

BERWICK-UPON-TWEED TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Town Council Finance and Resources Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 8 March 2011 at 6.00 pm in the Ante Room at The Town Hall, Marygate, Berwick-upon-Tweed

PRESENT:

Councillors: A Bowlas Chair
 I Hunter

IN ATTENDANCE:

S Finch, Town Clerk

F050/10

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Simpson and Waterhouse.

F051/10

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 18 January 2011 were agreed and signed as a correct record.

F052/10

3. STATEMENTS BY THE PUBLIC

There were no members of the public present.

F053/10

4. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

There was no disclosure of interests.

F054/10

5. AUTHORISATION OF PAYMENTS

RESOLVED: To approve the payments appended to these minutes.

F055/10

6. STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS

The statement of receipts and payments was noted. The Clerk advised that in the light of underspend in some areas and overspend in others, as reported to the Committee, funds may require to be vired between budget headings. Members authorised the Clerk to vire as necessary.

F056/10

7. ALLOTMENTS

The Clerk advised that the County Council had found that the allotment gardens off Blakewell Gardens, which it had been understood had been transferred to Berwick Borough Housing, did in fact now belong to the Town Council.

Arrangements were being made to invoice allotment holders, and a new agreement

had been prepared to replace that which had been used by the former Borough Council.

RESOLVED: To adopt the revised allotment agreement, subject to correction of typographical errors; to a provision to ensure the use of safe chemicals for pest and weed control; and to the inclusion of guidance in the event of grievances.

F057/10

8. LOCAL SERVICES

Members noted that no further information had been received from the County Council on the detailed discussions which it had been agreed by members of the County Executive should be got under way to prepare for delegation of services for 2012-13.

F058/10

9. PENSIONS

The Clerk advised that Ashington Town Council was now co-ordinating efforts by a number of Parish and Town Councils to establish whether or not local council employees were obliged to join the LGPS; the legal situation was not clear, but in the light of the information provided by the Pensions department at Northumberland County Council it was important to establish the statutory situation before committing the Town Council. It was nevertheless noted that the Council had previously resolved to join the scheme.

F059/10

10.DIRECT DEBIT AGREEMENT

RESOLVED: The Council to enter into a direct debit agreement with British Gas Business, to meet the costs of gas and electricity.

F060/10

11.DELEGATED DECISIONS

The Clerk advised that the delegated decision for the Council to be a partner applicant to the Heritage Lottery Fund for assistance with the Berwick Parks Project was not now required as the County Council would be the sole applicant.

F061/10

12.FINANCIAL ISSUES RAISED BY OTHER COMMITTEES

The Environment and Regeneration Committee had been advised which of the three estimates provided to the West End Residents Association for re-painting the Tweedmouth War Memorial railings was most cost-effective.

RESOLVED: To agree the grant of £1075 to West End Residents Association for painting the Tweedmouth War Memorial railings.

F062/10

13.APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

There had been no requests for representatives to outside bodies.

F063/10

14.DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Finance and Resources Committee would be held on Tuesday 24 May 2011 at 6 pm in the Ante-Room, Town Hall.

Berwick-upon-Tweed Town Council
DRAFT PAYMENTS LIST: Cheques 100239 to 100252

Vchr.	Cheq.	Cde.	Name	Description	Amount
173	100239	191	Via J Waterhouse	Christmas cards Civic Party	£81.32
174	100240	46	Scottish Power	Electricity	£17.00
175	100241	25	Viking	Stationery	£28.06
177	100241	26	Viking	Office furniture etc	£224.15
			Subtotal Cheque No. 100241		£252.21
176	100242	151	Steven Monks	Christmas lights rep/maint	£4,811.34
178-182	100243	10	Northumberland County Council	Salaries	£2,316.44
183	100244	37	Northumberland ALC	Training	£5.00
184	100245	23	Capital Solutions	Photocopy charges	£12.07
185	100246	192	Guild of Mace-Bearers	Subscription	£25.00
186	100247	47	Northumbrian Water	Water services	£17.28
187	100248	26	Brunel Engraving Company	Name plaque	£198.00
189-194	100249	10	Northumberland County Council	Salaries	£3,538.35
195	100250	46	Scottish Power	Electricity	£58.49
196	100251	35	ICO	Data Protection Registration	£35.00
197	100252	16	Edwin Thompson	Rent	£1,530.00
198	100252	17	Edwin Thompson	Service Charge	£48.01
			Subtotal Cheque No. 100252		£1,578.01
TOTAL					£12,945.51