Town Hall, Marygate, Berwick-upon-Tweed**

### **PRESENT:**

Councillors:     A Reid                                     In the Chair  
                      H Bettison  
                      A Bowlas  
                      I Dixon  
                      J Smith

### **IN ATTENDANCE:**

S Finch, Town Clerk  
Jim Herbert, Northumberland County Council  
Brian Martin, The Music Gallery  
One member of the public

- E045/10           1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**  
Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Beresford, Herdman, McNeely and Waterhouse.
- E046/10           2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**  
The minutes of the meeting held on 10 January 2011 were agreed and signed as a correct record.
- E047/10           3. STATEMENTS BY THE PUBLIC**  
There were no statements by the public.
- E048/10           4. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**  
Councillors Reid and Smith each declared personal interests in Item 10, Tweedmouth Salmon Feast.
- E049/10           5. CHRISTMAS LIGHTS 2011**  
The Clerk had circulated notes of a meeting held to discuss the Christmas lights 2010, and proposals for 2011. Key issues included the need to assess repairs and maintenance in good time to allow work to be undertaken over the summer.

Arranging delivery and erection of the trees had caused considerable problems and would not have been achieved without the assistance of the County Council NEAT officers and the electrical contractors; consideration was being given to alternative festive decorations, which could be hired rather than purchased.

The lighting supplier used to date was working on estimates for special lighting for the front of the Town Hall; this proposal had already been discussed in a preliminary way with the Freeman.

Councillor Bettison said that lights in Spittal were now in need of refurbishment or replacement, and she hoped that there would be some investment in both Tweedmouth and Spittal.

Members also discussed the problems which had arisen through the use of different contractors for the maintenance of the Rotary lights, and their erection and dismantling.

**RESOLVED: The Rotary Club be advised that the Town Council would continue to assist in the erection and dismantling of the lights on the new bridge, but proposed that the Rotary Club arrange their own contractor, and apply to the Town Council for funding to help meet the cost.**

**E050/10**

**6. PROPOSAL FOR VISIT BY CAN-AM PIPES AND DRUMS 2012**

The Clerk reported that the Can-Am Pipes and Drums had approached the Council suggesting they include Berwick in their 2012 tour. The cost to the Council would be limited to the provision of lunch for the band and its supporters. Members welcomed this proposal and suggested they be asked to visit on 1<sup>st</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> August, to coincide with Market Day.

**E051/10**

**7. BERWICK EVENTS GROUP (BEG)**

Councillor McNeely had forwarded a report advising that BEG had agreed to hold a market to coincide with the Riding of the Bounds on 1 May. [Councillor Bettison declared a personal interest as a member of the organising committee of Riding the Bounds.]

Some concern was expressed over whether this would contravene the conditions attached to the Charter; this would need to be investigated, but members otherwise welcomed the proposal.

BEG was proposing to hold the Dickensian Market on 11 December, and had agreed to hold a 'Christmas Lights Celebration' on the same day. Members agreed that they would be happy to hold a ceremony on the same day, so that both events benefitted, but felt that this should follow the same pattern as previous years, though recognising that since the lights would by then have been switched on for some time, the ceremony might need to be called something other than the 'switching on' of the lights.

**E052/10**

#### **8. BERWICK EVENTS FORUM**

The Chair welcomed Jim Herbert and Brian Martin to the meeting, to describe their proposal for a Berwick Events leaflet, which the Forum hoped would be funded by the Town Council. Three estimates had been obtained for a print run of 25,000. The estimate which it was proposed should be accepted was for £1425. Distribution outlets were being investigated, but it was planned to include the leaflet in the distribution run by the North Northumberland Tourist Association. [The Clerk advised that Councillor Mc Neely would have had to declare a personal and prejudicial interest had he been present as he undertook distribution on behalf of NNTA].

Members agreed that the leaflet was an excellent idea and should be supported, as a means of improving business in the town; for this reason it was felt that there should be some contribution from the Environment and Regeneration Committee. Members also felt that a contribution should be sought from The Maltings.

It was also agreed that the copy should be agreed by the Clerk, on behalf of the Council, before production.

**RESOLVED: The Town Council to fund the production and distribution of an events leaflet covering Berwick, Spittal and Tweedmouth, subject to the Council's approval of the copy and full acknowledgement to the Town**

**Council.**

**E053/10**

**9. OTHER PUBLICITY LEAFLETS**

Members had, as part of their discussion under E052/10 above, considered that re-printing of tourism leaflets might be better considered by the Environment and Regeneration Committee.

**E054/10**

**10. TWEEDMOUTH SALMON FEAST**

Brian Martin reported on plans for the Tweedmouth Salmon Feast. The crowing of the Salmon Queen would take place on 21 July, but it was proposed to hold a two-day festival celebrating the Tweed and the associated fishing, on 23/24 July. There would be a wide range of fish- and sea-oriented attractions and events. The organising group was applying to Awards for All for assistance with the costs, which were estimated to be £10,000.

Members welcomed the plans for what they agreed would be a very attractive event for both residents and visitors.

**E055/10**

**11. INSURANCE**

The Clerk reported that she was in correspondence with Zurich to see whether or not it was now possible to arrange umbrella insurance for all local groups arranging events; previous enquiries had indicated it was not cost-effective.

**E056/10**

**12. ROYAL WEDDING**

Members discussed briefly the ways in which the Royal Wedding on 29 April might be marked. Councillor Bettison said the costs of organising an event in Spittal had been considered too high during this difficult time.

The Clerk said there was a proposal that the Town Mayor should plant a tree to mark the occasion, which members agreed would be appropriate.

**E057/10**

**13. APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

There were no applications for financial assistance.

**E058/10**

**14. APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES**

There were no requests for representation on outside bodies.

**E059/10**

**15. EVENTS IN 2011**

No matters had been raised with either the Clerk or the Chair.

**E060/10**

**16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting was provisionally to be held on 23 May 2011 at 6 pm in the Ante

Room of the Town Hall.