

BERWICK-UPON-TWEED TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Town Council Environment and Regeneration Committee Meeting held on Monday, 14 January 2013 at 6.00 pm at The Town Hall, Marygate, Berwick-upon-Tweed

PRESENT:

Councillors: J Robertson (Chair)
A Bowlas
I Dixon
B Douglas
A Reid
C Routledge
F Simpson
J Smith (from Item 7 onwards)
J Waterhouse

IN ATTENDANCE:

S Finch, Town Clerk
S Cozens, Assistant to the Clerk
2 members of the public

ER061/12 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been accepted from: Councillor I Hunter (alternative meeting).

ER062/12 2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 November 2012 were agreed and signed as a correct record.

ER063/12 3. STATEMENTS BY THE PUBLIC

A local resident stated to the committee that, having seen several proposals for parking in Marygate, he felt that any potential pedestrian crossing should not be placed near the roundabout with Golden Square as this would add to congestion already in the area. The Chair said that this subject was an agenda item for this meeting.

ER064/12

4. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Councillor I Dixon declared a personal interest in Item 6 (Spittal Splash Park);
Councillor B Douglas declared a personal interest in Item 12 (Marygate Parking);
Councillor J Robertson declared a personal interest in Item 12 (Marygate Parking);
Councillor J Waterhouse declared a personal interest in Item 12 (Marygate Parking).

ER065/12

5. REQUEST FOR DISPENSATION

There were no requests for dispensation.

ER066/12

6. SPITTAL SPLASH PARK

The Clerk advised that the Project Administrator was working on the additions to the Operations and Maintenance manual for the Splash Park, which would be an integral part of the Service Level Agreement; also the Town Council would cover the costs of any remaining decommissioning work this winter. The Town Council was still waiting for the Service Level Agreement from Northumberland County Council (NCC); once agreed the transfer would be completed.

ER067/12

7. BANK HILL TOILET

The proposal was put forward that the Town Council take on the former toilet building on Bank Hill, for use as storage/meeting space for staff/volunteers involved with the Berwick Parks Project. NCC would be asked to transfer it at nil cost.

An estimate of £5,200 has been provided for repairs and decoration to the fabric of the building. There may be further costs needed internally if a toilet facility were to be re-instated.

RESOLVED: To commence investigations into the transfer of the former Bank Hill toilet building from NCC to the Town Council.

ER068/12

8. CORE STRATEGY PREFERRED OPTIONS

It had been expected that an extra meeting would be required to discuss the Core Strategy Preferred Options. As it was now understood that the consultation period would not end until 20 March 2013, this would be placed as an agenda Item at the next meeting of the Environment and Regeneration Committee.

ER069/12

9. TOURISM SUB-GROUP

The proposal was made that a Tourism Sub-Group be formed which would include a Councillor but would also contain people involved within the industry.

This would be useful as there were several programmes emerging in relation to tourism including the new VisitBerwick website and plans to develop Berwick as a 'hub' for walking/cycling, possibly in collaboration with the AONB. Also the Council was investing in marketing publications such as the Northumberland Holiday Guide, the Days Out Leaflet, and was about to work on a pre-visit leaflet. Suggested objectives of the Sub-Group would be to take a strategic view about tourism in Berwick, and make recommendations to the Environment and Regeneration Committee about expenditure on product development and marketing.

RESOLVED: (i) to form a Tourism Sub-Group; and (ii) that Councillor J Robertson would be the Council representative on the newly formed sub-group.

ER070/12

10. PUBLIC SEATS

The Clerk advised members that there continued to be a query over ownership of the public seats on the ramparts. If discussions between English Heritage and NCC conclude that NCC owns them then responsibility would presumably transfer to the Town Council. It was also noted that two seats at Fishers Fort were unsafe. English Heritage was arranging to have one or both removed, and they would be stored at the NCC depot until responsibility for them is resolved.

RESOLVED: (i) That the Town Council make a formal offer to English Heritage and NCC to take over responsibility for the seats on the ramparts; and (ii) if necessary, that the Town Council meet the cost of repair and re-siting of the two seats to Fishers Fort.

ER071/12

11. BERWICK PARKS PROJECT

The Clerk reported that following the success of the Heritage Lottery/Big Lottery bid, the first meeting of the steering group had been held. The Clerk would hold a copy of the time-table for the project and would highlight key stages in the process.

Members formally acknowledged the success of the HLF bid, which was a joint NCC/Town Council/CARA project. The process of recruiting a Parks Development Officer would now start. It was hoped that the project would be completed by July 2014

ER072/12

12. MARYGATE PARKING

The Chair reported that the NCC North Area Committee was to establish a small

working group to be chaired by Councillor Pat Scott. The working group would consider 4 or 5 options. A meeting was scheduled to be held later in January to discuss these options.

ER073/12 13. APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

None had been received.

ER074/12 14. APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

RESOLVED: Councillor A Bowlas represent the Town Council on the Marygate Working Group.

ER075/12 15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

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