

BERWICK-UPON-TWEED TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Monday, 20 September 2010 at 6 pm at The Town Hall, Marygate, Berwick-upon-Tweed

PRESENT:

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

S Finch, Town Clerk

A Swinburne, Sheriff

Inspector Peter Duguid and Neighbourhood Sergeant Keith Smith, Northumbria Police

4 members of the public

The Town Mayor welcomed everyone present.

OPEN SESSION

Inspector Duguid reported that crime levels in the Berwick area for April to September, compared with the same period last year, were lower overall. Vehicle crime was the only category to have increased.

In response to a query, Inspector Duguid said that cards had been printed and left on cars parking illegally in Marygate, suggesting the drivers consider using greater courtesy about parking.

The Town Mayor thanked both officers for attending.

CO28/10

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Councillor Smith.

CO29/10

2. MINUTES

The minutes of the Berwick-upon-Tweed Town Council meeting held on 12 July 2010 were agreed and signed as a correct record.

CO30/10

3. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

There were no disclosures of interest.

CO31/10

4. TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Town Mayor reported the death of Sir John Riddell, former Lord Lieutenant, whom she said had been a friend of Berwick-upon-Tweed; and advised members that a letter of condolence had been sent to his widow on behalf of the Council.

The letter which had been received from Stuart Laundry, on his departure as editor of the Berwick Advertiser, was noted and the Council's good wishes were to be forwarded to him.

The Town Mayor then reported on events which she and the Civic Party had attended, and further events which would be attended in the forthcoming weeks. She said that the Golf Tournament had raised £2,350, £350 of which has been passed to the Seahouses Development Trust for projects in which it was engaged.

The Town Mayor said reminded members that Remembrance Day, would be on Sunday 14 November, and members would gather at the Town Hall at 9.30 am prior to attending the service of remembrance at St Andrews, Wallace Green.

CO32/10

5. FAIRTRADE

The Town Mayor welcomed Jane Mann, representing Fairtrade Alnwick. She described the aims of Fairtrade, which were to promote a fair price for products produced in the developing world.

Included in the criteria for becoming a Fairtrade town was the support of the local council.

Councillor Simpson, who represented the Town Council on the local steering group, said that Berwick-upon-Tweed was the only market town in Northumberland which had not taken this step.

RESOLVED: (i) Berwick-upon-Tweed Town Council to support the town becoming a Fairtrade Town; and (ii) Councillor Simpson to continue representing the Council on the steering group.

The Town Mayor thanked Ms Mann for attending the meeting.

CO33/10

6. SPITTAL SPLASH PARK

Prior to discussion of this item the Town Mayor congratulated Mike Greener, Secretary of Spittal Improvement Trust, for being chosen as Community Champion in the Pride of Northumberland Awards.

Members considered the report which had been circulated and which has also been considered by the Environment and Regeneration and Finance Committees. They expressed support for the project, which would be an asset to a wide area.

RESOLVED:

- (i) In order to secure the capital funding for the project (and conditional upon all the capital costs being secured), the Town Council to meet the annual running costs (water supply) estimated at £5000 per annum, from Year One for a minimum of five years; and, from Year Two onwards, the annual maintenance costs, estimated at from £1000, from a reserve of £50000 proposed by the Finance and Resources Committee to be earmarked for the maintenance and improvement of play areas.**
- (ii) To initiate discussions with Northumberland County Council with a view to the management of Spittal Promenade Play Area (including the Splash Park) being transferred to the Town Council, as proposed by the Committee in April 2009 as a pilot project, and the first in a phased programme of transfers of play areas.**

CO34/10

7. BORDER BRIDGE ILLUMINATIONS

The Town Mayor welcomed Tim Kirton and Bernard Shaw who were attending in order to up-date the Council on progress. Mr Kirton said the work should be finished shortly and that it was planned to have the formal switch-on of the lights

on 27 November.

Sufficient funding to meet revenue costs for at least four, and possibly six, years was in place

Market Town Welcome funding had been provided to purchase professional marketing expertise. Two groups were working in parallel, one to arrange the switch-on event and the second a longer-term marketing and promotion group.

Members expressed their views that full involvement of schools and children in the project should be considered. Assurances were also sought, and given, that the lights themselves would be more robust than those on the road bridge.

CO35/10

8. MARKET STRATEGY 2010-15

Members considered the draft Market Strategy which had been circulated by Northumberland County Council for comment.

It was agreed that the proposed actions were positive and appropriate, but in responding to the County Council it was suggested that thought should be given to integrating complementary but independent markets into existing markets; and that retailers within the town should be given the same business incentives, for example in relation to parking, as stall-holders.

CO36/10

9. CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk's report was noted. She and Councillor Hunter both reported on the Berwick Project Stakeholder's Conference which they had attended earlier in the day, where delegates had been very positive about the aspirations of the project and the benefits of joint working for, for example, improving broadband across their combined areas.

CO37/10

10. REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES

RESOLVED: (i) Councillor Bowlas to represent the Town Council on the Border Bridges Illuminations Marketing Group; and (ii) Councillor Simpson

to represent the Town Council on the planning group for Armed Forces Day 2011; and (iii) Councillor Beresford to be proposed to Tweedmouth Prior Park First School as a Town Council representative on the board of school governors.

CO38/10

11. EVENTS COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: To adopt the minutes of the Events Committee held on 6 September 2010.

In discussion about the number, range and resourcing of events, it was noted that there was room for improvement, but that the Events Committee, through its grant scheme, was contributing to both new and traditional events.

CO39/10

12. ENVIRONMENT AND REGENERATION COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: To adopt the minutes of the Environment and Regeneration Committee meeting held on 6 September 2010.

CO40/10

13. FINANCE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: To adopt the minutes of the Finance and Resources Committee meeting held on 7 September 2010, it having been noted (F21/10) that a donation had been received from Berwick Chamber of Trade, not Berwick Rotary Club.

CO41/10

14. SIGNATORIES TO BANK ACCOUNT

RESOLVED: The current Chair and Vice-Chair of the Council, Councillors Waterhouse and Bowlas, to be added to the current authorised signatories to the Town Council's bank accounts with Barclays Bank plc

CO42/10

15. AUDIT YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2010

RESOLVED: To agree the amendments to the Annual Return for the year ending 31 March 2010, as required by auditor BDO LLP and as detailed in the report appended to the agenda.

CO43/10

16. PLANNING COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: To adopt the minutes of the meetings of the Planning

Committee held on 13 July 2010 and on 14 September 2010.

CO44/10

17. BUS SERVICES IN BERWICK-UPON-TWEED

Members expressed their serious concerns about the bus services which had been introduced with effect from 13 September, to coincide with the opening of the new Tesco store. Particular concerns which had been reported to them included the removal of services which had previously been used by schoolchildren, the increase in journey times for elderly people, the changes in routes which made it difficult for people to shop in their preferred location, and the removal of some journeys.

Members considered that the new services did not meet the requirements of the Section 106 agreement.

RESOLVED: An emergency public meeting to be held on 29 September at 6 pm in the Town Hall, subject to the County Council being able to send a representative officer; invitations also to be sent to the bus operator Perrymans, and the supermarkets Tesco, Asda, Morrison's and Somerfield.

CO45/10

18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Council would be held on Monday 29 November 2010 at 6 pm in the Town Hall.