

**BERWICK-UPON-TWEED TOWN COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Town Council People and Communities Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, 07 March 2023 at 6.00pm in The Meeting Room, Berwick-upon-Tweed Town Council Office, Unit 1, 82 – 88 Marygate, Berwick-upon-Tweed**

**PRESENT:**

Councillors:	P Jackson (Chair)	H Lindsay
	J Bowden	G Smith
	R Bruce	A Williams
	R Driver	

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Gareth Davies, Town Clerk  
Stephen Cozens, Assistant to the Clerk  
Cllr W Robertson  
Insp John Swan, Northumbria Police  
Sgt Duncan Budge, Northumbria Police  
0 members of the public

**PC070/22**

**1. NORTHUMBRIA POLICE**

Insp John Swan and Sgt Duncan Budge of Northumbria Police introduced themselves. After which Insp John Swan updated members on the departments within Berwick Police Station and crime prevention, targeting offenders, engagement and how youth anti-social behaviour is dealt with. Also mentioned was the slight increase in crimes reported, however, there is a slight decrease in cases of anti-social behaviour.

Members of the Committee then asked a number of questions including on the 101 number, trespassing, intimidation, damage to and misuse of public property, locations of CCTV and nuisance drivers.

The question of Northumbria Police attending meetings on a regular basis was also raised.

**PC071/22**

## **2. OPEN SESSION**

There were no members of the public present.

**PC072/22**

## **3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs M Greener and L Stephenson.

**PC073/22**

## **4. MINUTES**

On the motion of Cllr H Lindsay, seconded by Cllr G Smith, the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 10 January 2023 were agreed and signed as a correct record.

**PC074/22**

## **5. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**

- i. There were no disclosures of interests.
- ii. There were no requests for dispensation.

**PC075/22**

## **6. CO-OPTION PROCESS**

The Town Clerk introduced the item and indicated Officers preference that the options for submitting a vision for Berwick be left as open as possible and that a ballot be used when there are multiple candidates.

After which, the meeting noted that a report would be brought to the Annual General Meeting in May.

**PC076/22**

## **7. ADVERTISING BUDGET**

A brief summary of each cost code was provided to Members and the reduction of cost codes for the next financial year. The contribution for the Tourism Officer was discussed as was the website [www.visitberwick.com](http://www.visitberwick.com) After which, it was agreed that:

1. That the Chief Executive Officer and Tourism Officer be invited to a future meeting of the People and Communities Committee, and
2. That the Town Clerk bring a report to the June meeting of Council regarding the advertising budget.

**PC077/22**

## **8. COMMUNICATIONS**

The Town Clerk introduced the item and provided a verbal update on the background papers provided including work tidying up the Town Council website to which Members indicated their preference that this work continue.

Members agreed that the providers of the Community Database be contacted for an update regarding timescales for when the project will be ready. After which, it was agreed that:

1. The Town Clerk bring a report to the June meeting of Council regarding a Communications Strategy to be incorporated or sit alongside the report on the advertising budget, and
2. An item regarding serviceable notice boards and what the Town Council can do be brought to the next meeting of this Committee.

**PC078/22**

#### **9. GRANT APPLICATION**

- i. On the motion of Cllr H Lindsay seconded by Cllr J Bowden it was **RESOLVED** to make a grant of £450 to Berwick Arts Choir.
- ii. On the motion of Cllr J Bowden seconded by Cllr R Bruce it was **RESOLVED** to make a grant of £750 to Berwick Rangers Community Foundation.

**PC079/22**

#### **10. NCC INEQUALITIES POLICY AND ASSET BASED COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

The Town Clerk updated the meeting that the documents had not been received from Northumberland County Council, after which, it was unanimously **RESOLVED** to defer this item to a future meeting.

**PC080/22**

#### **11. SATNAV REDIRECTIONS (CONGESTION AVOIDANCE)**

Cllr R Driver introduced the item as a discussion regarding Sat Nav systems directing drivers on routes that cause potential congestion, e.g. through the town centre rather than along the A1. The Town Clerk provided an update on Sat Nav providers and a potential solution of exploring if an ultra-low emission zone / congestion zone could be created. During the discussion Standing Orders were suspended sufficiently to allow Cllr W Robertson to speak. After which the Committee unanimously **RESOLVED** that further investigation was not a good use of the Town Clerk's time.

Following on from this, the suggestion was made that Councillors liaise with their County Councillor colleagues regarding the idea of a 20mph zone.

**PC081/22**

**12. NEWFIELDS PAVILION**

The Town Clerk provided an update on the outcome from the discussion of the item at the Local Services Committee meeting held on 06 March 2023. After which, it was unanimously **RESOLVED** to note the update.

**PC082/22**

**13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting will be Tuesday, 04 April 2023 at 6.00 pm.