

BERWICK-UPON-TWEED TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Town Council Events Committee Meeting held on Monday 27 October 2008 at 6.00 pm at the William Elder Building, Castlegate, Berwick-upon-Tweed

PRESENT:

Councillors:	J Waterhouse	(Chairman)
	H Bettison	(Vice Chairman)
	J Smith	
	P Herdman	
	F Simpson	

IN ATTENDANCE:

S Finch, Clerk

E011/08

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors J Beresford and T Houghton

E012/08

2. MINUTES

The minutes of the meetings held on 29 July 2008 and 17 September 2008 were agreed and signed as a correct record.

E013/08

3. STATEMENTS BY THE PUBLIC

There were no statements by members of the public.

E014/08

4. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

There was no disclosure of interests.

E015/08

5. EVENTS POLICY

Members discussed the range of current events currently arranged throughout the year within the Town Council area, including those arranged or managed wholly or in part by the Borough Council; those arranged by voluntary groups; and those operated commercially.

The list which had been provided in advance of the meeting was adjusted to reflect more accurately the events programme for Berwick, and members considered that these contributed to the vibrancy of the town both for residents

and visitors and should be supported by the Town Council.

Members also considered how best the limited resources available to the Town Council could be used to bring maximum benefit to events being arranged within the town. They agreed that a major challenge to event organisers was the requirement for adequate insurances, and the associated risk assessment requirements. Assistance in these two areas could be a substantial benefit to event organisers.

The Committee further agreed that the principal of the former Town Committee providing modest support to events should be continued if finances were available, but that such support should be seen to have been provided by the Town Council.

RESOLVED: (i) The Clerk to investigate the availability and implications of an umbrella public liability policy for the benefit of events organised within Berwick-upon-Tweed; and
(ii) As part of this investigation to establish the feasibility of maintaining a centralised database of risk assessments;
and (iii) To recommend to the Finance and Resources Committee that:
(a) subject to resources being available, the Town Council make grants available to support events, applications to be made using the former Town Committee application form, suitably adapted, and with a condition attached that full acknowledgement to the Town Council be made in any material associated with the event;
(b) decisions on grants should be delegated to an ad-hoc grants committee comprising the committee Chairman, Vice-Chairman and a third member of the Events Committee;
(c) because of time constraints, an immediate decision be made to offer a grant of £500 for the current year towards the cost of Christmas lights in the Town Council area.

E016/08

6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be held on 5 January 2009 at 6 pm in The William Elder Building, Castlegate, Berwick-upon-Tweed.