

BERWICK-UPON-TWEED TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Town Council Events Committee Meeting held on Monday, 04 July 2011 at 6.00 pm at The Town Hall, Marygate, Berwick-upon-Tweed

PRESENT:

Councillors:	M McNeely (Chair)	P Herdman MBE
	J Beresford	A Reid
	H Bettison	J Robertson
	A Bowlas	J Waterhouse
	I Dixon	

IN ATTENDANCE:

S Finch, Town Clerk

Two members of the public

E013/11 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence had been received.

E014/11 2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 23 May 2011 were agreed and signed as a correct record.

E015/11 3. STATEMENTS BY THE PUBLIC

There were no statements by members of the public.

E016/11 4. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Councillor McNeely declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Item 12 (applications relating to Berwick Events Group and Bonfire Night at Tweedmouth). Councillor Reid declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Item 10 (Tweedmouth Feast Event) and Item 12 (application relating to Tweedmouth Feast). Councillors Bettison, Bowlas and Herdman each declared a personal interest in Item 7 (Christmas lights). Councillor Waterhouse declared a personal interest in Item 12 (application relating to Tweedmouth Feast).

E017/11 5. BERWICK EVENTS GROUP

Councillor McNeely reported that plans were proceeding well for the Dickensian

Market.

E018/11

6. EVENTS UMBRELLA INSURANCE

The Clerk reported that she had requested information from Tennyson Insurance, as suggested by Zurich, but had not yet received this. She would pursue the matter.

E019/11

7. CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

The Clerk reported that refurbishment work to twenty light fittings was to take place over the summer. The lights which had been proposed for West Street were no longer available, the alternative option being considerably more expensive.

The Freeman Trustees had not supported the proposal for new lighting to the front of the Town Hall, requesting that the traditional Christmas tree was retained to which they would contribute 50% of the cost. It was noted that there were considerable problems in arranging the erection of a tree on the Town Hall steps; it was agreed that the Freeman Trustees should be asked to contribute an additional amount to meet the costs of hiring the necessary equipment and employing the necessary manpower.

It was agreed the festive lighting committee should meet early in August to agree arrangements for the forthcoming season.

E020/11

8. EVENTS LEAFLET

The publication of the events leaflet was noted. It was agreed that a similar leaflet should be prepared for 2012 and that preparation should start in November with a view to its being ready for distribution in February 2012.

E021/11

9. CAN-AM VISIT 2012

Members who had attended the meeting on 2 June with representatives of the Can-Am Pipe Band reported on the discussions. Members welcomed the proposals for the visit, scheduled for 8 August 2012. It was agreed additional events might be arranged around this, and Councillors Bowlas, Bettison, Dixon, McNeely, Reid and Robertson said they would join a group to plan for these events.

E022/11

10. TWEEDMOUTH FEAST EVENT

Councillor Reid advised members that whilst the Tweedmouth Feast was an

essential part of local heritage, support had fallen sharply over recent years, and this year there was a shortfall in funding. Whilst a grant had been made by the Northern Angel Fund, news was still awaited from the Community Chest fund, the next meeting of which was on 20 July.

The plans for the event on 23 July were outlined, which she hoped would provide a pilot for an up-dated event for future years, to restore it to its former success.

Members agreed that the Feast and associated activities were an essential part of local tradition which should be supported, and the request for financial assistance would be considered under Item 12.

E023/11

11. OLYMPIC TORCH

The Clerk reported that the Council would be kept informed of plans for the Olympic Torch, the precise route of which through North Northumberland was not yet clear. She had asked councillors to nominate individuals who could be torch-bearers; if local people were successful it was hoped the Torch might travel through Berwick-upon-Tweed.

E024/11

12. APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Councillor McNeely, having declared a personal and prejudicial interest, left the room during discussion of the applications by Berwick Events Group and on behalf of Bonfire Night and Fireworks at Tweedmouth Town Green, Councillor Reid taking the chair for these items. Councillor McNeely was recalled, standing orders having been suspended, for clarification on one item of the application by Berwick Events Group.

Councillor Reid, having declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the application by Tweedmouth Feast Crowning and Carnival Committee, left the room during consideration of this item.

RESOLVED: (i) To make £750 available to Berwick Events Group; (ii) To make up to £250 available for the purchase of insurance for the Bonfire Night and Fireworks at Tweedmouth Green; (iii) To make £1380 available to the Tweedmouth Feast Crowning and Carnival Committee, to be refunded to the Council if the finance was raised elsewhere.

Members considered the application from 2nd Berwick-upon-Tweed (Spittal) Scout Group for assistance with the cost of a bus for a 5 day trip away.

RESOLVED: That the Events Committee grant scheme was intended to support events within Berwick for residents and visitors, and that this application did not therefore meet this criterion and could not on this occasion be supported.

Members considered the application from the Highlights Rural Touring Scheme, which was similarly felt not to be appropriate for the Events Committee scheme but might be more appropriate for consideration by the Environment and Regeneration Committee, which would consider the application at its September meeting. The Clerk would in the meantime seek more information about the scheme.

E025/11

13. APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

No invitations had been received.

E026/11

14. EVENTS IN 2011/2012

There were no matters to consider other than those discussed elsewhere.

E027/11

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be held on Monday, 12 September 2011 at 6 pm in the Ante Room of the Town Hall.