

BERWICK-UPON-TWEED TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Town Council Environment and Regeneration Committee Meeting held on Monday, 09 September 2013 at 6.00 pm at The Town Hall, Marygate, Berwick-upon-Tweed

PRESENT:

Councillors: J Robertson (Chairman)
I Dixon
P Elliott
A Gibson
G Hill
G Roughead
F Simpson
J Stephenson
A Turnbull

IN ATTENDANCE:

S Finch, Town Clerk
S Cozens, Assistant to the Clerk
Kate Morison, Berwick Parks Project Rejuvenation Officer
1 member of the public

ER038/12 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been accepted from: Councillor G Jones (personal) and I Hunter (NCC Meeting).

ER039/13 2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 July 2013 were agreed and signed as a correct record.

ER040/13 3. STATEMENTS BY THE PUBLIC

There were no statements by members of the public present.

ER041/13 4. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Councillor A Gibson declared a personal interest in Item 8 (Litter Bins) and Item 12 (Play Review).

ER042/13 **5. REQUEST FOR DISPENSATION**

There were no requests for dispensation.

ER043/13 **6. BERWICK PARKS PROJECT**

The Chair welcomed Kate Morison to the meeting who gave a verbal update on the Berwick Parks Project. Kate had been in post since the end of June and was looking after the parks and keeping them tidy until the contractors moved in. A meeting would take place at Northumberland County Council on Tuesday, 10 September 2013 to appoint contractors who should start work later in the month. A Volunteer Drop-In Event would be held on Tuesday, 17 September 2013 between 1pm and 3.30pm at the Berwick Volunteer Centre.

ER044/13 **7. LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN**

The Council had been requested by the County Council to submit its three top priorities for the 2014-15 Local Transport Plan Programme.

RESOLVED: The three priorities for the 2014-2015 Local Transport Programme were to be (i) additional parking at Berwick Railway Station; (ii) coach parking; and (iii) parking in Marygate

ER045/13 **8. LITTER BINS**

Requests had been received for 6 litter bins for Spittal beach, 2 litter bins in Prior park and 3 litter bins in the Three Fields area. There was also a request to remove 10 dog waste bins on the Walls and replace them with 10 free standing litter bins. However, it was felt that the views of English Heritage should be sought before this proposal was moved forward.

The County Council's NEAT team had been consulted on the suitability of the proposed sites for the litter bins, and in their response they asked that if the bins were not used they could be removed.

Additionally, a request had been made to meet the on-going cost of re-filling a grit bin at Prior View if initial costs were met by County Councillor Hunter. NCC had been approached to see if the location met their points-based criteria for a grit bin, before considering whether the Town Council should meet re-fill costs.

RESOLVED: To agree to the requests for 6 litter bins on Spittal beach if

required; 2 litter bins in Prior Park and 2 litter bins in the Three Fields area. Additionally 1 litter bin in the Three Fields area would be re-located.

ER046/13

9. COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

Northumberland County Council had an action plan in place for emergency situations such as flooding and other issues. However, NCC felt there could be situations where a local response would be of more direct benefit and could include helping residents until the emergency services arrived. The Town Council had been invited to be involved in preparing a local plan or Community Agreement. An NCC officer would support the Town Council in its preparation.

RESOLVED: A sub-group comprising Councillors I Dixon, P Elliott, A Gibson, J Robertson, G Roughead, F Simpson and A Turnbull to work with NCC towards the Community Agreement.

ER047/13

10. POSITION STATEMENT ON GULLS

A proposal had been put forward by Councillor G Jones that the Town Council have a position statement on seagulls. The suggestion was made and agreed that this could be part of an overall statement by the Policy Group. The issues of people feeding seagulls and dropping litter were identified as major parts of the problem. Ideas for solutions included greater enforcement of litter and novelty bins to encourage people to use the bins and not to drop litter.

ER048/13

11. TOURISM FORUM

The committee noted the report by Sue Finch regarding the Tourism Forum and agreed the following:

RESOLVED: The Town Council to apply for and fund the necessary planning permissions for the improved signage at Berwick Railway Station, the costs of which would be met by Portas monies; and the Town Council to take a full-page advertisement in the Northumberland Holiday Guide for 2014 at a cost of up to £1600.

ER049/13

12. PLAY REVIEW

The meeting noted the report 'Play Review and Proposals'. The Clerk reported that NCC had no duty to provide play areas and had stated that as equipment became unusable it would be removed and not replaced.

RESOLVED: The Town Council to agree in principle to take responsibility

from 1 April 2014 for those play areas currently in the ownership and management of Northumberland County Council; this recommendation to be put to the full Council for further discussion.

ER050/13

13. HOPPA BUS

The Clerk reported on a meeting held earlier in the day which included members of ADAPT, NCC, local traders, Resident Association members and representatives of the Town Council. The route, times and days of the week of the Hoppa Bus Service had been discussed. Proposed changes would now be put to the Traffic Commissioners, an application process which took 56 days.

ER051/13

14. BUDGET PROCESS

The budget for 2014-2015 would be worked on over the next few weeks, and as the next meeting of the Environment and Regeneration Committee was not until November, some indicative figures were required on the Committee's budget requirements.

RESOLVED: Councillors J Robertson, F Simpson, J Stephenson, P Elliott, A Turnbull, A Gibson and G Roughead to meet at 2pm on 17 October 2013 at the Town Council office to discuss spending plans by the Environment and Regeneration Committees for 2014-15.

ER052/13

15. APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

There were no applications for financial assistance.

ER053/13

16. APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

No invitations had been received.

ER054/13

17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be held on Monday 11 November 2013 at 6.00pm.