

BERWICK-UPON-TWEED TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Town Council Environment and Regeneration Committee Meeting held on Monday, 5 March 2012 at 6.45 pm at The Town Hall, Marygate, Berwick-upon-Tweed

PRESENT:

Councillors:	J Robertson (Chair)	A Reid
	A Bowlas	C Routledge
	I Dixon	J Waterhouse

IN ATTENDANCE:

S Finch, Town Clerk

S Cozens, Assistant to the Clerk

2 members of the public

ER075/11 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been accepted from: Councillor F Simpson (holiday).

ER076/11 2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 January 2012 were agreed and signed as a correct record.

ER077/11 3. STATEMENTS BY THE PUBLIC

A resident suggested that the surplus bus shelter could be placed at the bus stop on Tweedmouth Main Street near the junction with Etal Road on the opposite side of the street.

ER078/11 4. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

There were no disclosures of interest.

ER079/11 5. TOWN PILOT

A meeting was held recently to move this project forward. The project group has made a request to the Town Council to become the accountable body. The meeting agreed the Town Council should back this initiative.

RESOLVED: (i) That the Town Council become the accountable body for the Town Pilot; and (ii) That Councillor Bowlas represents the Town Council on this project group.

ER080/11

6. VISIT BERWICK WEBSITE

Described as an official website, it is owned by Berwick Development Trust with backing from Northumberland Tourism. The suggestion has been made that the Town Council take on ownership and pay £2,400pa for the licence, while Northumberland Tourism continue to deal with the day to day management. Extra resources and staffing would be required for approximately 1 month. Thereafter current Town Council resources would be used. The meeting agreed in principal with this suggestion and to pay the licence fee while more details about finances are to be bought to the next Environment and Regeneration Committee Meeting.

RESOLVED: To pay the £2,400 licence fee.

ER081/11

7. BUS SHELTERS

RESOLVED: (i) That the Town Council pay for the provision of a seat in the bus shelter at the lower end of Spittal Hall Road; (ii) To ask Northumberland County Council whether the surplus bus shelter from Golden Square, not now required at Highcliffe, could be located at the bus stop on Tweedmouth Main Street near the junction with Etal Road on the opposite side of the street (the meeting agreed in principle to place the bus shelter at this bus stop if agreed by the County Council); (iii) That the Town Council has use of one of the display panels in the Golden Square bus shelters and that Northumberland County Council has use of the other two; and (iv) Following Clearchannels provision of a quote for cleaning and maintenance of non-Clearchannel bus shelters, to obtain a comparison quote from Northumberland County Council.

ER082/11

8. JET SKIS

A verbal report was provided on a recent meeting with the Harbour Commission to discuss Jet Skis using the estuary. The meeting agreed that policing this area would be difficult and a better solution may lie in fencing off Carr Rock, forming a Jet Ski Club (which would be self-policing) and allowing the club to enter the Carr Rock area. The Committee noted the report.

ER083/11

9. PUBLIC SEATS

Approximately 300 benches have been identified in the Town Council area. The process is now being undertaken to decide which ones are to be removed after consultation and which benches require maintenance. Serpent Head benches are to be placed in Marygate and the Parade with those removed from Marygate being installed at the Rose Garden. The Committee noted the report.

ER084/11

10. ROSE GARDEN

Designs had been drawn up for the Rose Garden/Flagstaff Park and these proposals were provided to members of the Committee. Northumberland County Council has agreed to meet the cost of labour while the cost to the Town Council will be approximately £15,000.

RESOLVED: That the Town Council meet the cost and proceed with the planned designs.

ER085/11

11. EUROPEAN WALLED TOWNS

Northumberland County Council has asked the Town Council to meet the annual membership fee of £170 starting in 2013. Northumberland County Council has also stated they will only pay for this year's membership if the Town Council agree to their request. Members considered that at present Berwick-upon-Tweed would not be able to benefit fully from marketing opportunities derived from membership and that other marketing tools should be optimised first.

RESOLVED: That the Town Council would not meet the costs of membership of European Walled Towns.

ER086/11

12. RUNNING TRACK IN BERWICK

The Town Council had been approached by a younger resident with regards to the possibility of providing a running track in the town. The meeting agreed that while this was a good idea it was not a Town Council responsibility and there were other organisations that could be approached. Therefore a letter should be sent to the enquirer explaining that the Town Council support his idea whilst pointing him in the right direction.

ER087/11

13. APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

RESOLVED: (i) Not to provide support to Spittal Community First School PTA to help pay for the building of an outdoor classroom on the school premises; (ii) Not to provide support to Berwick Community Trust to clean out blocked gutters in and around Berwick town centre; and (iii) To make £1,200 available to Three Fields Residents Association for the purchase of 3 notice boards.

ER088/11

14. TRANSFER ARRANGEMENTS FOR PLAY AREAS

The Clerk reminded members that the Town Council is committed to taking on Spittal Splash Park and the Highcliffe Play Area. The County Council would consider transferring the freehold of play areas, as requested by the Town Council, but was proposing an Agency Agreement until such time as a freehold transfer could be

effected. The Agency Agreement allows the Town Council to withdraw, but not the County Council; there would no restrictions on use, and any enhancement in value would be acceptable to the County Council if this was re-invested in the community. The precise area to be transferred would be agreed through negotiation on a site by site basis.

RESOLVED: The Town Council to enter into Agency Agreements for Highcliffe play area and Spittal Splash Park and Play Area.

ER089/11

15. APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

No invitations had been received.

ER090/11

16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be held on Monday 28 May 2012 at 6 pm in the Ante-Room, Town Hall.