

BERWICK-UPON-TWEED TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Town Council Events Committee Meeting held on Monday, 10 January 2011
at 6.00 pm at The Town Hall, Marygate, Berwick-upon-Tweed**

PRESENT:

Councillors: M McNeely In the Chair
P Herdman MBE
A Reid
J Smith
J Waterhouse

IN ATTENDANCE:

S Finch, Town Clerk
Councillor J Robertson
One member of the public

E034/10 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Bettison, Bowlas and Dixon.

E035/10 2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 8 November 2010 were agreed and signed as a correct record, subject to it being noted that in the first paragraph of E030/10 Tweedmouth Feat should read Tweedmouth Feast.

E036/10 3. STATEMENTS BY THE PUBLIC

The Chairman welcomed Brian Martin on The Music Gallery who was attending in relation to the proposal under Item 8 for a Central Events Resource. Mr Martin outlined his views that efficiencies and impact could be achieved if more and better marketing of local events was carried out by a central resource. Collective access to equipment, insurance, funding sources and marketing and publicity would help to increase perception of Berwick as a visitor destination. He suggested that a preliminary meeting to gauge interest and support would be helpful. Members agreed this merited investigation and the Chair said he would

arrange to meet Mr Martin to discuss how such a proposal might be taken forward.

E037/10

4. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Councillor Mc Neely declared an ongoing personal interest in discussions which involved the Food Festival and Dickensian Market. Councillors McNeely, Reid and Smith each declared personal interests in Tweedmouth events.

E038/10

5. CHRISTMAS LIGHTS 2010 AND 2011

The Chair reported that the trees and lights had on the whole been satisfactory, although some fittings had failed. It was noted that the fittings over Scots Gate and some on the bridge had not been put in order and could not therefore be erected.

Trees had been sited in Bridge Street and on the Morrison's roundabout, in addition to those in the usual places in Berwick, Spittal and Tweedmouth.

Members agreed that the electricians had worked hard to ensure the lights were in place, and also that the Neighbourhood Services team of the County Council had been very helpful in assisting with the transport and erection of trees.

The Clerk was asked to write letters of thanks to the Rotary Club for members' help with tree transport; and to Steven Monks and Mick Tully for their help.

Members suggested that improvements for 2011 could include trees at Prior Park and at the Leisure Centre roundabout; some fittings in Golden Square; and a refurbishment of some light fittings or brackets in Marygate, Castlegate and West Street. A meeting should be held as soon as possible to discuss in detail what changes might be needed for 2011.

The Mayor said it had been disappointing not to have a formal switch-on ceremony, but the circumstances had been exceptional and an alternative date had not been possible.

E039/10

6. BERWICK EVENTS GROUP

The Chair reported that the Dickensian Christmas Market had been very

successful and Berwick Events Group should be congratulated for their efforts; members agreed a letter should be sent on behalf of the Town Council thanking the Group.

E040/10

7. APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

No applications for financial assistance had been received.

E041/10

8. PROPOSAL FOR CENTRAL EVENTS RESOURCE

This had been discussed as part of the open session.

Following a discussion with Brian Martin of The Music Gallery, members agreed the proposal for a central events resource should be considered, and the Chair would discuss the idea in more detail with Mr Martin.

E042/10

9. APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

No invitations had been received.

E043/10

10. EVENTS IN 2011

Members queried whether the County Council would be organising the Riding of the Bounds event, which was a key event for Berwick-upon-Tweed. The Clerk would seek clarification, and members suggested that it would be helpful to have a representative of the County Council to attend a future meeting, but also agreed it was important that Berwick should retain its identity in its events.

E044/10

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be held on Monday, 7 March 2011 at 6 pm in the Ante Room of the Town Hall.