

BERWICK-UPON-TWEED TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Town Council Local Services Committee Meeting held on Monday, 04 November 2019 at 6.30pm in the Town Hall, Marygate, Berwick-upon-Tweed

PRESENT:

Councillors: R Bruce (Chair)
A Bowlas
A Gibson
C Preston
G Smith
L Stephenson

IN ATTENDANCE:

Gareth Davies, Town Clerk

Cty Cllr G Hill

5 members of the public

LS075/19 1. OPEN SESSION

A member of the public raised the issue of the reinstatement of the lights underneath the Berwick Bridge, which met with support from some of the elected members present.

LS076/19 2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr B Parkin.

LS077/19 3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

On the motion of Cllr R Bruce, seconded by Cllr A Gibson, it was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 08 October 2019 were agreed and signed as a correct record.

LS078/19 4. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

There were no disclosures of interests.

LS079/19 5. REQUEST FOR DISPENSATION

There were no requests for dispensation.

LS080/19

6. ISSUES REPORTED SINCE LAST MEETING

The Town Clerk provided an update to the meeting concerning issues raised since the last meeting.

LS081/19

7. UPDATE FROM NCC & BTC PARTNERSHIP MEETING

On the motion of Cllr A Gibson, seconded by Cllr R Bruce, it was **RESOLVED** to note the record of the partnership meeting. A number of issues were raised concerning fly-tipping and other environmental issues which the Town Clerk agreed to raise with the county council.

LS082/19

8. ENVIRONMENTAL VOLUNTEERS

Cllr L Stephenson provided an update to the committee concerning her work as Litter Champion, and concerning the community event to be held at the Town Hall on 16th November.

LS083/19

9. PLAY AREA MAINTENANCE

Members provided guidance to the officers concerning the differing options around maintenance of the safety areas, and suggested that officers should return to committee with clear estimates of the costs of the options.

Elected members also suggested officers should seek to replace the swings at Grove Gardens South, and should check the condition of safety surfaces and other pieces of play equipment.

LS084/19

10. FENCING AND PLAY AREAS

The Town Clerk explained their understanding of the relevant legislation and risks associated with fencing play areas, and around the provision of appropriate notices at all sites, especially Newfields.

LS085/19

11. BERWICK IN BLOOM

It was **RESOLVED** without dispute to note the update, and to congratulate all involved in the successful outcome to this year's entry into the Northumbria in Bloom competition.

LS086/19

12. CCTV

The Town Clerk provided an update on issues, explained the meetings that were scheduled to take place with CCTV providers and the police, and that the

CCTV contractor would be attending council in December to explain the current offer and its future development.

LS087/19

13. MIDDLE SCHOOLS AND BUMBLEBEES

Cllr R Bruce explained his suggestion that schools might provide a haven for bumblebees, and the Town Clerk agreed that staff would contact local schools and local agricultural colleges who might wish to engage with such a project.

LS088/19

14. ALLOTMENTS

Members expressed their frustration that no progress had been made with the proposal to explore a community asset transfer to enable the creation of a new allotment site, and their unhappiness at the idea of making any significant investment in existing sites when a new site might be in the offing.

LS089/19

15. FORWARD PLAN

Members asked that the future of memorial gardens on the Riverside Walk and the Cadets Garden could be explored with the relevant voluntary groups before it was **RESOLVED** to note the Forward Plan.

LS090/19

16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting will be Tuesday, 03 December 2019 at 6.30 pm.