

BERWICK-UPON-TWEED TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 23 August 2021 at 6.00 pm in the Town Hall, Marygate, Berwick-upon-Tweed

PRESENT:

Councillors:	A Bowlas (Chair)	M Greener
	J Bowden	H Lindsay
	G Brown	C Raybould
	C Bruce	G Smith
	R Bruce	L Stephenson
	R Driver	A Williams
	A Forbes	

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr Gareth Davies, Town Clerk

Steve Cozens, Assistant to the Clerk

Joyce Benton, Sergeant-at-Mace

The Reverend Canon Alan Hughes MBE TD, Sheriff

Cty Cllr G Hill

Cty Cllr C Seymour

1 member of the press

2 members of the public

The meeting was available live via YouTube.

C086/21

1. OPEN SESSION

The issues of badgers located within Tweedmouth Cemetery was raised which included an update from Cty Cllr G Hill. After which, on the motion of Cllr G Brown, seconded by Cllr A Forbes, Council **RESOLVED** to instruct the Town Clerk to write to Northumberland County Council, and to copy any correspondence to Natural England.

C087/21

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs A Gibson.

C088/21

3. MINUTES

- i. On the motion of Cllr G Smith, seconded by Cllr H Lindsay, the minutes of the meeting of Berwick-upon-Tweed Town Council held on 26 July 2021 were agreed and signed as a correct record.
- ii. On the motion of Cllr A Forbes, seconded by Cllr C Raybould, the correct minutes for the numbering of minutes C031/21 to C062/21 for dates 29 June 2021 and 06 July 2021 were received and signed as a correct record.

C089/21

4. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

There were no disclosures of interest.

C090/21

5. REQUEST FOR DISPENSATION

There were no requests for dispensation.

C091/21

6. TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor provided details of events they had attended, including a service to commemorate the centenary of Spittal War Memorial, a Freedom Admissions Ceremony, the Crowning of the Salmon Queen, the Minden Day Parade, Scremerston Fate, a service at Holy Trinity Church led by the Bishop of Berwick Mark Wroe and a re-enactment of the Riding of the Bounds with Michael Portillo in attendance. After which the Mayor read out correspondence from the Berwick Riders Association.

C092/21

7. CORRESPONDENCE

- i. Members **RESOLVED** to note the Correspondence Log.
- ii. A briefing issued by Director of Public Health Northumberland had been received and, on the motion of Cllr G Brown, seconded by Cllr C Bruce, Council **RESOLVED** that the Staffing and Corporate Resources Committee commence a process of consultation which includes assessing the need for staff to be in the office.

C093/21

8. NORTH OF TYNE COMBINED AUTHORITY'S CULTURAL AND CREATIVE ZONES PROJECT

On the motion of Cllr H Lindsay, seconded by Cllr R Driver, Council **RESOLVED**:

1. That the Town Council expresses its support for any bids to locate a cultural zone, as envisaged by the prospectus, in Berwick,

2. That officers be instructed to engage relevant parties to explore this opportunity, and
3. That a Working Group be formed comprising of Cllr A Bowlas, Cllr G Brown, Cllr R Driver, Cllr H Lindsay and Cllr C Raybould.

C094/21

9. OPERATION LONDON BRIDGE WORKING GROUP

The Town Clerk introduced the item with an update that the Platinum Jubilee in 2022 could be included in the working group's brief. After which, Council unanimously **RESOLVED** to note the update of the Town Clerk, and further **RESOLVED** to nominate Cllr A Bowlas, Cllr R Bruce, Cllr A Forbes, Cllr M Greener, Cllr L Stephenson and Cllr A Williams to form the working group.

C095/21

10. REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

An update was provided by the Town Clerk, that whilst no specific guidance had been received, under current national regulations regarding Covid-19, arrangements prior to 2020 could be achieved. After which, Council unanimously **RESOLVED** to note the update of the Town Clerk that arrangements for Remembrance Sunday should proceed in accordance with years prior to 2020.

C096/21

11. BERWICK-UPON-TWEED CONSERVATION AREA ADVISORY GROUP (CAAG)

The Town Clerk provided an update to the previously circulated report, and, during the discussion, Standing Orders were suspended sufficiently to allow Cllr G Hill to speak. After which, Council unanimously **RESOLVED**:

1. To instruct the Town Clerk to continue engaging with CAAG,
2. That Cllr G Brown and Cllr M Greener to remain as nominated representatives, and
3. That the current situation be reviewed in 6 months' time.

C097/21

12. SPITTAL SPLASH PARK

An introduction was provided by the Town Clerk, after which:

1. On the motion of G Brown, seconded by Cllr A Forbes, Council **RESOLVED** to refer the engineers report to the Local Services Committee for analysis and action,
2. On the motion of Cllr A Forbes, seconded by Cllr C Raybould, Council **RESOLVED** to make a virement of £10,000 from the unallocated reserves

to the Splash Park reserve to enable the Local Services Committee, if required, to seek quotes for work, and

3. Council unanimously **RESOLVED** that, in principle, a storage facility would be acceptable, including space to allow for a beach wheelchair.

C098/21

13. TOWN CENTRE WORKING GROUP

On the motion of Cllr G Brown, seconded by Cllr C Bruce, Council **RESOLVED** that:

1. The scope of work mentioned within the report is acceptable, and
2. They are content for the Working Group to continue in its current format.

C099/21

14. CO-OPTION OF MEMBER(S)

The candidate had previously supplied a statement explaining their Vision for Berwick.

Having achieved an absolute majority of votes cast on the first ballot Mr P Jackson was duly co-opted to be a member of the Council for Magdalene Ward.

C100/21

15. FORWARD PLAN

The Town Clerk updated the meeting on the Forward Plan including that a review of electoral arrangements would be considered in October or November. After which, it was **RESOLVED** to note the Forward Plan.

C101/21

16. BUDGET AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

- i. It was **RESOLVED** on the motion of Cllr G Smith, seconded by Cllr A Forbes to adopt the minutes of the meeting of the Budget and Administration Committee held on 13 July 2021 (noted at the meeting of 26 July 2021).
- ii. It was **RESOLVED** on the motion of Cllr G Smith, seconded by Cllr A Forbes to note the draft minutes of the meeting of the Budget and Administration Committee held on 10 August 2021.
- iii. Council **RESOLVED** on the motion of Cllr G Smith, seconded by Cllr M Greener, to approve the following recommendation detailed in draft minute BA038/21:

The Town Clerk introduced the amendments previously discussed as part of the consultation process. After which, on the motion of Cllr G Smith, seconded by Cllr M Greener, the Committee unanimously **RESOLVED** to

recommend the proposed amendments to the Financial Regulations to Council.

- iv. It was **RESOLVED** on the motion of Cllr C Raybould, seconded by Cllr H Lindsay to note the list of payments received by the Budget and Administration Committee at its meeting of 10 August 2021.

C102/21

17. LOCAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

- i. It was **RESOLVED** on the motion of Cllr G Smith, seconded by Cllr L Stephenson to adopt the minutes of the meeting of the Local Services Committee held on 05 July 2021 (noted at the meeting of 26 July 2021).
- ii. It was **RESOLVED** on the motion of Cllr R Bruce, seconded by Cllr M Greener to note the draft minutes of the meeting of the Local Services Committee held on 03 August 2021.
- iii. Council **RESOLVED** on the motion of Cllr R Bruce, seconded by Cllr H Lindsay, to approve the following recommendations detailed in draft minutes LS046/21 and LS049/21:

LS046/21: The Town Clerk introduced the item, after which it was **RESOLVED** to recommend to Council that the Town Council introduces a policy for the provision of bins which will include the opportunity of co-funding/sponsorship via open dialogue with the Chamber of Trade.

LS049/21: The Committee unanimously **RESOLVED** to recommend to Council that Officers research further the replacement of all the existing hanging baskets with ones that utilise reservoirs.

C103/21

18. PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

- i. It was **RESOLVED** on the motion of Cllr H Lindsay, seconded by Cllr A Williams to adopt the minutes of the meeting of the People and Communities Committee held on 06 July 2021 (noted at the meeting of 26 July 2021).
- ii. It was **RESOLVED** on the motion of Cllr H Lindsay, seconded by Cllr A Williams to note the draft minutes of the meeting of the People and Communities Committee held on 04 August 2021.
- iii. Council **RESOLVED** on the motion of Cllr H Lindsay, seconded by Cllr G Smith, to approve the following recommendation detailed in minute PC034/21:

PC034/21: The Committee **RESOLVED** to recommend that council prioritise the parking difficulties on Union Brae, 20mph zones around schools, yellow lines at St Aidans Place and dropped curbs on Dean Drive for wheelchair access.

- iv. After considering minute PC036/21, on the motion of Cllr R Bruce, seconded by Cllr G Smith, Council **RESOLVED** to approve the sponsorship request made by the Berwick Music Series for a 3-year period at £400 per annum up to a value of £1200 on condition that:
 - a. Both prizes are referred to as the Berwick-upon-Tweed Town Council prizes, and
 - b. Sponsorship for the 2nd and 3rd year is only released on receipt of a report outlining the success of the event.

C104/21

19. PLANNING COMMITTEE

- i. It was **RESOLVED** on the motion of Cllr M Greener, seconded by Cllr R Bruce to adopt the minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 12 July 2021 (noted at the meeting of 26 July 2021).
- ii. It was **RESOLVED** on the motion of Cllr M Greener, seconded by Cllr R Bruce to note the draft minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 09 August 2021.

Council **RESOLVED** to suspend standing orders sufficiently to allow the meeting to continue beyond the 8pm deadline.

C105/21

20. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Council will be held on Monday, 27 September 2021 at 6 pm.

Council RESOLVED that under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 it was appropriate to exclude the media and public from the discussion of the following items of business on the basis that public discussion might prejudice the Council's position and staffing or personal issues might be discussed.

At this point the live link to YouTube was switched off.

C106/21

21. ACCESSIBILITY

Whilst a response was awaited from a partner organisation, Council unanimously **RESOLVED** that, if required, alternative arrangements be brought to the next meeting of Council.

C107/21

BARREL PLANTERS

Members were updated with correspondence regarding barrel planters. After which Council unanimously **RESOLVED** to approve the way forward received as part of the update.

C108/21

CORRESPONDENCE

The Town Clerk updated Members about the next steps regarding an item of correspondence reported to Council at its meeting of 26 July 2021.