

## BERWICK-UPON-TWEED TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Town Council Environment and Regeneration Committee Meeting held on Monday, 16 November 2015 at 6.00 pm at The Town Hall, Marygate, Berwick-upon-Tweed**

### **PRESENT:**

|              |                 |            |
|--------------|-----------------|------------|
| Councillors: | I Dixon (Chair) | K Graham   |
|              | H Bettison      | P Hodgson  |
|              | D Blackburn     | G McLean   |
|              | A Forbes        | G Roughead |
|              | G Hill          | C Seymour  |
|              | E Goodyer       | G Smith    |
|              | A Gibson        |            |

### **IN ATTENDANCE:**

W Pattison, Town Clerk

8 members of the public

Cllr Dixon held a minutes silence for the many people killed in Paris at the weekend

### **OPEN SESSION**

Mrs Dodds thanked BTC for looking into the matter of the Degas Painting and advised as a B and B owner, several visitors were disappointed they could not see the painting on display. Mr Dodds advised that signage on the A1 had been an issue for 20 years. Mr Darling asked if items discussed at Planning Committee had been looked into, namely, Kwik Save and contacting Cllr Grant Davey.

#### **ER048/15 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence had been accepted from: Councillor Lang.

#### **ER049/15 2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

Councillor Roughead requested his name was added to the minutes. The minutes of the meeting held on 14 September 2015 were then agreed and signed as a correct record.

- ER050/15**      **3. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**  
Cllr Mclean item 12, Cllr Roughead Item 14d(i) and item 7, Cllr Hill Item 14d(ii) and item 7, Cllr Gibson item 7.
- ER051/15**      **4. REQUEST FOR DISPENSATION**  
There were no requests for dispensation.
- ER052/15**      **5. PLAY PARK TRANSFERS**  
The Freehold transfers of the play parks are still in progress and the Clerk advised Councillors that an invitation has been sent to NCC officers to come up to Berwick and discuss the next steps in regard to service level agreements.
- ER053/15**      **6. SIGNAGE ON THE A1**  
County Councillor Jim Smith has written to BTC to advise his concerns at present signage on the A1. All signage has to be approved by Highways England who are responsible for looking after the A1. Councillor Smith has offered some money towards this initiative for his small schemes budget and Cllr Goodyer thanked Cllr Smith on behalf of the Town Council. Councillors requested the Clerk write to Highways England and request the suggested signage. A suggestion was made for the Clerk to contact Anne Smith for more information.  
**RESOLVED: The Clerk will write to Highways England and request better signage.**
- ER054/15**      **7. TWEEDMOUTH WAR MEMORIAL**  
The Clerk has submitted a request for grant funding for repairs to the Tweedmouth War Memorial to the War Memorial Trust, which will cost between - £5k to £8k to repair. This application has been responded to by the Trust, who have now requested clearer photographs of the Tweedmouth War Memorial to be sent to them so that they can look carefully at the condition of the memorial. The Clerk requested Councillors/Members of the public to send in photos.  
**RESOLVED: Photos of the War Memorial to be sent to the Clerk.**
- ER055/15**      **8. TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE**  
Cllr Blackburn expressed his dismay at the re-location of the Tourism Office to the Library Building and advised he had spoken to Mr Paul Leo, NCC on this matter. Cllr Seymour also advised she had asked Mr Leo if they could delay doing anything for the time being. Cllr Bettison was very much against any change to

the current location. Cllr Goodyer and Blackburn requested the Clerk find out the financial situation re profit and loss and whether the TIC was making a profit. Cllr Hodgson also advised that the Clerk has asked Mr Leo if perhaps BTC were to give a donation towards the running costs, would they consider keeping it open?

**Standing Orders Suspended** – Ms Clare Dean advised the tourism office had been in many locations in the town and they had all failed. **Re-instate Standing Orders.** Cllr Hill thought this decision should be challenged and it was agreed the Clerk will write to NCC and request the TIC stays where it is.

**RESOLVED: The Clerk will write to NCC and request the TIC is kept open at its present location.**

**ER056/15**

### **9. DEGAS PAINTING**

Cllr Graham had concerns at the response/wording of the letter received from Mr Keith Merrin which advised that NCC were the owners of the Degas painting and which Cllr Graham advised was actually gifted to the Town of Berwick by Sir William Burrell. Councillor Seymour wanted to know what the value of the painting was along with other Councillors and also confirmation of ownership and what insurance was in place? **Suspend Standing orders** - Mr Dodds advised the painting had been kept on a stairwell for years and it had not taken any hurt and had also been sent abroad although its condition was described as delicate and which Mr Merrin advised needed to be kept in controlled conditions. Mr Dodds further advised the Main Burrell Collection in Scotland was currently closed and thought BTC could work with them. **Suspend Standing Orders** -Ms Clare Dean advised she had a friend who was a valuer and antiques expert and they would be willing to offer advice. **Re-instate Standing orders**

**RESOLVED: The Clerk will write again to Mr Merrin and try to ascertain value and insurance regarding the Degas painting and also query ownership.**

**ER057/15**

### **10. VICTORIAN FOUNTAIN, CASTLEGATE**

The Clerk advised Northumbrian Water has requested £108 to look into and to estimate the costs of re-connecting the Fountain and this payment has now been sent to them.

**ER058/15**

**11. CHRISTMAS ARTS AND CRAFTS CHARITY MARKET**

The Clerk advised as an initiative to showcase the pop up stalls to offer them free to the public on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> December with a prerequisite to ask for a small donation to the Mayor's Charity, RNLI. Berwick Rotary Club have also requested the pop up stalls for a Christmas Market on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> December and Councillors agreed to offer them free of charge to Rotary with a small donation to the Mayor's charity, but, any erection/cleaning charges must be paid for by Rotary.

**RESOLVED: To offer the pop up stalls free of charge on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> December and also free of charge to Berwick Rotary Club on Sunday, 13<sup>th</sup> December with donations to the Mayors Charity RNLI.**

**ER059/15**

**12. NEWFIELDS BUS SHELTER**

Cllr Mclean advised the bus route had changed at Newfields and residents were currently having to keep crossing the road to get onto the bus and this had left the bus shelter on the wrong side of the road. The bus shelter requires moving from one side of the road to the other and a request was made for BTC to write a letter of support to NCC for this work to be done.

**RESOLVED: To write a letter of support to NCC for the removal of the bus shelter from one side of the road to the other.**

**ER060/15**

**13. KWIK SAVE SITE**

Cllr Eric Goodyer proposed a motion that BTC reaffirms its views to NCC to delay the start of construction on the Kwik Save site as not in the best interests of the Town and to allow a period of constructive public consultation. This was proposed by Cllr Dixon and seconded by Cllr Hodgson and unanimously agreed by all.

**RESOLVED: The Clerk to write a letter to NCC asking for a delay in construction at the Kwik Save site.**

**ER061/15**

**14. APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

**Item (i) Berwick and District Youth Activity Group**

A request was made by Mr Rae Huntly and 2 other members from the Berwick and District Youth Activity Group for grant funding of £1, 542 to buy equipment to assist the Youth group/D of E centre. Mr Garland advised membership had gone up since January 2015 from 8 members to 15. Mr Mike Turnbull (Chairman)

advised of a 5 year plan and they were hoping to be registered charity by 2016. Cllr Hill asked the proportion of membership, ie Berwick, Tweedmouth and Spittal as to areas outwith the Town boundary and was advised 75%. Cllr Bettison thought it was a worthy project, promoted life skills and was vital for young people in the town. Cllr Hill advised there was not a lot left in the budget. Cllr Seymour thought to give £500 now and look at the rest of the grant later, Cllr Hill thought to give half the amount requested of £750. It was then proposed by Cllr Mclean and seconded by Cllr Bettison to award 1,542.00 and this would be looked at again at the next Finance committee and was approved by all with Cllrs Seymour and Hill abstaining.

#### **Item (ii) West End Residents Association**

A request was made for 1,310 to purchase tree guards, rocks and plants for an environment project. Unfortunately, due to illness no member of the association was present to discuss the project. Councillors thought as there were no quotes attached and there had been no attempt to raise money from elsewhere, they would defer a decision until the next meeting.

**RESOLVED: Item (i) Berwick and District Youth Activity Group - To award £1,542.00 but must be approved at Finance Committee- Item (ii) West End Residents Association –To be deferred to next Environment Meeting**

#### **BLOCKED PIPE UNDER SPITTAL WAR MEMORIAL**

**Councillor Dixon** requested an urgent item was discussed which were concerns regarding a blocked pipe located underneath the Spittal war memorial and which was currently flooding the area. Mr Bob Hodgson, NCC has concerns this water may freeze at the weekend and become a Health and Safety issue.

The cost to repair the pipe is approximately £1300 and Councillors thought that the land the war memorial is standing on was NCC land and should not be paid for by BTC. Cllr Seymour requested the conservation officer be informed of excavation work due the war memorial being listed.

**RESOLVED: To request Mr Hodgson ascertain who the land belongs to and fix the problem quickly and without BTC accepting any liability.**

ER062/15

**15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting would be held on Monday 18 January 2016 at 6.00pm.

**RESOLVED: To exclude the press and public during discussion of the following item, which included issues of a personal and confidential nature.**

ER063/15

**16. BERWICK TOWN CENTRE CCTV** – Cllr Blackburn thought the matter was not confidential and Cllr Hill thought it should have been explained to the public why it was a confidential item. Councillor Hodgson advised he and other Councillors had recently attended a demonstration of CCTV cameras by Cortech. A quote from another company had quoted £600 to look at the cameras already in situ and to see if they could be repaired. Funding towards the project has been offered by Pubwatch and also the Freeman Trustees. A total of approx. £15k has been quoted for a new system, which would have the ability for Police to log on, courtesy of a specific password and look at any incidents happening in the town. This is wire free network system with radio masts which transfer data from camera to camera.

Councillors thought another quote was needed and also the quote from Cortech needed to be considered. Councillors also thought the Police should advise which were the hot spots and where needed cameras most and Cllr Bettison was anxious the CCTV was installed quickly. Cllr Blackburn thought the Clerk should write to the police and gain answers and was advised that the Police Crime Commissioner was hopefully coming to Berwick at the end of January.

**RESOLVED: The Clerk to gain another quote for CCTV and discuss further at the finance meeting.**