

BERWICK-UPON-TWEED TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Town Council Environment and Regeneration Committee Meeting held on Monday, 6 September 2010 at 6.30 pm at The Town Hall, Marygate, Berwick-upon-Tweed

PRESENT:

Councillors: C Routledge In the Chair
A Bowlas
F Simpson
J Waterhouse

IN ATTENDANCE:

S Finch, Town Clerk
Six members of the public

ER015/10 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Dixon, McNeely and Robertson.

ER016/10 2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 June 2010 were agreed and signed as a correct record.

ER017/10 3. STATEMENTS BY THE PUBLIC

No matters were raised by members of the public.

ER018/10 4. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Councillor Simpson declared a personal interest in Item 10 (Applications for Financial Assistance).

ER019/10 5. SPITAL SPLASH PARK

Members considered the report which had been circulated, which set out the requirement for a commitment from the Town Council to meet running and maintenance costs for a minimum of five years in order to secure substantial grants to meet the capital costs associated with the project. Members noted that the Council had previously agreed to this being a pilot project for devolved services, and to support the efforts to raise funds to make the former paddling

pool a safe and useable facility.

Standing orders were suspended to allow Mike Greener, Spittal Improvement Trust, to advise that a lower estimate of maintenance costs had been obtained. The annual figure could therefore be £6000.

Members agreed that the project would provide an exciting and innovative attraction, and should be given the requested support; it was however a decision which should be made by the Council as a whole.

RESOLVED: To refer to the next Council meeting the decision to commit the Council to meeting running and maintenance costs for Spittal Splash Pool for a minimum of five years, with the recommendation of the Environment and Regeneration Committee that it should be supported.

ER020/10

6. LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN

Members considered the requests for transport related schemes in the Town Council area held by the County Council, from which the Council had been asked to identify its top three priorities.

RESOLVED: (i) To advise Northumberland County Council that the top three priorities for the 2011-12 Integrated Transport Programme should be: Grasscrete to allow parking outside Tweedmouth Clinic, Shielfield Terrace; additional parking at Berwick Railway Station; improved street lighting on Dean Drive, Tweedmouth. (ii) To advise that the Town Council also considers as priorities a controlled pedestrian crossing in Marygate; residents' parking bays in Blenheim Place, Spittal; a bus shelter on North Road adjacent to Morrisons' supermarket.

Other matters raised as requiring consideration were continued illegal parking; and including the re-surfacing of The New Road in the Local Transport Plan.

ER021/10

7. THE NEW ROAD

Members noted the record of the open meeting which had been held on 19 August to discuss the restoration of The New Road.

The Clerk advised that a follow-up meeting would be held on 20 September at 4 pm in the Town Hall. She also advised that it was hoped that a collaborative lottery bid would be submitted by the County and Town Councils and community groups to help meet the costs of the project; further information about this would be given as soon as possible.

ER022/10

8. BERWICK IN BLOOM

Members noted the record of the meeting which had been held on 19 August to discuss new and enhanced planting and floral displays for Berwick, Spittal and Tweedmouth. The aim of the meeting had been for community groups to discuss with the County and Town Councils how existing features could be improved and community groups better helped to continue their work.

The Clerk advised that estimates of costs for the projects which the participating groups had identified had been provided by the County Council and these were tabled.

Included in the estimates was a proposed figure of £10000 which it had been suggested might be appropriate match-funding for the proposed major lottery bid for grants to assist with improvements to Castle Vale Park, including developing its historical associations.

RESOLVED: The estimates for new and improved floral and planting displays should be considered by the Finance and Resources Committee in the light of resources available, with a recommendation from the Environment and Regeneration Committee that the proposals be supported.

ER023/10

9. FORWARD PLAN

The Clerk said the paper which had been circulated followed an informal meeting of councillors earlier in the year, and represented a proposed plan for actions by the Council and partners over the medium-term. The plan would provide a framework to guide the Council in its priorities over the next five years.

The plan reflected actions which had been identified by the Community Plan research carried out in association with Berwick Community Trust; or included in

Berwick's Future proposals; or had already been agreed as policies by the Town Council.

Members considered the proposals relating to play areas, in the light of the request from the County Council in its letter of 16 August to consider again entering into discussions to take over play areas and post-2003 bus shelters from 1 April 2011.

RESOLVED: The Town Council to enter into discussion with Northumberland County Council with a view to working in partnership to upgrade each play area in turn, and when each play area was of a good standard, responsibility to be transferred to the Town Council.

ER024/10

10. APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

RESOLVED: (i) To make £166.53 available to Cittaslow Berwick to meet costs associated with Northumbria-in-Bloom; and (ii) To make £130.83 available to Cittaslow Berwick to meet costs of shrubs for planting at Berwick railway station.

ER025/10

11. APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

There had been no requests from outside bodies for Town Council representation.

ER026/10

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be on Monday 8 November 2010 at 6.30pm in the Ante Room, the Town Hall, Marygate, Berwick-upon-Tweed.