

BERWICK-UPON-TWEED TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Town Council Environment and Regeneration Committee Meeting held on Monday, 16 January 2012 at 6.45 pm at The Town Hall, Marygate, Berwick-upon-Tweed

PRESENT:

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

S Finch, Town Clerk

S Cozens, Assistant to the Clerk

3 members of the public

ER064/11 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

ER065/11 2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 07 November 2011 were agreed and signed as a correct record.

ER066/11 3. STATEMENTS BY THE PUBLIC

A resident made objections to Chapel Street being used as a Coach Park. The Chair confirmed discussions were ongoing within the Steering Group and that no definite decision had been made.

ER067/11 4. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

There were no disclosures of interest.

ER068/11 5. CONSULTATION – NCC CORE STRATEGY SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL

RESOLVED: That the report be sent to all Councillors for comment. Responses will then be submitted accordingly.

ER069/11 6. PARKING PROPOSALS INCLUDING COACH PARKING

At a recently convened meeting which included Northumberland County Council, Councillor J Robertson and local residents the local parking strategy was discussed, including the forthcoming Civil Parking Enforcement. The report entitled 'Local

Parking Issues in Berwick' would be forwarded, on behalf of the County Council, to Town Councillors and local stakeholders to seek their views, which had to be submitted within a month.

Members also considered the issue of coach parking, and in particular the proposal for providing a coach park in Chapel Steet. The County Council's Corporate Director of Local Services had advised that the Town Council may wish to make the proposed park one of its three priorities in the Local Transport Plan, in which case one of the current priorities would need to be dropped.

RESOLVED: The proposed coach parking area in Chapel Street should replace the provision of grass-crete outside Tweedmouth Clinic as one of the three priorities nominated by the Town Council under the Local Transport Plan.

ER070/11

7. THE LIONS ALLOTMENTS

The Clerk had been approached by Berwick Preservation Trust with regard to taking on the Lions Allotments under lease to continue provision of allotments as under the current scheme.

RESOLVED: That a sub-committee be created under delegated powers to investigate this further and to discuss the proposal with the Chairman of the Lion Allotment Trust and representative of the Berwick Preservation Trust.

The Chairman suspended standing orders.

Mr Robert White, Chairman of the Lion Allotment Trust, said that the main concern of allotment holders was that the lease should ensure the land is not used for anything other than allotments.

The Chairman re-instated standing orders.

ER071/11

8. SUMMARY REPORTS ON ENVIRONMENT AND REGENERATION PROJECTS

(i) Play areas

Agreement was given to fund the provision of a strategy for play areas with a view to reconsidering responsibility for 2013 - 2014.

(ii) Spittal Splash Park

Construction completed in mid-December, commissioned and then immediately de-commissioned for the winter, with an expected formal

opening in May 2012. At present it remains a County asset, as form of transfer is still awaited from County, but the area is insured by the Town Council.

(iii) Highcliffe Play Area

Verbal commitment by the Town Council to provide a swing for older children adjacent to the skate park; quotations have been received both for the swing and for two items for smaller children for the Highcliffe site. Responsibility for the site remains to be clarified.

(iv) Berwick Parks Project

Detailed consideration had taken place of tenders received for the development phase of the HLF bid. It is expected that the contract will be awarded on 7 February.

(v) Berwick in Bloom

Discussions are being held with NEAT officers to discuss appropriate floral schemes for the Diamond Jubilee and the Olympic torch. Britain in Bloom has wild flower gardening as a theme for 2012; consideration will be given to identifying suitable areas which could be seeded.

(vi) Newfields

The Clerk now attends, as an observer, meetings of 'Team Three Fields', which is part of the Berwick Project; community engagement workshops are to be held on 19 and 20 January to identify the aspirations of residents. County is reviewing the structural safety of the changing rooms

(vii) Mitchell Memorial Hall

Utility information has now been provided to the council, and the consultant has been asked to proceed with a business plan to be completed by 31 March.

(viii) Signage

Four new 'Welcome to Berwick' signs have been ordered.

(ix) New Road

Drains in front of Conquerors Well have been sorted out; dead tree adjacent to Rowing Club felled; hard pruning under way; County requested to repair stone walls.

(x) Virtual shop-front

Cost for one virtual shop-front estimated at £1,300. The empty off-licence

was identified and 'Greengrocer' agreed for a virtual shop-front.

(xi) **Marketing of Berwick-upon-Tweed**

Full page advertisement taken in 2012 Northumberland Holiday Guide.

Agreed that a full panel to be taken in 2012 Days Out and Attractions leaflet (230,000 copies printed and distributed) at £1200, plus listing on map of non-commercial attractions in Berwick.

ER072/11 9. APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

None had been received.

ER073/11 10. APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

No invitations had been received.

ER074/11 11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be held on Monday, 05 March 2012 at 6.45 pm in the Ante-Room, Town Hall.