

BERWICK-UPON-TWEED TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Town Council Events Committee Meeting held on Monday, 8 November 2010
at 6.00 pm at The Town Hall, Marygate, Berwick-upon-Tweed**

PRESENT:

Councillors: M McNeely In the Chair
H Bettison
A Bowlas
I Dixon
P Herdman
J Smith
J Waterhouse

IN ATTENDANCE:

S Finch, Town Clerk
Councillor J Robertson
One member of the public

E023/10 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillor Reid.

E024/10 2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 6 September 2010 were agreed and signed as a correct record.

E025/10 3. STATEMENTS BY THE PUBLIC

There were no statements by members of the public.

E026/10 4. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Councillors Beresford and Dixon each declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Item 7 (Application for Financial Assistance).

E027/10 5. CHRISTMAS LIGHTS 2010

The Chair reported that the number and size of trees required had been agreed in discussion with officers from the County Council, and were to be purchased from College Valley Estates and collected from Jedburgh.

The Clerk reported that on the basis of the estimates provided by two contractors, the third having declined to quote, the erection and dismantling of the Christmas lights would be carried out by Steven Monks.

As the work progressed it was probable that maintenance and repair work may come to light, and further lights required.

RESOLVED: The Clerk be authorised to purchase replacement or new lights as required to ensure the quantity and standard of illuminations was maintained.

It was reported that the switching on of the Christmas lights would now take place on 27 November, immediately before the launch of the Royal Border Bridge illuminations. This had been proposed by the County Council. However, the publicity prepared by the County Council omitted reference to the Council's festive lights.

RESOLVED: The Clerk to write to the Chief Executive of the County Council, expressing concern that whilst there was a growing number of strong partnership projects developing between the Town and County Councils, the Town Council considered it very regrettable that its own event had been omitted from the marketing of events on 27 November.

E028/10

6. BERWICK EVENTS GROUP

The Chair reported that plans for the Dickensian Christmas Market were progressing well, and it was hoped there would be 50 stalls. The location of the ice rink would shortly be finalised.

Fund-raising had been successful, thanks to the hard work of the volunteers.

E029/10

7. APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Councillors Bettison and Dixon, having each declared a personal and prejudicial

interest in this item, left the room during its consideration.

RESOLVED: To make £300 available to the Spittal Variety Group to assist with the costs of publicising their pantomime, with a request that the Town Council's support be acknowledged in the programme.

E030/10

8. BUDGET FOR 2011-12

In accordance with Standing Order 56 (2), members considered the estimates which they wished to see included in the budget for 2011-12. This would be in addition to the figure of £500 already agreed to be provided to the Tweedmouth Feat and Salmon Queen event (minute E018/10).

RESOLVED: To increase the Events grants budget from £5000 to £6000; members to agree the core events which they wished to see receive grants from this sum, with the balance to be disbursed on a first come first served basis following application to the Committee.

E031/10

9. APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

No invitations had been received.

E032/10

10. EVENTS IN 2010

Councillor Bettison reported on the Christmas events being organised by the Spittal Improvement Trust, including the visit by reindeer on 16 December.

E033/10

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be held on Monday, 10 January 2010 at 6 pm in the Ante Room of the Town Hall.