

BERWICK-UPON-TWEED TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Monday, 12th July 2010 at 6 pm at The Town Hall, Marygate, Berwick-upon-Tweed

PRESENT:

Councillors:	J Waterhouse (Town Mayor)	I Hunter
	J Beresford	M McNeely
	H Bettison	V Pauline
	A Bowlas	J Robertson
	I Dixon	C Routledge
	B Douglas	F Simpson
	P Herdman	J Smith
	G Hill	

IN ATTENDANCE:

S Finch, Town Clerk
A Swinburne, Sheriff
2 members of the public

The Town Mayor welcomed everyone present.

OPEN SESSION

No matters were raised in the open session.

CO14/10 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Councillor Reid.

CO15/10 2. MINUTES

The minutes of the Berwick-upon-Tweed Town Council Annual meeting held on 17 May 2010 were agreed and signed as a correct record, subject to it being noted that Councillor Smith had not been a non-Freemen member of the Berwick-upon-Tweed Corporation (Freemen Trustees) during 2009-10, and that Councillor Bowlas had been nominated for 2009-10 and would continue for 2010-11 (minute

C009/10, Appendix B).

CO16/10

3. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Councillor Herdman declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Item 10, minute E008/10, grant to Friends of Berwick and District Museum and Archives. Councillors Bettison, Bowlas, Dixon, Herdman, Robertson and Simpson declared a personal interest in Item 7, as it related to land part of which was in the ownership of Berwick Corporation (Freemen) Trustees.

CO17/10

4. TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Town Mayor reported on events which she and the Civic Party had attended, and further events which would be attended in the forthcoming weeks.

CO18/10

5. CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk's report was noted. The Clerk also advised members that a draft Street Trading Policy had, since the report was circulated, been received from the County Council. This required comments to be submitted by 27 August 2010. Members queried whether this covered the regulation of street musicians. The Clerk would clarify this and advise members.

CO19/10

6. NORTHUMBERLAND CHARTER FOR LOCAL COUNCILS

Members considered the questionnaire which had been circulated to local councils by the County Council, requesting views to incorporate into a review and revision of the Northumberland Charter for Local Councils.

Councillors Hunter, Douglas and Smith, as unitary councillors, declared a personal interest.

Concern continued to be expressed by a number of members over the proposed devolution of some services by the County Council to local councils, because of the implications on finance and resources. They asked that their concerns be reflected in the responses within the questionnaire.

Other concerns raised included the current status of the proposed Community Forums, and it was agreed to bring this to a future Council meeting for full discussion.

Responses to all questions were agreed, and would be submitted to the County

Council as requested.

CO20/10 7. REVIEW OF THE DEFINITIVE MAP AND STATEMENT OF PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY – INFORMAL PRE-ORDER CONSULTATION

Members had no objection to the proposed modification to Berwick Town Restricted Byway number 81.

CO21/10 8. TWINNING COMMITTEE

Councillor Robertson requested that, in the interests of maintaining the twinning links established by the former Berwick-upon-Tweed Borough Council, the Town Council should provide assistance to the voluntary Twinning Committee to fund a plaque in Casey, Australia.

RESOLVED: The Town Council to fund, at a cost of £600, a plaque to be placed on a 'wall of friendship' in Casey Australia.

CO22/10 9. REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES

There had been no requests for representation on outside bodies.

CO23/10 10. EVENTS COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: (i) To adopt the minutes of the Events Committee held on 14 June 2010; and (ii) (these grants, being £500 and over, not having previously been agreed by the Finance and Resources Committee), to make £750 available to Berwick Events Group; £750 available to Berwick-upon-Tweed Film and Media Arts Festival; and £500 available to Friends of Berwick and District Museum and Archives.

Councillor Herdman, having declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the item relating to a grant to the Friends of Berwick and District Museum and Archives, left the room during consideration of this item.

Councillor McNeely said that a preliminary meeting was to be held at 5.15 pm on Wednesday 14 July 2010, at the Town Hall, to bring together parties interested in festive lighting.

CO24/10 11. ENVIRONMENT AND REGENERATION COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: (i) To adopt the minutes of the Environment and Regeneration Committee held on 14 June 2010; and (ii) (the grant, being £500 and not

**having previously been agreed by the Finance and Resources Committee),
to make £500 available to Prior Park Residents Association;**

Councillor Robertson drew members' attention to the New Road project, in which a number of local organisations had expressed interest. A plan had been prepared by Margaret Johnston, copies of which were tabled for members, and it was proposed to arrange an open meeting in August to which all stakeholders would be invited.

Whilst welcoming the proposed project, some concern was expressed that both neighbouring landowners and the County Council had responsibilities for parts of the area, and these should be drawn to their attention.

CO25/10

12. FINANCE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: To adopt the minutes of the Finance and Resources Committee meeting held on 15 June 2010.

CO26/10

13. PLANNING COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: To adopt the minutes of the Planning Committee held on 18 May and on 22 June 2010.

CO27/10

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Council would be held on Monday 20 September 2010.