

BERWICK-UPON-TWEED TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Town Council Environment and Regeneration Committee Meeting held on Monday, 23 May 2011 at 6.30 pm at The Town Hall, Marygate, Berwick-upon-Tweed

PRESENT:

Councillors: A Bowlas (In the Chair for Item 1)
 I Dixon
 M McNeely
 A Reid
 J Robertson (In the Chair for Item 2 onwards)
 C Routledge
 F Simpson

IN ATTENDANCE:

S Finch, Town Clerk

One member of the public.

ER001/11

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED: That Councillor J Robertson be appointed Chairman of the Environment and Regeneration Committee for the year 2011-12.

The Chairman took the Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

ER002/11

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

ER003/11

3. APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED: That Councillor C Routledge be appointed Vice Chairman of the Environment and Regeneration Committee for the year 2011-12.

ER004/11

4. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 7 March 2011 were agreed and signed as a correct record.

ER005/11

5. STATEMENTS BY THE PUBLIC

There were no statements by members of the public..

ER006/11

6. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

There were no disclosures of interest.

ER007/11

7. AMENDMENT TO MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: Councillor Waterhouse to be a member of the Environment and Regeneration Committee

ER008/11

8. PUBLIC SEATS

Members noted there was now a need to progress the matter of public seats, in particular the issue of memorial seats, both the management and maintenance of existing seats and provision of new seats.

It was agreed that before the next meeting the Clerk should:

- Identify and map all seats within the Town Council area
- Get confirmation from the County Council which they considered strategic (for which they would retain responsibility) and which local
- Seek agreement from Spittal and Tweedmouth about which style of bench they would prefer
- Try and secure details of those for whom benches have been provided
- Obtain costs of benches, installation and average maintenance
- Report to the July meeting.

ER009/11

9. PLAY AREAS

The Clerk advised that the new play areas at Newfields and Highcliffe were due to be installed shortly.

Extracts from the former Berwick Borough Council Play Strategy had been circulated, including an audit of the value and life expectancy of existing play areas. Members reviewed this list and suggested an additional new site for consideration could be on land between Eildon View and Roberts Lodge.

RESOLVED: (i) The Council to arrange a survey of existing sites (Springdale, Five Arches, Flagstaff Park, Greenhaven, Grove Gardens South, Osborne Place, Spittal and Westfield) by RoSPA to provide a condition report on each; and (ii) a visit to be arranged thereafter to all

existing and proposed sites, with community representatives, to assist in prioritising work on refurbishing or replacing equipment or surfaces.

ER010/11

10. SIGNPOSTS

Members considered the photographs of the 'Welcome' signs at the northern and southern entrances to the town.

RESOLVED: The Town Council to request Northumberland County Council to arrange replacement signs, at the Town Council's cost, for the existing; and additional signs to be sited on Ord Drive and Etal Road. The design should include the Town Council logo, refer to the 'walled town of Berwick-upon-Tweed', and retain the existing shape.

ER011/11

11. REPORT OF ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

The report prepared by Groundwork North East of the Annual Town Meeting held on 19 April had been circulated.

ER012/11

12. PROPOSED TOWN COUNCIL INPUT ON EASTERN ARC OPTIONS

The Chair advised that the County Council was proposing discussions on the preferred options for the Eastern Arc Area Action Plan. As one of the proposed quarterly Town Forum meetings it was intended to hold a joint meeting with the County Council, to which representatives of the business and residential community would be invited. The purpose would be to look at existing development sites and consider future sites which could come forward and for which appropriate uses could be discussed.

ER013/11

13. MITCHELL MEMORIAL HALL

Members were reminded that an expression of interest in transfer of the Mitchell Memorial Hall to the Town Council had been registered with the County Council. No further action had been taken, but it was noted that the County Council was now proceeding to dispose of assets.

RESOLVED: The Town Council to commission a business plan of potential use for the Mitchell Memorial Hall.

ER014/11

14. APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

RESOLVED: To make grants of: (i) £125 to Cittaslow Berwick-in-Bloom to cover the cost of Berwick's entry to Northumbria in Bloom 2011; and (ii)

£500 to Spittal Gardening Group (Spittal Improvement Trust) to assist with the cost of purchasing equipment.

Members also considered an application from Spittal Improvement Trust for assistance with the costs of equipping Berwick United Reform Church Hall, Spittal, with facilities enabling the showing of films and other IT uses. It was felt that this project needed review as it did not constitute 'environmental enhancement' and should be deferred to a future meeting.

ER015/11

15. APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

No invitations had been received.

ER016/11

16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be held on Monday 4 July 2011. In view of the regular over-running of the Events Committee the meeting would start at 6.45 pm.