

BERWICK-UPON-TWEED TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Town Council Environment and Regeneration Committee Meeting held on Monday, 12 September 2011 at 6.45 pm at The Town Hall, Marygate, Berwick-upon-Tweed

PRESENT:

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

S Finch, Town Clerk

Two members of the public

ER033/11

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

ER034/11

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 4 July 2011 were agreed and signed as a correct record.

ER035/11

3. STATEMENTS BY THE PUBLIC

There were no statements by the public.

ER036/11

4. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

There were no disclosures of interest.

ER037/11

5. BUS SHELTERS AND STOPS

Members considered the paper which had been circulated.

RESOLVED: (i) The Town Council to accept and be responsible for the maintenance, repair, cleaning (from the expiry of the current contract in 2015) and associated costs of a replacement bus shelter in Golden Square. This would not at this stage commit the Council to taking responsibility for other bus shelters within Berwick-upon-Tweed. (ii) The Town Council to express provisional support for the location at Morrisons of the unallocated bus shelter

from Golden Square; (iii) The Town Council to confirm a request to the County Council for seats to be provided in bus shelters at four locations, three in Spittal Hall Road and one at Braeside funds permitting; and (iv) The Town Council to agree to the proposed bus stops in the Newfields area; and also the bus stop clearway markings at Braeside.

ER038/11

6. COACH PARKING

Members considered a proposal to work jointly with the County Council to purchase land off Chapel Street and develop an all-day coach park.

Whilst the majority of members were in agreement with the principle of town centre coach parking, there were concerns about the possible loss of car parking spaces in Chapel Street if this particular site was developed. As the Town Council would be expected to contribute to the project there were also queries about the value of, or returns from, the project.

Councillors Dixon, Robertson, Routledge, Simpson and Waterhouse agreed to consider the issue in a sub-group, and report to the next meeting.

ER039/11

7. LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN PROGRAMME 2012-13

The Council had been requested by the County Council to submit its three top priorities for the 2012-13 Local Transport Plan Programme. It was noted that the lighting in Dean Drive was to be funded from Councillor Hunter's grants allocation.

RESOLVED: The three priorities for the 2012-13 Local Transport Programme were to be (i) a pedestrian crossing in Marygate; (ii) additional parking at Berwick Railway Station; and (iii) Grasscrete at Tweedmouth Clinic, Shielfield Terrace.

The County Council would also be asked to add a pedestrian crossing in North Road to the list of requests for transport related schemes.

ER040/11

8. ITEMS RAISED BY RESIDENTS

(i) Stocks outside Town Hall

It was agreed that the deteriorating replica stocks outside the Town Hall should be renovated and moved, and a suggested site was inside the

Butter Market; the Clerk would seek the views of the Freemen on the proposed location.

(ii) Network Rail land at Billendean Road

Network Rail had responded to a complaint about the state of the land under the arches at Billendean Road, advising that it was redundant and could be made available under licence for clearing by others. Members agreed that if a community group were prepared to undertake this work grants from the Town Council could be applied for.

(iii) Double Yellow Lines beyond Cow Port

Congestion being caused by vehicles parking beyond Cow Port had been raised, with a suggestion that double yellow lines should be put in place. Members said they believed yellow lines had previously been in this location. The Clerk would contact the County Council to establish the current situation.

ER041/11

9. CASTLEGATE SHOPS

The proposal to introduce '30 Minutes Limited Waiting' parking bays on the south side of Castlegate opposite the entry to Scotts Place was considered.

Some concerns were expressed that the proposal could result in restrictions for ambulance access into Scotts Place; but the majority view was that the proposal should be supported.

RESOLVED: The Council to support the proposal for 30 Minutes Limited Waiting Parking Bays on the south side of Castlegate opposite entry to Scotts Place.

ER042/11

10. PLAY HOUSE SITE

Members were advised that whilst proposals to develop the former Playhouse site were now active, the expected time before any development takes place would allow a temporary up-grading of the site to make it more appealing visually.

RESOLVED: The Town Council to express interest in a temporary enhancement of the former Playhouse site, via the owner's agent; and if agreement is given, to obtain costings for a re-surfacing of the site and the placing of benches and

planters as mobile features which could be re-located to other sites as appropriate.

ER043/11

11. TOWN SIGNPOSTING AND VISITOR INFORMATION

(i) The Chair introduced the proposal for 'monoliths', a recommendation of the Public Realm Strategy to provide visitor information within Berwick, Spittal and Tweedmouth; a full-size model had been provided for the meeting. The cost was estimated at £3 – 4,000 for each monolith. Members supported the proposal and agreed it should be investigated further.

(ii) It was noted that the meeting of the North Northumberland Tourism Association, Chamber of Trade and Town Council had not yet taken place but should be arranged for October.

ER044/11

12. ANNUAL MEETING FOLLOW-UP

A report was provided of the meeting held on 27 July to refine the information which had been collected at the annual meeting on 19 April.

The Chair advised that those actions which were the responsibility of other agencies would be brought to their attention. Some of the other actions were already in hand and the Town Council was progressing them. The remainder would be considered and prioritised for the Council to build into its budget planning for 2012-13.

ER045/11

13. ALLOTMENTS

Members considered the two options which had so far been identified as offering potential new allotment sites.

It was agreed that the costs and obligations involved in reviving former allotments at Osborne Road, on Network Rail land, were not viable and these would not be pursued.

There was agreement that the site of the former allotments at Five Arches Recreation Ground should be investigated, as part of a wider project including the play area.

It was noted that notice has been received that one allotment behind Blakewell Gardens is to be vacated.

ER046/11 14. SUMMARY REPORTS ON ENVIRONMENT AND REGENERATION PROJECTS

The report which had been circulated was noted.

ER047/11 15. BUDGET PREPARATION 2012-13

Councillors Bowlas, Robertson, Routledge, Simpson and Waterhouse agreed to meet to discuss a proposed budget for the Environment and Regeneration Committee for 2012-13, for discussion by the Committee at its next meeting on 7 November.

ER048/11 16. APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

RESOLVED: The Town Council to make a grants as follows: (i) £200 to the Highlights Rural Touring Scheme; and (ii) £30 to Cittaslow Berwick to refund the costs of the Berwick in Bloom Portfolio.

Members agreed that when considering a budget for 2012-13, a separate budget for Berwick in Bloom should be proposed.

ER049/11 17. APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

No invitations had been received.

ER050/11 18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be held on Monday, 7 November 2011 at 6.45 pm in the Ante Room of the Town Hall.