

BERWICK-UPON-TWEED TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Town Council Events Committee Meeting held on Monday, 3 September 2012 at 6.00 pm at The Town Hall, Marygate, Berwick-upon-Tweed

PRESENT:

Councillors: J Waterhouse (Chair)
I Dixon
F Grant
I Hunter
A Reid
J Robertson

IN ATTENDANCE:

Steve Cozens, Assistant to the Clerk
1 member of the public

E024/12 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been accepted from: Councillors J Beresford (unwell), H Bettison (personal) and J Smith (NCC duties).

E025/12 2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 25 June 2012 were agreed and signed as a correct record.

E026/12 3. STATEMENTS BY THE PUBLIC

There were no statements by members of the public present.

E027/12 4. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

There were no disclosures of interest.

E028/12 5. BERWICK EVENTS GROUP

The Berwick Events Group was exploring ways of reducing costs and attracting income to aid the staging of the Dickensian Market in 2012. This included decreasing the cost of stalls to encourage use and contacting alternative leads to enquire if the cost of entertainment could be lowered.

E029/12 6. EVENTS IN 2012/2013

- (i) Remembrance Day

Remembrance Day would take place on 11 November 2012. The Road Closure had been requested and the wreaths ordered. The morning service would take place in St Andrew's Wallace Green and Lowick Church of Scotland and the evening service would take place in Berwick Parish Church. The services at Tweedmouth War Memorial and Spittal War Memorial would take place at 12.15 and 12.45 respectively.

(ii) Christmas Lights Switch On, 1 December 2012 at 4.30 pm

Tweedmouth West First School had agreed that pupils could perform Christmas Carols. Musical accompaniment and refreshments would be arranged.

(iii) Shop-window displays – future plans

Due to the success of the Jubilee competition, and other developments in the town centre, it was suggested that the Town Council ran shop window display competitions for Christmas, Valentine's Day and Easter. The bear logo could be adjusted at a cost of £80 per design. Members agreed this proposal.

E030/12

7. BERWICK – PORTAS PILOT

A meeting had been held with members of the Town Team, ARCH and the Town Council. Remedial work in the town centre would be carried out and a meeting with Northumberland County Council was to be arranged to discuss the market. Due to time scales involved in carrying out projects it was envisaged these would take 12 – 18 months.

E031/12

8. CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

Steven Monks was working on repairing light features with new LED bulbs. Problems with the supply of electricity for Christmas lights on the New Bridge had been identified and repair would require extensive and expensive work. Northumberland County Council had been asked to provide an estimate of cost and had been advised that repairs should if possible be completed before Christmas.

Members confirmed that the tenders invited for Christmas lighting should be for three years.

E032/12

9. ADVERTISING BANNERS

The suggestion was made that, if feasible, the Town Council could apply for planning permission to put up advertising banners for events in 3 or 4 key locations. If approved, this permission would remain in place for several years; the Council could

then receive applications from voluntary groups which wished to put up banners, apply for the necessary Highways approval, and make a small charge. The aim was to help voluntary groups which currently pay several hundred pounds for advertising consent. Planning officers at Northumberland County Council had been approached for their view, but as yet had not responded. If feasible, members would be required to support this expenditure of £300 – £400.

Members agreed in principle but asked that advice be sought from the enforcement officer at Northumberland County Council to ask if they would remove signs which had not been applied for through the Town Council scheme.

E033/12

10. APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

RESOLVED: (i) To defer the application from Berwick Events Group to the September meeting of the Finance and Resources Committee; and (ii) A meeting to be arranged with a representative of Berwick Events Group for further clarification of costs which would then be reported to the Finance and Resources Committee.

E034/12

11. APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

No invitations had been received.

E035/12

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be held on Monday, 5 November 2012 at 6 pm in the Ante-Room, Town Hall.