

BERWICK-UPON-TWEED TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Town Council Finance and Resources Committee Meeting held on Monday 14 December 2009 at 6.00 pm at The Town Hall, Marygate, Berwick-upon-Tweed

PRESENT:

Councillors: A Bowlas (Chair)
 I Hunter
 J Robertson
 J Waterhouse

IN ATTENDANCE:

S Finch, Town Clerk
1 member of the public

F031/09 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillor Simpson.

F032/09 2. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 9 November 2009 were agreed and signed as a correct record.

F033/09 3. STATEMENTS BY THE PUBLIC

There were no statements by the public.

F034/09 4. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

There were no disclosures of interest.

F035/09 5. BUDGET PLANNING FOR 2010-11

Members considered the first draft of the budget for 2010-11, together with the commentary which had been circulated setting out the context in which the budget had been prepared.

The Clerk tabled a letter which had been received earlier in the day from the Director of Street Scene at Northumberland County Council, proposing the figures which the Council should incorporate in the budget to meet Service Level Agreement and repair and maintenance costs for play areas for the year commencing 1 April 2010. It was noted that in addition to the figure of £12640, there would be an insurance cost, but this was not known.

Members agreed the situation had not changed since the last Council meeting, and that the Council should not be expected to take on play areas without having full information about the state of repair of the facilities. It had been understood that this information would be provided by the County Council to inform the budget discussion, but no further detail had been provided about play areas or public seats or bus shelters.

RESOLVED: The Town Council to inform the County Council that it would not take on play areas, bus shelters or public seats in 2010-11.

Members also discussed the budgeted administrative expenses of the Council and asked that this be re-drafted to show a nil increase in staff resources.

The Clerk was also asked to show Mayoral expenses as an item to be funded through the Freeman's Schedule III surpluses, provision being made progressively in earmarked reserves to protect this expenditure in the event of a period when surpluses might not accrue.

It was further proposed that the budget show an increased figure, of £15000, to be allocated to the Environment and Regeneration Committee

It was agreed that a precept could not be recommended to the Council until these adjustments had been made.

F036/09

6. BERWICK ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP

Members noted that the application which had been received on behalf of Berwick Environmental Group had not included the specified supporting information, and it could not therefore be considered at this meeting but would need to be deferred to

the next meeting.

F037/09

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be on Monday 11 January 2010 at 6.30 pm in the Town Hall.