

BERWICK-UPON-TWEED TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 25 March 2019 at 7.00 pm in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Marygate, Berwick-Upon-Tweed

PRESENT:

Councillors:	B Douglas (Chair) *	T Forrester
	K Beresford (left during Item 15)	K Graham
	A Bowlas	C Lewis
	R Bruce	B Parkin
	I Dixon (left during Item 7)	G Smith
	A Forbes (Chair) *	L Stephenson

Following the discussion with Dame Vera Baird, Cllr B Douglas left the meeting and Cllr A Forbes took the chair for the remainder of the meeting.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr Gareth Davies, Town Clerk

Steve Cozens, Assistant to the Clerk

Ms Judith Eltringham, Sheriff (left after the discussion with Dame Vera Baird)

Julian Smith, Project Officer

Dame Vera Baird, Northumbria Police and Crime Commissioner

2 representatives of Northumbria Police

Cty Cllr G Hill

Cty Cllr C Seymour

5 members of the public, 1 member of the press

Dame Vera Baird, Northumbria Police and Crime Commissioner, discussed local policing and answered questions from councillors and members of the public.

OPEN SESSION

Mr Brian Darling made reference to the company formerly known as Arch which he believed had set Berwick back by twenty years.

A member of the public questioned the need for council to change its organization of the Boxing Day Dip.

C178/18 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs H Bettison and G Roughead.

C179/18 2. MINUTES

On the motion of Cllr K Graham, seconded by Cllr T Forrester the minutes of the Meeting of Berwick-upon-Tweed Town Council held on 25 February 2019, were agreed and signed as a correct record.

C180/18 3. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

There were no disclosures of interests.

C181/18 4. REQUEST FOR DISPENSATION

There were no requests for dispensation.

C182/18 5. TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

On behalf of the Mayor, the Deputy Mayor made two announcements.

C183/18 6. CORRESPONDENCE

- i. On the motion of Cllr Graham, seconded by Cllr Forbes, members **RESOLVED** to note the Correspondence Log.
- ii. Campaign For North of Morpeth Local Rail Service - Possible Feasibility Study. It was **RESOLVED** without dispute to support the undertaking of the feasibility study in line with existing policy.
- iii. Armed Forces Day. Members noted the correspondence and agreed to pursue the matter further with the former organizers.
- iv. Northumberland & Newcastle Society. Members did not express an opinion concerning this correspondence.
- v. Walkergate. It was **RESOLVED** to discuss this matter further with both the Planning Committee and the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group.

C184/18

7. CCTV POLICY

On the motion of Councillor Graham, seconded by Cllr Forbes, it was **RESOLVED** to undertake the work necessary to ensure compliance with the code.

C185/18

8. BOXING DAY DIP

During the debate Cllrs Forrester and Dixon temporarily left the room, and standing orders were suspended sufficiently to allow a member of the public to speak. After the debate it was **RESOLVED** without dispute to defer the matter to a future meeting of council.

C186/18

9. HOMELESSNESS

It was **RESOLVED** on the motion of Cllr Graham, seconded by Cllr Bowlas, to undertake no further work on this topic.

C187/18

10. TURNER IN THE NORTH

It was **RESOLVED** without division

1. That council offer to sponsor communications activity in support of the exhibition to the sum of £3000, and
2. That council direct officers to support that communications activity via our social media channels.

C188/18

11. PURDAH PERIOD

Members **RESOLVED** to note the report.

C189/18

12. COMMUNICATIONS PROTOCOL

It was **RESOLVED** that council delegate to the Budget & Administration Committee authority to approve revisions to Section C of the protocol on communications to allow staff to issue factual information without further reference to a nominated individual or committee.

C190/18

13. RECEIPT OF PAYMENTS

On the motion of Cllr Bowlas, seconded by Cllr Graham it was **RESOLVED** that council would adopt officers recommendation to enable the receipt of small payments and donations via an online system such as Paypal, and that council delegated to the Budget and Administration Committee authority to commission such a service, and to recommend such changes to Financial Regulations to council as may be necessary, subject to a six month review after implementation.

C191/18

14. VOLUNTEER VISITOR WELCOME SERVICES

On the motion of Cllr Forbes, seconded by Cllr Forrester it was **RESOLVED** to seek to dispose of the property at Castlegate, and to delegate the approval of the Visitor Welcome work proposed in paragraphs 7-11 of the report to the Budget and Administration Committee.

C192/18

15. STAFFING AND CORPORATE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

During the debate standing orders were suspended sufficiently to allow a member of the public to take part in the debate. On the motion of Cllr Graham, seconded by the Deputy Mayor, it was **RESOLVED** to compose the committee of all the members of the council.

C193/18

16. FORWARD PLAN

It was **RESOLVED** without division to note the Forward Plan.

C194/18

17. BUDGET AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

- i. On the motion of Cllr Smith seconded by Cllr Bruce it was **RESOLVED** to adopt the minutes of the meeting of the Budget and Administration Committee held on 11 February 2019 (noted at the meeting of 25 February 2019).
- ii. On the motion of Cllr Bruce seconded by Cllr Bowlas it was **RESOLVED** to note the draft minutes of the meeting of the Budget and Administration Committee held on 11 March 2019.
- iii. Internal Control.
It was **RESOLVED** to delegate the proposed work of providing Internal Control to the Budget and Administration Committee, with members volunteering to undertake this work on an ad hoc basis.
- iv. It was **RESOLVED** to note the list of payments received by the Budget and Administration Committee at its meeting of 11 March 2019.

C195/18

18. LOCAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

- i. On the motion of Cllr Smith seconded by Cllr Stephenson it was **RESOLVED** to adopt the minutes of the meeting of the Local Services Committee held on 4 February 2019 (noted at the meeting of 25 February 2019).

- ii. On the motion of Cllr Graham seconded by Cllr Stephenson it was **RESOLVED** to note the draft minutes of the meeting of the Local Services Committee held on 4 March 2019.

C196/18

19. PLANNING COMMITTEE

- i. On the motion of Cllr Bowlas seconded by Cllr Bruce it was **RESOLVED** to adopt the minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 12 February 2019 (noted at the meeting of 25 February 2019).
- ii. On the motion of Cllr Bowlas seconded by Cllr Smith it was **RESOLVED** to note the draft minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 12 March 2019.

C197/18

20. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Council will be held on Tuesday, 23 April 2019 at 6 pm in the Town Hall.

Council RESOLVED that under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 it was appropriate to exclude the media and public from the discussion of the following items of business on the basis that public discussion might prejudice the Council's position and staffing or personal issues might be discussed.

At this point the Public withdrew.

C198/18

21. HIGHCLIFFE PLAY AREA

It was **RESOLVED** to appoint, as a tender panel, Cllrs Graham, Lewis and Bruce.