

## BERWICK-UPON-TWEED TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Town Council Planning Committee held on 20 February 2025 at 11am in The Meeting Room, Berwick-upon-Tweed Town Council Office, Unit 1, 82 – 88 Marygate, Berwick-upon-Tweed**

### **COUNCILLORS PRESENT:**

T Stewart (Chair)

M Greener

J Robertson

G Smith

J Bowden

### **IN ATTENDANCE:**

Iain McCready, Chief Officer

Lucy Henzell-Thomas, Administrative Officer

5 members of the public

### **P080/24 1. OPEN SESSION**

2 members of the public raised objections in relation to Item 7 Communication Masts (P086/24).

### **P081/24 2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were apologies from Cllr Rowe & Cllr Mackenzie.

### **P082/84 3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

The Committee **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 27 January, were agreed and signed as a correct record.

### **P083/24 4. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**

i. There was a disclosure of interest from Cllr Stewart regarding Application Ref No: 25/00318/FUL. Cllr Stewart left the meeting room for the duration of this item.

ii. There were no requests for dispensation.

**P084/24 5. APPLICATIONS FOR PLANNING PERMISSION**

**Ref No: 25/00388/FUL & 25/00389/LBC (Expires 28/02)**

**Address: Old Brewery Brewery Lane Tweedmouth Berwick-Upon-Tweed Northumberland TD15 2AH**

**Description: Proposed alterations to existing workshop building and associated works to create artists hub and gallery & Listed Building Consent for same project.**

No objections

**Ref No: 25/00232/FUL**

**Address: 80 Church Street Berwick-Upon-Tweed Northumberland TD15 1DU**

**Description: Proposed refurbishment works to existing building including new insulated roof cladding, installation of photovoltaic (PV) panels, new metal windows (to match existing) and new metal security entrance gate & side railings.**

No objections

**Ref No: 25/00318/FUL**

**Address: 97 Castlegate Berwick-Upon-Tweed Northumberland TD15 1LF**

**Description: Ground floor extension within rear courtyard of existing dwelling**

No objections

**Ref No: 25/00455/CCD**

**Location: Berwick St Mary's C Of E First School Newfields Berwick-Upon-Tweed Northumberland TD15 1SP**

**Description: Reconfiguration and extension to provide a designated SEMH facility with associated landscaping, car parking and engineering works**

No objections – Berwick Town Council approves and supports this application

**P085/24 6. PLANNING APPLICATION DECISION LIST**

The decisions provided in the attachment were noted.

**P086/24 7. COMMUNICATION MASTS**

The Committee had an update on the Berwick Town Council response to the proposed Connexin installations. BTC was not consulted in this matter and have been informed by Northumberland County Council that the erection of the poles falls within permitted development under Schedule 2, Class A, Part 16 of the General Permitted Development Order. This means that the poles do not require planning permission.

BTC have received objections from residents and visitors which have been sent to NCC and the MP. NCC have decided to object to masts planned for conservation areas. The MP has responded to say that he has requested a face-to-face meeting with Connexin to establish why these masts are necessary, why existing infrastructure cannot be utilised and why they have not engaged with the public before submitting many applications to NCC, many of which have already been approved. Connexin have written back to say that they are prepared to sit down and meet, and they are planning for this to happen as soon as possible. Once BTC have further updates, we will share information on our website and social media.

**P087/24 8. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

The Committee had a brief update. On 12 February, 3 members of the Committee attended the Berwick Civic Society talk on 'The Health of Berwick Town Centre and how a Neighbourhood Plan could help'.

The meeting was well attended. We were pleased to see enthusiasm for the principle of BTC having re-started the Neighbourhood Plan process, and a real desire for residents to have input and to be consulted. We have been looking at the earlier draft of the Neighbourhood Plan to see what could be amended given changes that have taken place since a draft was put to one side in 2019. We have also met with the professional advisory team from NCC - last meeting was 31st January.

We hope to hold at least three community consultation drop-in events for residents this year - one in each of Spittal, Tweedmouth and Berwick. As it is a local election year, no consultation will be allowed for the six weeks leading up to polling day therefore it is likely that these consultations will have to wait until after mid-May.

**P088/24 9. ACTION PLAN**

The committee had a brief update – to be looked at in more detail at the next official meeting.

**P089/24 10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting date of Monday 17th March 2025 was noted.