

## **BERWICK-UPON-TWEED TOWN COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of the Town Council Events Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 29 July 2008 at 6 pm at the William Elder Building, Castlegate, Berwick-upon-Tweed**

#### **PRESENT:**

Councillors: P Herdman (Chairman of the Council)  
F Simpson (Vice Chairman of the Council)  
T Houghton  
J Waterhouse

#### **IN ATTENDANCE:**

S Finch (Acting Proper Officer), Berwick-upon-Tweed Borough Council  
Tim Kirton, Berwick-upon-Tweed Borough Council  
Michael Richardson, representing Berwick-upon-Tweed Rotary Club

The Chairman advised that in the absence for the time being of Standing Orders, upon the adoption of which a Chairman of the Events Committee would be elected, he would Chair the meeting; this was agreed.

#### **E001/08 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Beresford and Smith.

#### **E002/08 2. STATEMENTS BY THE PUBLIC**

Mr Richardson explained to members that the Rotary Club had provided Christmas lights for Berwick Bridge, which were also stored, maintained and delivered by the Club. The Christmas tree outside the Berwick Advertiser offices was also provided and decorated by the Club.

The Club had requested help from Berwick-upon-Tweed Borough Council for the putting up and taking down of the lights on the bridge, at an estimated cost of £2000; they would continue to provide the tree entirely from within their own resources.

Tim Kirton further explained that this request had been considered by the Borough

Council's Policy Committee, as part of a wider request for additional funding to meet the shortfall between the estimated cost of lights and trees of £13050, and the amount available to the Borough Council of £5300. The Policy Committee had agreed that the matter should be referred to the Town Council for consideration.

**E003/08**

### **3. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**

There was no disclosure of interests.

**E004/08**

### **4. BERWICK-UPON-TWEED CHRISTMAS LIGHTS AND TREES**

The Chairman explained that a decision could not be made by the Events Committee, the role of which was to make recommendations to the Finance and Resources Committee which would in turn make a recommendation to the Council. The Town Council did not yet have a budget in place, and was not therefore in a position to make financial commitments.

Members agreed the Christmas lights and trees enhanced the town and should be retained if possible.

Members felt that the costs could be reduced and the work accommodated within the £5300 budget by looking at alternative sources of labour, having regard to the need to meet the required regulations.

It was noted that the Rotary Club would want priority given to funding the lights on the bridge.

**RESOLVED: To recommend to the Finance and Resources Committee that the matter be referred back to Berwick-upon-Tweed Borough Council, with the suggestion that expenditure on Christmas lights and trees be confined to the budget available; and (ii) that efforts should be made to carry out the work at lower cost; and (iii) that the new unitary authority should be asked to take responsibility for the decorations from the Borough Council for 2009/10; and (iv) that priority should be given to the lights on the bridge.**

**E005/08**

### **5. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting would be held on Monday 1 September 2008 at 6:30 pm, the venue to be confirmed.