

BERWICK-UPON-TWEED TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Town Council Environment and Regeneration Committee Meeting held on Monday, 13 June 2016 at 6.00 pm at The Town Hall, Marygate, Berwick-upon-Tweed

PRESENT:

Councillors:	I Dixon	(In the Chair for Open Session and Item 1)
	G Mclean	(In the Chair for Item 2 onwards)
	H Bettison	
	D Blackburn	
	A Forbes	
	A Gibson	
	E Goodyer	
	K Graham	
	G Hill	
	G Roughead	
	G Smith	

IN ATTENDANCE:

W Pattison, Town Clerk
3 members of the public

Cllr Dixon opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

OPEN SESSION

No questions from the public

ER001/16 1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Cllr Gibson proposed Cllr Dixon as the Chairman for the very last meeting of Environment Committee before the new committee structure comes into place. Cllr Dixon advised Committee as he had to leave early he would have to decline the proposal. Cllr Dixon then proposed Cllr Mclean as the Chairman and this was

seconded by Cllr Bettison and agreed by all.

ER002/16

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were accepted from: Councillor J Lang (personal), Cllr Seymour and Cllr Hodgson.

ER003/16

3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 29 February 2016 were agreed by all and signed as a correct record.

ER004/16

4. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Item 6 and 7 Cllr Goodyer due to work interests, Cllr Mclean item 6 (Member of Parks Committee) and Cllr Graham, Cllr Forbes and Cllr Bettison personal interests re item 6.

ER005/16

5. REQUEST FOR DISPENSATION

Cllr Graham and Blackburn re allotments – Item 10.

ER006/16

6. FESTIVE TREES AND LIGHTING

Cllr Hill thought last year's Christmas lights were disappointing. Discussion then ensued on whether to keep the small xmas trees which attach to the walls around the town with white lights attached as in previous years and buy new LED lights for them as many require replacement, or, decide on new fixed xmas wall light fittings which would be permanent and would not need ordering every year and may be a cheaper option. Councillors were generally in favour of buying new fixed lights, but, it was felt a firm decision on this could not be made at Environment Committee and should be given further consideration at full Council. All of the larger xmas trees placed at the Guildhall, Tweedmouth and some Council wards would still be retained. It was also considered that advice should be obtained from electrician Mr Steven Monks on how many fixed light fittings would be required for the town centre and the likely purchase cost would need to be ascertained. Cllr Goodyer thought the maintenance and installation costs should be looked at and put out for tender for next year. Cllr Hill agreed and also thought a small working group should meet to discuss the lights and d work to formulate specific proposals to go on to full council agenda. The Clerk will arrange a meeting to include Mr Steven Monks, electrician. Cllr Bettison also thought Spittal needed new xmas lights and a discussion ensued on whether new

xmas fittings should be purchased for Spittal and Tweedmouth. The Clerk will gain estimates for new fixed light fittings for all areas. The decision to ask a celebrity to open the xmas lights this year was not properly discussed although Cllr Bettison thought it would be expensive.

RESOLVED: The Clerk will gain estimates for fixed Christmas Light Fittings and arrange a meeting with electrician Mr Steven Monks. Cllr Goodyer left the meeting.

ER007/16

7. STREET LIGHTING

All street lamps will be changed over to LED in June 2017. NCC have requested whether Berwick Town Council would require any decorative street lamps and extra lighting pillars for xmas lights etc. Cllr Gibson thought 8 Victorian street lamps should be purchased for the Old Bridge, 1 for the Quayside and 1 at the Bridge Street Car Park making 10 lamps in all at a cost of £2k each. Cllr Bettison also thought Victorian street lamps should be installed in Spittal and 11 lighting pillars were also requested for Spittal at £350 each. Cllr Hill thought costs upwards of £40k required due diligence and considerable thought. Cllr Forbes mentioned the Council's need for a three year financial plan which the Clerk advised was already being looked at and that a Victorian street lamp was already in place in Shoe Lane and would need to be retained and also mentioned free Wi Fi for the town centre which the Clerk is also looking into. Cllr Blackburn thought decorative street lamps should be installed everywhere within the town walls to make the town more appealing to visitors and tourists.

RESOLVED: To discuss again re budget setting and 3 year financial plan.

ER008/16

8. NOTICE BOARDS – CASTLE VALE AND CORONATION PARKS / HIGHCLIFFE

Cllr Dixon left the meeting.

- a) A request for the Town Council to purchase 2 notice boards for Castlevale and Coronation Park was proposed. Cllr Mclean advised Councillors that notices were currently attached to gate posts and this was not ideal. Councillors agreed unanimously to buy new notice boards with Cllr Hill advising it needed proper approval at Finance Committee/Council. Cllr Blackburn also advised of a notice board which was located at Low Greens

and was in poor condition but was unsure whether it was actually a BTC notice board.

- b) The two notice boards located on Highcliffe have been vandalised and are no longer used by the community. Councillors agreed unanimously to remove both of the notice boards and the stands.

RESOLVED: To purchase 2 notice boards for Castlevale and Coronation Park and to remove the vandalised notice boards and stands at Highcliffe
Cllr Graham left the meeting.

ER009/16

9. DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD SCHEME

Cllr Blackburn proposed/requested Council agreement to invite Duke of Edinburgh students to undertake works in the town starting later this year and working in conjunction with the YHA Manager, Mr Sion Gates. Mr Gates will undertake full responsibility for all D of E students and Cllr Blackburn requested that the Council provided all materials for the work undertaken by the students. Cllr Forbes seconded this proposal and this was agreed unanimously by all present.

RESOLVED: To buy materials for D of E students to enable them to undertake work in the Town later this year.

ER010/16

10. REQUEST FOR ALLOTMENT LAND

There are currently 30 people waiting for an allotment and a proposal was made to formally request extra land from NCC at Five Arches and at Newfields in order to keep up with demand. Councillors felt this was not something which should be undertaken at this moment in time due to lack of staff resources and the current ongoing difficulties with the Lions Allotments. Cllr Forbes thought all the land from Morrisons down to the Railway Line had been given village green status and was not suitable for acquisition.

RESOLVED: To revisit once the current allotment difficulties have been dealt with.

ER011/16

11. NORTHUMBRIA WATER

The Clerk advised Councillors that a charge of £113 was payable to Northumbrian Water for investigation into why there is no water currently available at the Five Arches allotments. A charge will also be required to install

water meters at both Blakewell Gardens and Five Arches due to the recent large increase in current water rates.

ER012/16

12. WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY JUNE 5TH 2017

The Clerk advised Councillors that the project would involve the community and promote the Environment and would include many exciting initiatives, including, provision of water butts, cycling safety advice for children, compost provision, kerbside collections and many other environmental projects. Councillor Bettison thought the Police would assist re cycle safety and the Clerk advised that NCC would also need to be fully involved. Councillors agreed that the project could be taken forward to June 2017 with input and assistance from Cllr Seymour and also from the BTC Town Clerk.

RESOLVED: To initiate and celebrate World Environment day on June 5th 2017.

ER013/16

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

No further meetings of the Environment and Regeneration Committee due to the new committee structure. The business of the Environment and Regeneration Committee will be dealt with by full Council.