

BERWICK-UPON-TWEED TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Town Council People and Communities Committee Meeting held on Monday, 06 November 2017 at 6.30pm in the Town Hall, Marygate, Berwick-upon-Tweed

PRESENT:

Councillors: K Graham (Chair)
H Bettison
R Bruce
I Dixon
B Parkin
G Roughead
L Stephenson

IN ATTENDANCE:

G Davies, Town Clerk
S Cozens, Assistant to the Clerk
Cllr G Smith
3 members of the public.

OPEN SESSION

Two members of the public spoke about the need for a welfare rights advice provision in Berwick upon Tweed since the changes to Citizens Advice Bureau services, and indicated their intention to establish such a group.

A further member of the public spoke expressing his concerns about the council's failure to engage with the public.

PC029/17 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from: Cllrs B Douglas and H Nichols.

PC030/17 2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

On the motion of Cllr Roughead, seconded by Cllr Bruce, the minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 2 October 2017 were agreed and signed as a correct record.

PC031/17

3. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

There were no disclosures of interests.

PC032/17

4. REQUEST FOR DISPENSATION

There were no requests for dispensation.

PC033/17

5. FUTURE OF ADVICE SERVICES IN BERWICK-UPON-TWEED

The report of the Town Clerk was introduced by the chair of the committee and after a debate it was **RESOLVED** on the motion of Cllr Bettison, seconded by Cllr Dixon

1. That staff conduct an audit of local voluntary organizations to better understand the scale and distribution of advice provision in the town, and
2. That council undertake a survey of local residents to better understand which advice services they have used in the last year, and which advice services they have access to.

PC034/17

6. DIRECTORY OF VOLUNTARY GROUPS IN BERWICK-UPON-TWEED

The report of the Town Clerk was introduced by the chair of the committee. During the debate standing orders were suspended sufficiently to allow a member of the public to address the committee and after resuming standing orders and a further debate it was **RESOLVED** on the motion of Cllr Dixon, seconded by Cllr Bettison that the committee considered a Berwick specific directory of voluntary organizations would be useful to residents of the town and that such a directory should be hosted on the council website.

PC035/17

7. HARD TO REACH COMMUNITIES

After the Town Clerk's report was introduced a debate took place to which a number of members contributed. During the debate it was suggested, and agreed without contention, that the issue of homelessness should be on the next agenda, before it was **RESOLVED**, without contention to note the report.

PC036/17

8. APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

It was **RESOLVED**, subject to the receipt of a completed form, to agree to the grant requested, but to convey to the group in question the committee's suggestions as to future applications.

PC037/17

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting would be Monday, 4 December 2017 at 6.30 pm.