

BERWICK-UPON-TWEED TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Town Council Environment and Regeneration Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 7 April 2009 at 6.00 pm at The William Elder Building, Castlegate, Berwick-upon-Tweed

PRESENT:

Councillors: F Simpson (Chairman)
P Herdman
A Houghton
M McNeely
J Robertson
C Routledge

IN ATTENDANCE:

S Finch, Clerk

Two members of the public

ER039/08 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

ER040/08 2. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 18 February 2009 were agreed and signed as a correct record, subject to it being noted that in the second paragraph of minute ER032/08, the lorries were turning into Mount Road from Main Street.

ER041/08 3. STATEMENTS BY THE PUBLIC

There were no statements by the public.

ER042/08 4. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Councillor Robertson declared a personal interest in Item 6 (Berwick's Future).

ER043/08 5. SPITTAL PADDLING POOL

The Chairman welcomed Mike Greener, Spittal Development Trust (SIT), to the meeting.

Ch'n initials

At the request of Councillor Houghton, the meeting was adjourned whilst Mr Greener participated in this item.

The paper which had been circulated outlined the history of the paddling pool and the current situation, including the requirements for equipment needed to ensure users would be fully protected during use of the pool.

Substantial funds were required, which SIT would be prepared to commence raising, but an additional issue was the need to identify a body to take responsibility for the pool once any improvements had been made. Support from the County Council and Town Council would give SIT the endorsement it felt was need to proceed with engaging the services of an architect.

Members agreed the pool was an asset to Spittal and the wider area, and that they would give what support they could to securing its future.

RESOLVED: In collaboration with Spittal Improvement Trust, to make representations to Northumberland County Council, asking for financial assistance towards the works required to make Spittal Paddling Pool a safe and useable facility; and suggesting that the pool could be a pilot project to demonstrate the devolving to a local agency of the management of a local facility, as proposed in the Charter for Local Councils.

ER044/08

6. BERWICK'S FUTURE

Councillor McNeely reported that views were being sought on Berwick's Future Action Plan and proposed that the full Council should consider the Plan, and provide feedback, taking into account the current economic conditions, the transition to a unitary authority and staff changes. Councillor Robertson said that the Action Plan could not be considered in isolation from the Traffic Management Strategy, issues in which were closely linked with projects in the Action Plan.

It was also noted that both documents would provide significant input into the

proposed Parish, or Town, Plan.

RESOLVED: (i) Both the Berwick's Future Action Plan and the Traffic Management Strategy should be considered in depth at the next meeting, on 9 June; and (ii) car parking and traffic management should be the keynote topics at the Annual Town Meeting on 18 May, providing feedback from the community into the committee discussions on 9 June.

ER045/08

7. LOCAL HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION ISSUES

Concern was expressed that the crossing patrol in Billendean Terrace had not been replaced. The Clerk was asked to contact the County Safety Officer to ask which of the alternative safety measures could be put in place, and requesting that flashing lights be given priority.

The poor condition of surfaces on both the road and pavements was mentioned for Cornhill Road and Tweed Street. It was noted that the requirement for more expensive remedial work to the historic pavements in Tweed Street meant that repairs were delayed. Members agreed Highways should be requested to use tarmac as a temporary measure until adequate resources could be found.

The excessive height of the pavement outside the flats in Brucegate was reported.

The Clerk was asked to check on the situation relating to the crossing outside the Co-Operative store.

Members discussed the dangerous parking of vehicles outside the pharmacy on Union Brae. The Clerk was asked to suggest that 'no waiting' cones be set out, on the basis of the potential for accidents with the current arrangement.

ER046/08

8. BERWICK ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT SCHEME (BEES)

Members considered an application for assistance with cost of stocking the planters in Berwick.

Ch'n initials

Members agreed that it was important to ensure the planters, which had been part-financed by the former Town Committee, should be maintained, but this should not be part of the BEES, since it was for annual planting rather than longer term enhancement. There was, however, some doubt about whether the most economic arrangements for purchasing and maintaining plants was in place, and the Clerk was asked to obtain more information on whether these costs could be modified.

ER047/08

9. OUTSIDE BODIES

The Chairman reported that she had attended the Gateway Station Meeting, a group of bodies which collectively sought to enhance the railway station, its approached and general environment. With the loss of the Borough Council, the Group had asked for Town Council representation. Councillor Simpson would be happy to represent the Council on an on-going basis.

RESOLVED: To recommend to Council that Councillor Simpson be the Town Council representative on the Gateway Station Group.

ER048/08

10. PARISH PLAN

The Clerk advised members that a first officer meeting had been held with Berwick Community Trust, to consider some of the issues associated with taking forward a Parish, or Town, Plan. It had been agreed that the Community Trust would work on a preliminary assessment of 'why, what and how' for consideration by the nominated representatives of the Trust and Town Council. It had also been agreed that if resources could be found to take a Plan forward, the Locality Officer would provide input on how the requirements of the Community Forum and Statement of Community Involvement could be met.

Councillor Houghton highlighted the key points about the preliminaries, methods and timescales for Parish Plans.

ER049/08

11. TOWN COUNCIL – ENSURING ENGAGEMENT IN LOCAL ENVIRONMENT AND REGENERATION ISSUES

The Clerk advised members that following the omission of the Town Council from the visit to Highfields arranged by Berwick Borough Housing, the

Association was anxious to work in partnership with the Town Council and would ensure the ward members were advised of activities in the areas in which they had an interest.

ER050/08

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be held on 9 June 2009 at 6 pm.

Ch'n initials