

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

**Minutes of the Town Council Environment and Regeneration Committee Meeting held on Monday, 8 November 2010 at 6.30 pm at The Town Hall, Marygate, Berwick-upon-Tweed**

### **PRESENT:**

Councillors: J Robertson In the Chair  
A Bowlas  
I Dixon  
M McNeely  
C Routledge  
F Simpson  
J Waterhouse

### **IN ATTENDANCE:**

S Finch, Town Clerk  
One member of the public

#### **ER027/10 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies for absence.

#### **ER028/10 2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on 6 September 2010 were agreed and signed as a correct record.

#### **ER029/10 3. STATEMENTS BY THE PUBLIC**

No matters were raised by members of the public.

#### **ER030/10 4. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**

There were no disclosures of interest.

#### **ER031/10 5. APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

Members considered the application for assistance towards maintenance work on the Tweedmouth War Memorial, submitted by West End Residents Association. It was noted that two estimates had been obtained and one quotation, and that it was not clear what the VAT position was for the estimates.

**RESOLVED: To support the project to restore the railings at Tweedmouth War Memorial, but to clarify the most cost-effective way for the work to be carried out.**

**ER032/10**

## **6. THE NEW ROAD**

Members noted that at the follow-up public meeting held on 20 September, Terry Garnick of Northumberland County Council had confirmed that work to clear overgrown vegetation would start at the beginning of November. The work had been discussed with Berwick Wildlife Trust.

Members welcomed this example of a community partnership project, and noted that once the preliminary clearance had taken place, it would be necessary to assess what further work needed doing to the path surface, adjoining walls and public seating and for the Town Council to consider how this could be taken forward.

**ER033/10**

## **7. BERWICK IN BLOOM**

Members received a report on the proposals, agreed at the previous meeting, to work in collaboration with the community groups comprising Berwick in Bloom, and Northumberland County Council, to re-plant and generally improve beds and planting schemes throughout the Town Council area. A priority was to empty and re-stock existing rose beds which were past their prime, and the first would be the bed in front of the Castlegate War Memorial.

The project would be funded from the reserve which had been agreed should be set aside for environmental enhancements, and a procedure for administering the work, most of which would be undertaken by the County's NEAT team, would be proposed for agreement by the County and Town Councils.

**ER034/10**

## **8. BERWICK PARKS PROJECT**

Members were advised that the project to restore and enhance Castle Vale and Coronation Parks, which had been included in the environmental enhancements which members had agreed to support, was now developing into a major project

with a possible capital cost of over one million pounds. This was another partnership project, led by the local community groups, the Town Council and the County Council. An application was to be submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund. In order to meet the timescale of the Fund, delegated authority had been sought and agreed for the Council to contribute 50% of the cost, at £4500, of the consultants to which it had been agreed to award the preparatory work. It was expected that it could be eighteen months before the project would get underway if the application was successful.

Members agreed that Tommy the Miller's field merited attention as the 'missing link' in the enhancements that were taking place and planned for the New Road and Castle Vale and Coronation Parks.

**ER035/10**

### **9. BERWICK'S FUTURE – PUBLIC REALM**

The Chair, as a member of the Berwick's Future – Public Realm Group, reported that the report of the Public Realm Group was scheduled to go out for consultation in mid-December. The final report was to include a detailed audit of the items required to deliver the proposed improvements in the public realm, and this would provide the Town Council with a valuable resource around which future improvements in the Town Council area could be discussed and agreed.

**ER036/10**

### **10. BUDGET FOR 2011-12**

The Clerk advised members that in accordance with Standing Order 56 (2) the committee was invited to discuss and agree budget provision for 2011-12. In the current year the budget provision had been £30000.

It was noted that reserves had now been agreed for each of: capital projects (£50000), play areas (£50000), and for environmental enhancement schemes being delivered in partnership with the County Council and community groups (£30000). It was also noted that the Council was committed to meeting the running and, after its second year, the maintenance costs of the proposed Spittal Splash Park; these costs were to be met from the play areas reserve.

Members considered the Committee should continue to make provision for small projects for which application should be made through the Berwick Environmental Enhancement Scheme (BEES); and that there should be a larger figure to enable the Council to be responsive to other opportunities for environmental improvements such as those which might arise from the Public Realm Group.

**RESOLVED: To maintain the Environment and Regeneration Committee budget at £30000 for the 2011-12 financial year, £5000 of which should be disbursed through the BEES scheme in response to applications from local community groups, and £25000 of which should be for Council initiated environmental improvement schemes.**

**ER037/10**

**11. APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES**

There had been no requests from outside bodies for Town Council representation.

**ER038/10**

**12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting would be on Monday 10 January 2011 at 6.30pm in the Ante Room, the Town Hall, Marygate, Berwick-upon-Tweed.