

BERWICK-UPON-TWEED TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of an Extraordinary meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 22 October 2018
at 5.00 pm in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Marygate, Berwick-Upon-Tweed**

PRESENT:

Councillors:	B Douglas (Town Mayor)	K Graham
	K Beresford	C Lewis
	R Bruce	H Nichols
	I Dixon	B Parkin
	A Forbes	G Roughead
	T Forrester	G Smith
	A Gibson	L Stephenson

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr Gareth Davies, Town Clerk
Steve Cozens, Assistant to the Clerk
Joyce Benton, Sergeant-at-Mace
Cty Cllr G Hill
1 member of the press

C118/18 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs H Bettison and A Bowlas.

C119/18 2. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

There were no disclosures of interests.

C120/18 3. REQUEST FOR DISPENSATION

There were no requests for dispensation.

At this point the Mayor made a personal statement that he believed that he had performed all the duties required of him, and that he believed the motion of no confidence had no basis in fact. The Mayor then withdrew from the meeting and Cllr Forbes took the chair.

Council RESOLVED by nine votes to nil 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.

C121/18

4. MOTION OF NO CONFIDENCE IN THE MAYOR

The Town Clerk introduced their report and reminded members that:

- a. They did not have to give a reason for their having no confidence in the Mayor,
- b. If members gave as a reason for having no confidence in the Mayor a matter that amounted to a breach of the code of conduct they should be prepared to make a complaint under the Code of Conduct process, and
- c. That any existing code of conduct complaint could not be discussed so as to ensure that any subsequent process involving that complaint was not tainted.

Council then debated the report, and the substantive motion, as identified on the summons in the name of Cllrs Roughead and Graham. Members asked questions of the Town Clerk on topics including whether the meeting could be adjourned to seek a compromise with the Mayor, and on possible amendments to the motion. During this discussion Cllr Bruce entered the meeting, and then withdrew after making a contribution to the discussion. Amendments to the substantive motion were accepted by the proposers, and Cllr Graham moved a procedural motion to move to a vote on the motion 'That this council has no confidence in the mayor, Councillor Brian Douglas, as its chair.' The motion was passed by eleven votes to one.

At this point Cllr Douglas returned to the room, and resumed chairing the meeting. The result of the vote was reported to him, at which point the Mayor stated that in his opinion the vote did not change anything, and, after further exchanges with members the meeting closed at 17:40.