

BERWICK-UPON-TWEED TOWN COUNCIL

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

PRESENT:

Councillors:	M McNeely (Chair)	P Herdman MBE
	J Beresford	J Robertson
	H Bettison	J Smith
	A Bowlas	J Waterhouse
	I Dixon	

IN ATTENDANCE:

S Finch, Town Clerk

One member of the public

E043/11 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillor A Reid.

E044/11 2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 September 2011 were agreed and signed as a correct record.

E045/11 3. STATEMENTS BY THE PUBLIC

There were no statements by members of the public.

E046/11 4. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Councillors Bowlas, Dixon and Herdman each declared a personal interest in Item 8 (Christmas Lights).

E047/11 5. BERWICK EVENTS GROUP

Councillor Waterhouse reported that she and the Town Clerk had attended a meeting of Berwick Events Group on 29 September; the marking of the festive lights would be in a half hour programme from 3 pm. The Mayor was arranging for children to be present to sing carols.

Councillor Mc Neely said that whilst the Dickensian event was presently on

budget and proceeding well, there were real concerns about the viability of the event for 2012 and onwards.

E048/11

6. EVENTS IN 2012/2013

i. Berwick Air Show

Councillor Smith said enough support had been expressed for the proposed Air Show to consider the idea further. A package could be purchased from the RAF, and a preliminary visit by organisers to Spittal Promenade had suggested the venue was suitable. Neither the Town nor County Councils had the resources to organise the event, but Councillor Smith thought a community group might be willing to do so. A decision whether or not to hold the event would be made in February; a suggested date would be 8 September.

ii. Military Tattoo

It was noted that a proposal had been made for a Tattoo to coincide with the Flodden 500 events in September 2013. Whilst there was general support for the event, the current resources of the Town Council could not support the organisation.

iii. Diamond Jubilee 2012

Members suggested the following be considered to mark the Diamond Jubilee:

- Refurbishing the fountain erected to honour Queen Victoria
- Installing a new lamp-post in the town centre
- Creating Jubilee flower beds with sustainable planting
- Planting one or more trees.

iv. Other Events

Members noted that the Olympic Torch Relay would pass through Berwick-upon-Tweed. Councillor Bowlas said that the details would be announced in 2012, and that consideration would be given to the Town Council's involvement once the County Council, which was the lead organisation, had given more guidance on roles, responsibilities and budgets.

The Clerk reminded members that on Armistice Day councillors were invited to be present on the Town Hall steps to mark the two minute silence at 11 am; and that the Civic Service of Remembrance would take place on Sunday 13

November at the Parish Church, followed by a service at the war memorial at Castlegate, and laying of wreaths thereafter at Spittal and Tweedmouth.

E049/11

7. GRANT ALLOCATION POLICY FOR EVENTS COMMITTEE AND BUDGET FOR 2012-13

Councillor McNeely introduced the paper which he had circulated to members. He noted that the list of regular events to which the Council would wish to commit support was not comprehensive, but was seeking agreement to the principles outlined.

It was also noted that there were now expected to be some major events in 2012-13, such as the Olympic Torch Relay and Diamond Jubilee, the costs of which to the Council were not yet known or agreed.

RESOLVED: (i) To adopt the proposed policy on grants, subject to amendments to the list of events to be supported on a regular basis; and (ii) to agree 'small' grants to a maximum of £250, and 'large' grants to a maximum of £600; and (iii) to budget £8000 for events grants in 2012-13; and (iv) to set aside £10,000 in reserves to be drawn on for major one-off events.

E050/11

8. CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

The Clerk reported that maintenance work was being carried out on the Council's current light fittings, converting them to LED. Additional lights had been ordered for West Street. News was still awaited from the County Council about whether or not supply boxes could be fitted to lighting columns in Golden Square and Castlegate in time for new light fittings to be purchased and fitted before Christmas.

Christmas trees had been ordered from College Valley Estates.

E051/11

9. APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

None had been received.

E052/11

10. APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

No invitations had been received.

E053/11

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be held on Monday, 16 January 2012 at 6 pm in the Ante Room of the Town Hall.

Councillor McNeely advised that he had tendered his resignation from the Town Council, with effect from the end of the Events Committee meeting. Councillor Bowlas thanked Mr McNeely for his contribution to the work of the Town Council.