

## **BERWICK-UPON-TWEED TOWN COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Town Council Environment and Regeneration Committee Meeting held on Monday, 7 November 2011 at 6.45 pm at The Town Hall, Marygate, Berwick-upon-Tweed**

### **PRESENT:**

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

### **IN ATTENDANCE:**

S Finch, Town Clerk  
7 members of the public

#### **ER051/11 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillor A Reid and from Councillor M McNeely who had stood down from the Council immediately prior to the meeting.

#### **ER052/11 2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 September 2011 were agreed and signed as a correct record.

#### **ER053/11 3. STATEMENTS BY THE PUBLIC**

Residents of Highcliffe made representations about the impact of the new play area. They felt that the type and location of equipment was inappropriate, and that there had been inadequate consultation. They also said that complaints had been made to the police. The Chair confirmed that the follow-up meeting with representatives of the County and Town Councils, and the police, was being arranged, when these views could be re-considered; it was provisionally arranged for 17 November at 6 pm and interested parties would be notified. He thanked the residents for attending the meeting.

#### **ER054/11 4. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**

There were no disclosures of interest.

#### **ER055/11 5. COACH PARKING**

The Chair reported that a meeting had been held to discuss the options for coach parking in Berwick. Consideration had been given to the view that parking within the town centre would add to congestion, but it was felt that if coaches had to drop and pick up, rather than staying put in a designated area, this would in practice double the trips they would be making through the town. Members agreed that town centre parking would be preferable and the Chapel Street option discussed at the previous meeting of the Committee the best available.

It was also noted that there might be an opportunity to use Tweed Dock, on a short-term basis, for car parking. Councillor Simpson would identify a contact for the Town Council.

**ER056/11 6. EASTERN LANE AND BRIDGE STREET CAR PARKS**

The current plans for Eastern Lane and Bridge Street car parks were tabled and noted. It was confirmed that no parking spaces would be lost.

**ER057/11 7. PLAY HOUSE SITE**

The Town Clerk reported that the disposal of the Playhouse site was still being negotiated and that plans for a temporary enhancement of the site could not be progressed for the time being.

**ER058/11 8. ALLOTMENTS**

Members considered the paper which had been circulated.

**RESOLVED: The Town Council, on the grounds of safety, arrange for the demolition and removal of the greenhouse on Plot 3, Blakewell Gardens allotments, and any other structures deemed unuseable on this Plot, or Plots and 1 and 2, if these are also vacated.**

**ER059/11 9. TEMPORARY SHOPFRONT ENHANCEMENT**

Members considered the paper which had been circulated and which proposed trialling the use of virtual shopfronts to lift the appearance of the town centre.

**RESOLVED: The Town Council to agree to trial a 'virtual shopfront' in the town centre, and to obtain quotations for one unit.**

**ER060/11 10. BUDGET PROPOSALS FOR 2012-13**

Members considered the paper which had been circulated setting out a range of

projects and services which the Town Council would be expected, or might wish, to finance. The proposals had been made in the light of information provided to the Town Council by the County Council on the services which the Town Council would be expected to deliver from 2012 onwards.

**RESOLVED:**

- i The Town Council to accept responsibility for Spittal War Memorial, from April 2012, including insurance, and allocate £80 which County estimates will cover the costs of care, general repairs and maintenance including preparation for the annual Remembrance Service;**
- ii The County Council be asked to clarify ownership and management arrangements for the Tweedmouth and Berwick memorials, for re-consideration for 2012-13;**
- iii The Town Council to accept responsibility for public seats currently in the care of the County Council from 1 April 2012, subject to any broken seats either being repaired or removed, in discussion with the Town Council;**
- iv £20000 to be allocated to the identification, renovation of seats and purchase of new seats where replacing existing and/or in a strategic location;**
- v Memorial seats to be wholly financed by the sponsor (purchase and maintenance agreement to be discussed);**
- vi The Town Council to accept responsibility for the purchase of new litter bins from 1 April 2012;**
- vii To budget for 12 new bins in 2012-13, giving priority to siting these where there are dog bins but no nearby general waste bins, with a view to phasing out dog bins;**
- viii The Town Council to accept responsibility for the 16 bus shelters which are not subject to a contractual agreement with Clearchannel, subject to their being structurally sound;**
- ix A sum of £2000 be allocated to cover insurance and general maintenance during 2012-13;**
- x The County Council to undertake routine care on a re-charge basis, this to be re-evaluated after one year;**

- xi The Finance and Resources Committee to consider the contract with Clearchannel and take a view on whether it should be assigned to the Town Council;**
- xii The Town Council to budget £4500 for three additional grass cuts, subject to confirmation that these monies are being used only for publicly owned areas;**
- xiii The Town Council to budget £30000 for environmental projects, which will include annual bedding provided by the County Council in locations to be agreed;**
- xiv The Town Council to advise the County Council that it will not take on responsibility for play areas other than Spittal Splash Park and Highcliffe Play Area;**
- xv The Town Council to fund any additional bins where possible in the current financial year, and allocate £1000 for 2012-13 for additional bins required thereafter;**
- xvi The Town Council to allocate a provisional £10000 to tourism marketing for 2012-13;**
- xvii The Town Council to hold £10000 available to contribute to improvements to the New Road;**
- xviii The Town Council to provide £10000 within the budget to purchase new festive lights;**
- xix The Council to budget £5000 for the Berwick Environmental Enhancement Scheme.**

**ER061/11 11. APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

None had been received.

**ER062/11 12. APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES**

No invitations had been received.

**ER063/11 13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting would be held on Monday, 16 January 2012 at 6.45 pm in the Ante-Room, Town Hall.