

BERWICK-UPON-TWEED TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Town Council Events Committee Meeting held on Monday, 27 January 2014 at 6.00 pm at The Town Hall, Marygate, Berwick-upon-Tweed

PRESENT:

Councillors: I Dixon (Chairman)
J Beresford
H Bettison
P Elliott
T Forrester
G Hill
I Hunter
J Lang
J Robertson
F Simpson

IN ATTENDANCE:

S Cozens, Assistant to the Clerk
7 Members of the Public

E056/13 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been accepted from: Councillor G Roughead (Work Experience / Shadow (European Parliament)).

E057/13 2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 4 November 2013 were agreed and signed as a correct record.

E058/13 3. STATEMENTS BY THE PUBLIC

There were no statements by members of the public present.

E059/13 4. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Councillor H Bettison declared a personal interest in Item 7 (Berwick 900);
Councillor P Elliott declared a personal interest in Item 7 (Berwick 900);

Councillor T Forrester declared a personal interest in Item 11 (Applications For Financial Assistance);

Councillor I Hunter declared a personal interest in Item 6 (Party On The Parade);

Councillor J Lang declared a personal interest in Item 7 (Berwick 900);

Councillor J Robertson declared a personal interest in Item 7 (Berwick 900).

E060/13

5. REQUEST FOR DISPENSATION

There were no requests for dispensation.

E061/13

6. PARTY ON THE PARADE

Councillor I Dixon introduced Helen Tait of Leukaemia North Northumberland Fundraising Group who had been invited to report to the meeting on the Party on the Parade. Simon Landels and Peter Ayre of Berwick-upon-Tweed Rotary Club were present with Ms Tait.

Standing Orders were suspended.

The group expressed their disappointment regarding an article that had appeared in the local press in connection with the Party on the Parade event. They felt that previous events had been successful through lots of hard work by raising money for charity and installing a feel good factor to the town for both residents and visitors. Members invited the group to attend the Events Committee meeting in March when their invitation for financial assistance would be considered.

The Chair thanked those present for their report.

Standing Orders were reinstated.

It was noted that no decision had been made regarding funding for the Party on the Parade, and that Helen Tait and members of Berwick-upon-Tweed Rotary Club were reacting to a mis-reporting of the Events Committee when the budget for the next financial year was discussed.

Note: Councillor H Bettison left the meeting after Item 6.

E062/13

7. BERWICK 900

The aim of Berwick 900 is to build a cost-effective programme of events for 2015. The group will look to combine Berwick 900 events and existing events in the calendar, given a Berwick 900 twist. The theme of the project is to tell Berwick's 900-year story and key events will focus on specific aspect of that story. There has been good progress on several story themes including 'Our Borders Story', 'Our Guilds Story' and 'Our Garrison Story'. Forthcoming events in 2014 include:

- 30 March: promotional event in association with the Wilson's Tales Project in the Town Hall.
- 5 April: planning to have a promotional stall at the Bounds Sashing Ceremony in the Town Hall.
- As part of the 'Our Families Story' it is planned to identify families who have a historical association with Berwick and to contact their family members at home and abroad. The Freemen have agreed to fund a part-time researcher with a closing date for applications of 14 February.
- 22 February: Material promoting the Berwick 900 theme will be available at the 'Who Do You Think You Are?' event at Olympia.

E063/13

8. BERWICK EVENTS GROUP

The group held a meeting on 9 September 2013 during which they secured the participation of around twenty attendees for the Book Festival. The festival will be held in several venues to give a feeling of involvement around the town. Three members of the group attended a childrens literature event organised by Northumberland County Council at Woodhorn museum on Saturday 23 November 2013.

Berwick-upon-Tweed Town Council has been approached for funding as has Northumberland County Council's Community Chest and other organisations have been contacted for funding and sponsorship.

The festival will take place from Friday, 17 October 2014 to Sunday, 19

October 2014 with events including workshops, talks and discussions with authors and illustrators taking place.

E064/13

9. EVENTS ROUND-UP 2013-14

A music night would take place in the Watchtower on the last Saturday in February in aid of the Mayor's Charity.

The Civic Society would hold a Vision for Berwick Question Time at the Parish Centre.

E065/13

10. EVENTS LEAFLET 2014

Work is progressing on the Events Leaflet with a target date for completion of the 19 March when there will be a leaflet distribution date in Alnwick.

E066/13

11. APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Standing Orders were suspended.

Matthew Rooke of The Maltings explained that the organisation would look to hold a Summer Festival of Opera every year with a view to being self-financing within 3 years after building on the success of last year.

The Chair thanked Mr Rooke for his up-date.

Standing Orders were reinstated.

RESOLVED: (i) To make £1,200 available (50% of the hire costs of the Town Hall) to support the Maltings in providing summer performances at the Town Hall on presentation of invoices; and (ii) To make £2,500 available to support Berwick Events Group in organising the Berwick Book Festival. The money would be used specifically towards the cost of fees and expenses for authors and would be made available on presentation of invoices. The offer of support is conditional on securing other financial support to meet the remainder of the project's costs. Town Council funds should not be used to cover the costs of catering.

E067/13

12. APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

No invitations had been received.

E068/13

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be held on Monday, 3 March 2014 at 6 pm in the Ante-Room, Town Hall.