

BERWICK-UPON-TWEED TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Town Council Environment and Regeneration Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 8 September 2009 at 6.00 pm at The Town Hall, Marygate, Berwick-upon-Tweed

PRESENT:

Councillors: J Robertson (Chairman)
C Routledge
J Waterhouse

IN ATTENDANCE:

S Finch, Town Clerk
One member of the public

ER016/09 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillor McNeely.

ER017/09 2. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 2 June 2009 were agreed and signed as a correct record.

ER018/09 3. STATEMENTS BY THE PUBLIC

There were no statements by the public present.

ER019/09 4. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There were no disclosures of interest.

[NOTE: The application for assistance from Berwick Environmental Group was deferred, in which Councillor Routledge might otherwise have required to declare an interest].

ER020/09 5. BERWICK'S FUTURE

Members of the Council discussed the proposed changes in governance arrangements for Berwick's Future at an informal meeting on 24 August 2009; a summary of the points discussed had been circulated in advance of this meeting.

Concern was expressed that the discussions and debate around Berwick's Future

were not being widely disseminated, and it was felt the whole issue should be more open.

RESOLVED:

- (i) The Town Council should ensure it is strongly represented on all groups and at all levels;**
- (ii) The Council should be represented by the following:**

Cllr Douglas (Executive)

Cllr Simpson (Quayside design competition/development brief project group)

Cllr Robertson (Traffic Management/Buchanan project group)

Cllr Hill (Cultural Offer project group)

Cllr McNeely (Townscape Heritage Initiative project group)

Cllr Bowlas (Eastern Lane Car Park project group and The Barracks project group)

Cllr Douglas (Berwick Arc Area Action Plan)

Cllr Herdman (Communications project group)

Cllr Robertson (Public Realm Strategy Group);

- (iii) There should be three Town Council representatives on the Consultative Board, to ensure the interests of each of Berwick, Tweedmouth and Spittal were fully acknowledged.**

It was noted that Cllr Bowlas already sat on the 'arms length groups' looking at a Berwick Skills Centre and the Berwick HE project.

Members noted that Councillor Smith had said he was not able to represent the Town Council on the Market Town Welcome Group; invitations for nominations would be put to the next Council meeting on 21 September.

It was suggested that if a councillor was not able to attend a meeting of his/her nominated project group, every effort should be made to ensure either another councillor or the Town Clerk should be present.

ER021/09

6. LOCAL HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT ISSUES

Members considered the suggested response to the County Council Car Parking Strategy.

RESOLVED: To return the questionnaire emphasising that the Council believed the County Council should investigate the viability of providing two hours' free parking per day for local people; and the scheme in place in Tyneside of charging per minute.

Members also considered the letter which had been sent by the Chief Executive of The Maltings to Councillor Robertson, expressing the view that it was important to re-design and retain optimum car parking capacity within the Eastern Lane/Maltings Car Park

RESOLVED: The Council to endorse the view that the Eastern Lane/Maltings Car Park should be retained as a car parking facility first and foremost, and that discussions should be initiated with Northumberland County Council to that end, including an in principle proposal that the Town Council would consider offering practical assistance if this would enable re-design and re-development to move forward.

The Town Clerk would forward this view to the Regeneration Manager, and to all members of the Berwick's Future Steering Group.

ER022/09

7. APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

RESOLVED: That grants be made as follows:

West End Residents Association

£400 towards the costs of improvements to various streets in West End.

Cittaslow Berwick in Bloom

£450 towards the purchase of shrubs for the railway station complex.

Members considered the outline proposal which had been submitted by Councillor Routledge on behalf of Berwick Environmental Group, and agreed this should be deferred to the next Environment and Regeneration Committee meeting to enable

the Group to provide more information about its proposed project and the financial implications.

ER023/09

8. OUTSIDE BODIES

There had been no requests for representation on outside bodies other than those already considered under Item 5.

ER024/09

9. LOCAL COMMUNITY PLAN

The Chairman reported to members on the proposals to work with Berwick Community Trust to devise a questionnaire to be issued to a sample of residents in Berwick, Tweedmouth and Spittal, with the aim of identifying from the results what the community regarded as priorities, and thereby helping the Town Council to agree priorities for actions and funding. The exercise would also assist in identifying which County-led services residents regarded as a priority.

Three Councillors (Beresford, McNeely and Robertson) were involved in the design of the questionnaire and ensuring that it would provide the information which would meet the needs of the Town Council.

The Town Council was being asked to contribute in the region of £5000 to the cost of the research, and this request would need to be considered by the Council at its meeting on 21 September.

ER025/09

10. PROJECT PROPOSALS FOR 2010-11

Members discussed those projects which they considered should be submitted to the Finance and Resources Committee for inclusion in the budget for 2010-11.

RESOLVED: The following capital and revenue projects to be costed (and legal implications to be investigated as appropriate) in advance of the next meeting to allow further discussion on which should be put forward for inclusion in the budget.

- **Community Greenhouse**
- **Environmental Improvements – New Road/Tommy the Millers**
- **Grant support for spiking rooflines/chimneys**
- **Playparks**

- **Gutter clean for the Town Council**
- **Dog-fouling enforcement**
- **Mitchell Memorial Hall**
- **Public toilets at Tweedmouth**
- **Additional floral displays within the town area**
- **Seating and picnic tables in Dock Road**
- **Environmental improvements to the footpath from Upper to Lower Spittal**

Improved and more welcoming facilities for pedestrians and cyclists entering Spittal from the south on the coast path.

ER026/09

11.DATE OF NEXT MEETING

10 November 2009 at 6 pm in the Ante Room, the Town Hall, Marygate, Berwick-upon-Tweed