

BERWICK-UPON-TWEED TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Town Council Environment and Regeneration Committee Meeting held on Monday, 15 September 2014 at 6.00 pm at The Town Hall, Marygate, Berwick-upon-Tweed

PRESENT:

Councillors: J Robertson (Chairman)
I Dixon (to Item 11 only)
A Gibson
G Hill
I Hunter
G Roughead
F Simpson

IN ATTENDANCE:

S Finch, Town Clerk

S Cozens, Assistant to the Clerk

15 members of the public

Members stood in silence as a mark of respect for Councillor John Stephenson, who had passed away on 13 September.

ER029/14 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been accepted from: Councillor A Turnbull (personal).

ER030/14 2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 July 2014 were agreed and signed as a correct record.

Members agreed to a request by Councillor G Hill that it be noted that original minutes of meetings may be amended; and that the Town Council had provided a £3,000 funding boost for the LS Lowry Exhibition in Berwick-upon-Tweed.

[NOTE: In accordance with Standing Orders, corrections to minutes shall continue to be made by resolution at the meeting at which they are considered.]

ER031/14 3. STATEMENTS BY THE PUBLIC

Members of the public including Councillor G Jones made statements and raised concerns on the potential use of the former Kwik Save site as offices, plans to make the former Youngman's site more attractive, the location of the Inner Wheel wheelbarrow, additional bike racks in the town, the need for a media strategy and regeneration documents that had previously been produced for the town.

ER032/14

4. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Councillor I Dixon declared a personal interest in Item 9 (Changes To Definitive Map);

Councillor A Gibson declared a personal interest in Item 7 (Proposals By Councillor A Gibson);

Councillor I Hunter declared a personal interest in Items 8 (Play Areas), 9 (Changes To Definitive Map) and 10 (Northumberland Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment);

Councillor J Robertson declared a personal interest in Item 9 (Changes To Definitive Map);

Councillor F Simpson declared a personal interest in Item 9 (Changes To Definitive Map).

ER033/14

5. REQUEST FOR DISPENSATION

There were no requests for dispensation.

ER034/14

6. WHEELBARROW

Members and a representative from the Berwick Inner Wheel discussed the potential location of, and responsibility for planting, maintenance and public liability insurance for the Inner Wheel wheelbarrow. Also discussed was the traffic management plan required to site the wheelbarrow and it was agreed that the relevant contacts at Northumberland County Council who could advise on this matter would be sought and provided to representatives of Berwick Inner Wheel.

RESOLVED: (i) That the Town Council be responsible for planting, maintaining and the public liability insurance for the Berwick Inner Wheel Wheelbarrow; and (ii) That a letter be sent to Berwick Inner Wheel confirming the Town Council's responsibility.

ER035/14

7. PROPOSALS BY COUNCILLOR A GIBSON

Members discussed the proposals by Councillor A Gibson that the Town Council hire/contract a gardener to look after shrub/flower beds and to place novelty bins

in play areas around the town.

RESOLVED: (i) Members agreed in principle with the idea of a gardener, however, enquiries should firstly be made with Northumberland County Council as to what level of standard they were providing to shrub/flower beds now and what would the cost be of raising that standard; and (ii) To purchase novelty bins.

ER036/14

8. PLAY AREAS

Arrangements to transfer play areas was discussed by Members.

RESOLVED: To work with Northumberland County Council to, in the first instance, transfer the eligible play areas to the Town Council under an Agency Agreement whilst working in parallel to transfer the play areas under freehold agreement.

ER037/14

9. CHANGES TO DEFINITIVE MAP

Members were of the opinion that the Berwick Ramblers should be contacted for their views on the changes to the definitive map and agreed that if the Ramblers were happy with the changes then the Town Council would have no objection.

ER038/14

10. NORTHUMBERLAND STRATEGIC HOUSING LAND AVAILABILITY ASSESSMENT

The Committee noted the consultation letter from Northumberland County Council on draft site assessments which have been prepared as part of the update to the Northumberland Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) and agreed with the two sites identified.

ER039/14

11. BERWICK BARRACKS

Members noted the verbal report from Councillor I Hunter on a recent meeting regarding the Barracks. The meeting discussed the potential to make the Barracks more accessible for a variety of uses and the possibility of the Parade Square hosting more events.

ER040/14

12. NEWFIELDS BUS SHELTER

Since revisions to the route in Newfields by Perryman's Buses the bus shelter that was located there was no longer on the side of the road that serves the town centre. Therefore residents had made enquires to Perryman's Buses to see if the bus shelter could be moved to the opposite side of the road that served the town centre.

RESOLVED: Members agreed in principle to fund the moving of the bus shelter to the opposite side of the road subject to any necessary consultations and there being no objections from the local community.

ER041/14

13. PORTAS MANAGEMENT GROUP UP-DATE

It had been expected that a report would be received from Northumberland County Council to provide an update on the Portas Management Group, however, this unfortunately was not received and a verbal update was provided. Gayle Skelly had been elected as Chair of the Group; Northumberland County Council would undertake the active role of responsible body and arrangements were being made to transfer the funds from ARCH to NCC. Funds had been paid to the Boat Trips and Lowry projects; the Station Signs project was expected to cost less than the allocated £7,000; a community event would be held on 9 October 2014 for interested businesses and community groups; there was approximately £130,000 left before the application for market stalls had been considered.

ER042/14

14. BUDGET PROCESS

Members noted the report provided on expenditure in the current financial year. The budget for 2015-2016 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 A Gibson, G Hill, I Hunter, J Robertson, G Roughead and F Simpson to meet at 6pm on Monday, 6 October 2014 at the Town Council office to discuss spending plans by the Environment and Regeneration Committees for 2015-16. The Chairman of the Finances and Resources Committee, to be elected on 22 September 2014 for the remainder of the Municipal Year, would be invited to join the meeting.

ER043/14

15. APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

No applications had been received

ER044/14

16. APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

There were no applications for financial assistance.

ER045/14

17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be held on Monday 10 November 2014 at 6.00pm.