

## BERWICK-UPON-TWEED TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Town Council Finance and Resources Committee Meeting held on Monday 23 February 2009 at 6.30 pm at the William Elder Building, Castlegate, Berwick-upon-Tweed**

### **PRESENT:**

Councillors: J Robertson (Chairman)  
A Bowlas  
P Herdman  
I Hunter  
F Simpson  
D Stewart

### **IN ATTENDANCE:**

S Finch, Clerk

One member of the public

#### **FR040/08 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies for absence.

#### **FR041/08 2. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 5 January 2009 were agreed and signed as a correct record.

#### **FR042/08 3. STATEMENTS BY THE PUBLIC**

There were no statements by members of the public.

#### **FR043/08 4. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**

Councillor Stewart declared a personal interest in Item 7 (grant application, Spittal Improvement Trust).

All Town Councillors who were also Borough Councillors declared a personal interest in Item 7 (Civic Events – Future Arrangements).

#### **FR044/08 5. AUTHORISATION OF PAYMENTS**

The schedule of payments was agreed.

**FR045/08**

## **6. BUDGET REPORT 2008/9**

Members noted the statement of receipts and payments to 23 February 2009.

Ch'n initial:

The Chairman queried whether the overspend on telecommunications had been resolved. The Clerk had registered for on-line itemised bills, but because of difficulties BT had been experiencing, these could not be provided and would now require to be hard copies. They could not be provided from the commencement of the service to the Council, but bills would from now on be itemised and monitored.

**FR046/08**

## **7. RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE FINANCE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

Members considered the recommendations which had been made by the Environment and Regeneration Committee and Events Committee.

Councillor Stewart asked that more detailed information be provided in future to enable proper consideration of the recommendations.

The Chairman proposed that to enable decisions to be made more quickly, grants of £500 and under should be approved by the relevant committees, and that only grants over £500 should need to be authorised by the Finance and Resources Committee.

**RESOLVED: To recommend to Council that grants of £500 and under applied for through the Events Committee and Environment and Regeneration Committee should be approved by the relevant committee. Grants over £500 should be authorised by the Finance and Resources Committee.**

Members considered the recommendations made to the Committee by the Environment and Regeneration Committee as follows:

**Goody Patchy Steering Group**

Help to continue woodland management at the public amenity area between Tweedmouth and Spittal.

**Amount      £250**

**Cittaslow Berwick Steering Group**

Purchase of peat, compost, summer bedding and/or shrubs for open spaces within the northern approaches to the town.

**Amount      £250.**

[NOTE: Members agreed that in order to guide applicants, the Clerk should amend the application form to clarify that the scheme was for longer term improvements, and requests for annual bedding or short-term proposals would be unlikely to be successful].

**West End Residents Association**

Refurbishment of tables, chairs and benches along the riverside.

**Amount      £325**

Ch'n initial

**The Maltings**

Purchase of trees, planters, benches shrubs etc to enable the area in front of The Maltings to be enhanced and improved.

**Amount      £971**

**Berwick Spring Clean**

As part of a national effort by Cittaslow Towns, a Berwick Spring Clean by local amenity groups, 24 – 27 April 2009. Support and goodwill agreed and commitment to consider further support.

**RESOLVED: To agree the recommendations of the Environment and**

**Regeneration Committee made at its meeting on 18 February 2009; to request that further information about the Spring Clean be provided to the Environment and Regeneration Committee to minimise duplication.**

As part of the Spring Clean initiative, and in recognition of the concern being expressed within the town about the scale of the problem, members considered the suggestion that the Town Council might contribute to the purchase of additional dog waste bins. They were advised that there was scope within the existing contract (in place until 2010) for the emptying of bins for up to an additional ten to be sited.

Councillor Stewart expressed concern that the main requirement was for enforcement, rather than additional facilities.

The Chairman proposed, and it was agreed, that this matter be raised at the Council meeting on 9 March, when additional information should be to hand about costs, current locations of bins, and views of resident associations about where additional bins might be sited.

Members considered the recommendations made to the Committee by the Events Committee as follows:

**Slow Food Berwick-upon-Tweed**

Help to mount a second Food Festival in Berwick promoting local produce.

**Amount      £400**

**Greenses Residents Committee**

Help to improve events held on Greenses Gala Day.

**Amount      £200**

**Berwick Art Group**

Contribute towards rental of space for annual exhibition, 12 – 18 July in The Maltings.

**Amount      £100**

**Spittal Improvement Trust**

Contribution towards Spittal Seaside Festival costs.

**Amount:      £1500**

Ch'n initial:

**Berwick Male Voice Choir**

Contribution towards creating website to advertise choir and events.

**Amount:      £125**

**RESOLVED: To agreed the recommendations of the Events Committee made at its meeting on 23 February 2009.**

Members also considered the paper which had been discussed by the Events Committee on **Civic Events – Future Arrangements.**

**RESOLVED: To agree the recommendations of the Events Committee made at its meeting on 23 February 2009.**

Councillors Bowlas, Herdman, Hunter, Robertson, and Smith would attend the meeting to discuss future arrangements. The meeting would be held on 2 March at 10.30 am in the Town Council office.

**FR047/08**

**8. COMMUNICATION STRATEGY**

Members considered the paper which had been circulated.

**RESOLVED: (i) To note the strategy for internal and external communications as outlined; and (ii) To accept the Berwick Advertiser's invitation to provide a regular news item, subject to more detailed discussion of format and expected content.**

[NOTE: Those members who were also Borough Councillors raised the issue of

electronic communication following dissolution of the Borough Council, when laptop computers would require to be returned to the new Northumberland Council].

**FR048/08**

**9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Finance and Resources Committee would be held on 6 April 2009.

**ITEM 5  
Appendix A**

**Berwick-upon-Tweed Town Council  
DRAFT PAYMENTS LIST :           Cheques 100019 to 100022  
23 February 2009**

Vchr.	Cheq.	Cde.	Name	Description	Amount
23	100019	16	BUT Community Dev Trust	Rent 010109 to 310309	£365.00
24	100019	19	BUT Community Dev Trust	Venue Hire	£65.00
25	100019	19	BUT Community Dev Trust	Venue Hire	£31.25
			Subtotal Cheque No. 100019		£461.25
26	100020	10	Berwick Borough Council	Clerk's Salary	£1,163.19
27	100021	35	NorthernLab	Logo artwork	£110.00
28	100022	20	British Telecom	BT Payment Services	£90.98
29	100022	20	British Telecom	BT Payment Services	£4.50
			Subtotal Cheque No. 100022		£95.48
				<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£1,829.92</b>