**Royal Burgh of North Berwick Community Council**

**Minutes of the 481st Public Meeting held at 19.30 on Tuesday 5th July 2016**

**in The Fire Station, Station Road, North Berwick**

**Present:** Cllr David Kellock Chairman

Cllr Kathryn Smith Secretary

Cllrs M Baker, E Danks, M Ellis, P Hamilton, W Macnair, G Moodie,

S Sinclair, H Smith & I Watson

**In attendance:** ELC Cllr J Goodfellow, PC I Paterson, local press, 3 members of the public

**1 Welcome:** The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed all those present.

**2**  **Apologies:** Cllrs J Scott & ELC Cllr T Day

**3 Minutes of the Meeting held on 7th June 2016:**

3.1Adoption of the Minutes, circulated previously, was proposed by Cllr Moodie and seconded by Cllr Baker

**4 Matters Arising:**

4*.*1 *4.3 Queen’s Birthday*: The Chairman reported that East Lothian Council’s policy for management of donated commemorative benches had been approved at the end of June. He was now waiting to hear about the availability of a site at the Hope Rooms for the bench to celebrate the Queen’s 90th birthday. **ACTION: Cllr Kellock**

4.2 *8.1 Site at Tantallon Road/Heugh Road*: The Chairman clarified the minor amendment to the planning application for the business units.

4.3 *8.2 East Fortune*: A number of community councillors had attended the public exhibition at Merryhatton on 14th June. 7 of the existing buildings were to be conserved and the infrastructure was to be in place before any work on the site was started. A further public exhibition would be held at Merryhatton on Friday 15th July from 3.30 pm – 7.00 pm

4.4 *14.3 RELBUS*: Cllr Sinclair had attended the meeting on 15th June when the withdrawal of the First Bus services was discussed. No decision had been made about replacement buses but assurances had been given that this would happen. [*Since the meeting it had been announced that Lothian Buses Ltd’s subsidiary, East Coast Buses Ltd, would take over the East Lothian routes with the depots in Musselburgh and North Berwick being safeguarded*.]

**5 Police Report:**

5.1 PC I Paterson read out the Police Report which is summarised as follows:

During the period of the Report there had been several incidents of note which were broken down in terms of the agreed priorities for the ward as follows –

1. ***Road Safety***-

* On 9th June there was a report of drink driving along Lochbridge Road. One male was cautioned, charged and bailed to appear in court.
* On 2nd July there was a report of a speeding vehicle along Lochbridge Road. No trace of the vehicle as incorrect VRM had been given.
* Attendance at Law Primary School at the morning and afternoon drop off/pick up times resulted in drivers obeying road traffic laws due to the police presence.
* Numerous speed checks were carried out in the North Berwick area due to reports of bikers travelling at speed through the town, especially on Wednesday and Sunday evenings. 4 tickets were issued for speeding offences and numerous motorists warned.

2. ***Antisocial Behaviour*** –

* On 12th June there was a report of a large group outside The Ship causing a disturbance. Persons had dispersed and left the area prior to police arrival.
* On 16th June there was a report of persons setting fire to a gas canister at Lodge Grounds Central Footpath. No trace on police arrival.
* On 16th June there was a report of an assault on Lochbridge Road. Male was arrested and cautioned and charged with assault.
* On 7th June at Law View there was a report of a fire within garage at premises there. Treated as unexplained cause. Ongoing enquiry.
* On 19th and 20th June there was a report of noise from outside the Auld Hoose, Forth Street; premises closed and no persons traced on police arrival
* On 27th June there was a report of noise from outside the Auld Hoose, Forth Street. Nothing ongoing on police arrival.

3. ***Housebreaking* -**

* No reports

4. ***Parking* –**

* Regular patrol of the High Street resulted in numerous parking tickets being issued for double yellow line and loading bay offences.
* Parking initiative patrols carried out in The Quadrant and Victoria Road which are particular problem areas at weekends.

5.2 ***Other incidents of note*** *–*

* 17th June – Theft from Aldi – female to be issued with formal police warning and banned from shop.
* 20th June – 4 Asian males in mid 40’s were in area asking residents about using their properties with a view to making a film – a timely reminder not to let anyone into your property regardless of the reason without establishing their identity.
* 24th June – Theft of child’s scooter from outside Law Primary School.

5.3 Date *of next CAPP meeting –* 27/07/2016 at 1930 hours in the Old Council Chambers

**6 Youth Network**

6.1 Cllr Watson, Chairman of the group, gave a flavour of what the Network was covering. Mental health problems at the High School were an issue with 18% of pupils affected by cyber bullying and stress through social media. They were looking to employ a youth worker for the local schools which the head teachers were happy to support. Funding of £10,000 was being sought and hopefully this would be available through the Area Partnership. There was also concern about drug and alcohol related problems.

**7 Planning Matters**

7.1 **The following new applications were viewed, discussed and commented on, where appropriate –**

**57a Westgate:** Raising height of boundary wall. No objection was raised.

**10a Westbay Road:** Erection of shed. No objection was raised.

**9a Dirleton Avenue:** Replacement windows. No objection was raised.

**11 Marmion Road:** Alterations to building. No objection was raised.

**15 Creel Court:** Replacement windows. No objection was raised.

**Balgone Coach House:** Alterations to building. No objection was raised.

**2 Horse Crook:** Erection of domestic garage. No objection was raised.

**11e Melbourne Place:** Formation of dormer and alterations to flat. Concern was expressed that the development of the roof space was out of character with the surrounding properties in a Conservation Area. **ACTION: Cllr Moodie**

**16 York Road:** Alterations to house, formation of raised decking, steps & hard standing areas, erection of walls & gate. No objection was raised.

**22 Fidra Road:** Alterations and extension to house. No objection was raised.

**8 Westgate:** Alterations to building, erection of shed and raised planters; display of advertisements. No objection was raised.

**3 Dundas Road:** Erection of fencing, gates and bike shed. No objection was raised

**19 Smileyknowes Court:** Extension to house. No objection was raised.

**11 Abbey Court:** Extension to house. No objection was raised.

**23 Gilbert Avenue:** Extension to house including car port, formation of dormer and raised deck with handrails. No objection was raised.

**8 Community Rail Partnership:**

8.1 Cllr Sinclair reported that the additional cycle racks had been installed at the station.

8.2 With regard to the train strikes, Cllr Sinclair had raised the matter of replacement buses with ScotRail whose stance was that as buses were not sitting ready for use at the drop of a hat, their advice was to use service buses which, it was agreed, was an unsatisfactory state of affairs. It was to be hoped the situation resolved itself quickly.

**9 Calder & Crawford Cups – putting competitions**

9.1 The Secretary confirmed that posters advertising the event were being distributed. She asked that the sign on the starter’s hut be put up and notices posted on the NBCC Facebook page and in the Courier. Cllr Sinclair confirmed that there was a notice in the Newsletter which would be delivered the following week. A rota for the qualifying day was tabled.

**ACTION: Cllrs K Smith & Watson**

**10 Communications Group:**

10.1 The group had met the previous week when the following points had been discussed –

* Newsletter – happy to continue in the same format;
* Website – looking at how to make it more accessible to people with disabilities;
* Agenda – suggest posting a week before meetings;
* Minutes – suggest that they are more accessible and user friendly.

**11 Rotary Way:**

11.1 The Chairman reported that there had been further correspondence between ELC’s Principal Amenity Officer, Stuart Pryde and Rotary Club President, Richard Rogers, about what was to happen regarding the signage.

11.2 It had been agreed that the Rotary Club would celebrate its 50th year in the town by assisting with the refurbishment and repainting of the seating on Elcho Green and that ELC would resurface the path across the Green to improve safety standards, following which they would install secure and more substantial ‘Rotary Way on Elcho Green’ replacement signs.

11.3 The Rotary Club was congratulated on its contribution to the amenity of the town and it was agreed that a letter of support of the foregoing would be sent to ELC.

**ACTION: Cllr K Smith**

**12 Lime Grove Site - Community Landownership:**

12.1 Cllr Watson introduced the topic of what the future may hold for the town in light of the many changes going on. He felt that there was a need to find a community site to host a replacement for theSPACE and other community facilities and suggested that the Lime Grove depot site, the last gap site in the town, which it was understood ELC was about to put on the market would be an ideal location for this purpose.

12.2 As legislation is to be introduced in 2017 to give community councils the right to buy abandoned/neglected land it was agreed to write to the Chief Executive of ELC requesting the Council to put on hold the proposed sale of the Lime Grove site to enable discussions to take place within the community regarding the future use of the site and to investigate a possible community landownership buy-out to develop the site for community use. It was understood that the Area Partnership was writing in similar terms. **ACTION: Cllr K Smith**

12.3 To further this discussion the Area Partnership was proposing holding a public meeting on 15th August in the Fringe by the Sea Spiegeltent. This would be the start of a wider and inclusive discussion involving all parts of the community. Prior to this there would be a meeting of interested parties at 10.00 am on 18th July to plan the meeting and their input.

**13 Reports from Groups & Societies:**

13.1 **Area Partnership:** It was noted thatthe quorum for attendance at meetings was 40%+1. The priorities for the next period had been agreed and included clear signage at entry points to the town; pedestrianisation; and a ‘wander’ bus.

13.2 **Coastal Communities Museum:** Cllr Moodie reported that over 4,000 people had visited the new exhibition by the end of June.

13.3 **Environment Trust:**  Cllr H Smith intimated that the Trust was sponsoring a talk entitled ‘Whale Meat Again’ at the Fringe by the Sea on 14th August.

13.4 **North Berwick News:** Cllr Sinclair confirmed that the newsletter would be delivered in the week beginning 11th July.

13.5 **North Berwick in Bloom:** Cllr Sinclair reported that the hanging baskets would beput up on 11th July; a response from GBS to display posters in the window of the premises at 10a Westgate was awaited; the Beautiful Scotland judging would be taking place on 9th August from 9.00 am.

13.6 **NBGC Community Fund:** Cllr Moodie reported that an initial meeting had taken place and that the Golf Club would be looking for applications by the end of September

**14 Correspondence:**

The Secretary had received the following communications –

14.1 Notice of the Scottish Government’s formal consultation on **Strategic Police Priorities** which sets out priorities which would set the future strategic direction of policing in Scotland. The consultation would be open for responses till 16th August. It was agreed that as Cllrs Sinclair, Watson & Hamilton had drafted the response to the initial question on priorities for the police service they should look at this consultation.

**ACTION: Cllrs Sinclair, Watson & Hamilton**

14.2 Notice of the **Community Choices Fund** for which applications were now open for a new £2 million fund giving communities the opportunity to vote on how money is spent in their area. Applications close on 29th July. Cllr H Smith agreed to investigate further.

**ACTION: Cllr H Smith**

14.3 An invitation to nominate heritage volunteers and voluntary groups for the **Scottish Heritage Angel Awards** – deadline 12th August.

14.4 The **Forth Estuary Forum** June Newsletter which had been circulated.

14.5 An invitation from the **Forth Estuary Forum** to visit HMS Queen Elizabeth & HMS Prince of Wales Visitor Centre, Rosyth on 12th August

14.6 Notice of the **NHS Lothian Annual Review** on 31st August at NHS Lothian’s HQ, Waverley Gate, 2-4 Waterloo Place, Edinburgh

**15 Any other competent business:**

15.1 ***ELYC***: The Secretary of the Yacht Club had queried the amount of the grant given for their fireworks display (£400). The Chairman confirmed that there was nothing to indicate that an increase in the grant had been considered or agreed.

15.2 ***Royal Humane Society***: Cllr Sinclair was pleased to announce that she had nominated the 2 young people who had saved a heart attack victim’s life last year for an award from the Royal Humane Society and that they were to receive the Society’s top award. It was agreed that the Community Council would organise the presentation of their certificates and that the heart attack victim, who had made a full recovery, would be invited to attend.

15.3 ***Tyne Esk LEADER***: Cllr H Smith reported that this fund was now open to receive up to 20 applications for European funding of between £10,000 and £200,000 by 2019 for final payment in 2020.

**16 Date of Next Meeting:**

The date of the next meeting of the Community Council will be held at the Fire Station, Station Road, North Berwick on Tuesday 2nd August 2016 at 7.30 pm.

**The Royal Burgh of North Berwick Community Council**

The 482nd Public Meeting of the Royal Burgh of North Berwick Community Council to be held in the Fire Station, Station Road on Tuesday 2nd August 2016 at 7.30 pm

**AGENDA**

1. Welcome
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of Meeting held on 5th July 2016
4. Matters Arising
5. Police Report
6. Home Energy Scotland - presentation
7. Planning Matters
8. Community Rail Partnership
9. Calder & Crawford Cups
10. Communications Group - update
11. Lime Grove Site - Community Landownership
12. Law Race – 3rd August
13. Reports from Groups & Societies
14. Correspondence

15. Any other competent business

16. Date of Next Meeting - Tuesday 6th September