**Royal Burgh of North Berwick Community Council**

**Minutes of the 482nd Public Meeting held at 19.30 on Tuesday 2nd August 2016**

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

**Present:** Cllr Bill Macnair in the chair

Cllr Kathryn Smith, Secretary

Cllrs E Danks, M Ellis, P Hamilton, G Moodie, J Scott, S Sinclair, H Smith,

& I Watson

**In attendance:** ELC Cllr T Day, Roisin Hurst, local press, 12 members of the public

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

**2**  **Apologies:** Cllrs D Kellock & M Baker

**3 Minutes of the Meeting held on 5th July 2016:**

3.1Adoption of the Minutes, circulated previously, was proposed by Cllr Scott and seconded by Cllr Sinclair

**4 Matters Arising:**

4*.*1***4.1 Queen’s 90th Birthday***: The Chairman had submitted an application to ELC for a commemorative seat outside the Hope Rooms but as there were two prior notes of interest for that site it may be that a refurbished bench on the West Putting Green would have to be looked at as an alternative. Principal Amenity Officer, Stuart Pryde was investigating the position regarding the Hope Rooms site but in the meantime the alternative of a refurbished bench on the West Putting Green was agreed if the Hope Rooms site was unavailable. The Treasurer confirmed that funds would be available for this project.

4.2 ***11.1 Rotary Way***: A letter had been sent by the Secretary to ELC’s Principal Amenity Officer in support of the Rotary Club’s celebratory endeavours. This enabled him to proceed with sourcing and then erecting suitably sturdy signage with the agreed wording. The resurfacing of the path was in hand but was reliant upon the work programme of colleagues in Transportation.

4.3 ***14.1 Strategic Police Priorities***: Cllrs Sinclair, Hamilton & Watson had looked at the consultation document which had used the original responses to develop the reviewed strategy. They had nothing to add to what had been submitted originally.

4.4 ***14.2 Community Choices Fund***: The deadline for applications had passed but Cllr H Smith commented that this was not appropriate for the community council anyway as the Area Partnership was already prioritising spending.

4.5 ***15.2 Royal Humane Society***: Cllr Sinclair had received the certificates for the 2 young people. It was agreed that they should be invited, along with the heart attack victim, to the informal August mid-month meeting in the Old Council Chambers for the presentation.

**ACTION: Cllr Sinclair**

4.6 ***15.3 Tyne Esk LEADER***: Cllr H Smith confirmed that Tyne Esk LEADER was open for applications of a minimum of £10,000 and a maximum of £200,000. LEADER was a bottom- up method of delivering support to communities and businesses for the development of rural areas. East Lothian was regarded as a rural area.

**5 Police Report:**

5.1 In the absence of a police presence the Secretary 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 10/07/16 an accident had occurred in Beach Road involving 2 vehicles whereby a female in one of the vehicles was conveyed to hospital with a broken femur. A female had been charged with a contravention of The Road Traffic Act section 3
* During the evening of 22/07/16, there had been a report of motorbikes riding on the footpath in and around Grange Road. On Police attendance, no motorbikes had been traced.
* On 05/07/16 a male driver had been issued with a fixed penalty ticket for driving without a MOT at Tantallon Castle
* On 22/07/16 a male driver had been issued with a fixed penalty ticket for driving without a MOT in Kirkports.

2. ***Antisocial Behaviour***

* On 14/07/16, a male and female had attended at an address in Links Road and shouted and swore at the occupier. Both were still to be traced for interview.
* On 14/07/16, a male had been detained in relation to spray painting a section of Lochbridge Road. He had been arrested and charged with Vandalism.
* On 23/07/16, there had been a report of a noisy party within a residential property in Craigleith Avenue. East Lothian Council Noise Team had been notified.
* On 24/07/16, there had been a noise complaint from a resident in Forth Street in relation to The Auld Hoose public house.

3. ***Housebreaking***

* No reports

4. ***Parking***

* Regular patrol of the High Street had been carried out resulting in numerous parking tickets being issued for double yellow line and loading bay offences
* Parking initiative patrols had been carried out in the Quadrant and Victoria Road areas resulting in numerous parking tickets being issued in these areas.

5.2 ***Other Incidents of note -***

* During the early evening of 05/07/16, damage was caused to a section of the CALA building site perimeter fence to the value of approximately £700. Enquiries are ongoing to trace a possible culprit who was captured on CCTV.
* On 16/07/16, there was a report of a male lying on the roadway near to Tantallon Caravan Park. On Police arrival, it was established that he had been reported missing from Hertfordshire and was conveyed to relatives in Edinburgh.

5.3 ***CAPP***

***Agreed priorities-***

Attention to be given to –

* Fringe by the Sea until 14th August and thereafter from 15th August to parking in and around primary school.
* Parking issues in High Street and beach front areas.
* Speeding motor bikes on A198

Date of the next CAPP meeting - 31st August 2016.

**6 Home Energy Scotland – presentation**

Roisin Hurst, Partnership Manager of Home Energy Scotland, explained that the organisation is funded by the Scottish Government to give free impartial advice on energy efficiency and savings from their Advice Centre in Edinburgh by a free phone help line [0808 808 2282]. The Scottish Government’s aim was to eradicate fuel poverty by the end of the year but this was unlikely to happen. More than 10% of income spent on energy costs meant that someone was in fuel poverty. Funding was available for new boilers, insulation, fuel discounts etc but cold calling by other unrelated organisations made publicising their services difficult. Community liaison officers work with the more vulnerable and specialist support is available to advise on reducing fuel and petrol costs. She was happy to attend any events with community engagement which may be beneficial to the wider community.

**7 Planning Matters**

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

**90e High Street:** Alterations and extension to flat. No objection was raised.

**1 Rhodes Farmhouse, Lime Grove:** Alterations to building. No objection was raised.

**NB Delivery Office, 2 Westgate:** Installation of BT cabinet. No objection was raised.

**10a Westgate:** Alterations and extension to building and erection of conservatory. No objection was raised.

**Links Lodge, Links Road:** Partial taking down of wall to widen existing opening, creation of new opening and erection of gates - No objection was raised.

**74 Lime Grove:** Change of use from open space to domestic garden ground. No objection was raised.

**Inchdura, 15 Hamilton Road:** Erection of gates, raised planters and formation of hard standing area (retrospective). No objection was raised.

**91 High Street:** Rooftop cafe extension, erection of fencing, formation of decked sitting area and external escape stair -

Adam Elder of Whynot? gave a short presentation on the proposal. He confirmed that there would be no seating outside the ‘pod’ and agreed to amend the application to reflect this. He answered points raised by neighbouring residents including noise levels, opening hours, and overlooking other properties. As the neighbours present appeared satisfied with his responses no objection would be raised by the Community Council subject to the application being amended regarding external seating. **ACTION: Cllr Moodie**

**6 Links Road:** Alterations and extension to house, erection of wall, fence & gate and formation of hard standing area. No objection was raised.

**5 Ibris Place:** Erection of fencing (retrospective). No objection was raised.

**6 West Bay Court:** Alterations to flat. No objection was raised.

**19 Law Road:** Erection of 3 houses and associated works. Some concern was expressed regarding overdevelopment of the site but no objection was raised

**3 Abbotsford Park, Abbotsford Road:** Erection of conservatory. No objection was raised.

7.2 **Blenheim House Hotel:** The Secretary confirmedthat, contrary to speculation on the North Berwick News & Views Facebook page, the property was not being sold to Travel Lodge. She had asked the owners for an update on the current position.

7.2 **Cucina Amore, 37 Quality Street:** An application for a premises licence had been received for this business. The Secretary explained that they had had a premises licence previously but, due to an administrative error when the company name was changed, the licensing board had not been informed of the change which had resulted in the licence being void. To enable them to carry on business they had been operating on occasional licences. This licence application reinstates the position as before. The operating hours would be as before – 11.00am - 22.00pm for off sales and 11.00 - 23.00pm Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday and 11.00am - 00.00pm Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday for on- premises sales. It was agreed that no objection would be raised.

**8 Community Rail Partnership:**

8.1 Cllr Sinclair had been the only Scottish representative at a meeting in York which had been an interesting experience. It was disappointing that the on-going dispute with ScotRail/Abellio was still unresolved.

**9 Calder & Crawford Cups**

9.1 The Secretary reported that there had been about 60 entrants, including an increase in the number of under-14s, to this year’s event, which was an improvement on the previous year. She thanked Cllr H Smith for her Facebook postings.

Grace Crawford had won the Crawford Cup after a keenly contested final with her brother Glen to become the first girl to have her name on the trophy. Two previous winners of the Calder Cup had competed in the final with Chris Low beating David Warren.

She commented that the green had been in much better condition this year with new cups and pins but she understood that it was supposed to have been cut twice a week and hadn’t been cut since the Friday before the competition started which was disappointing.

She thanked all who had helped on the qualifying and finals days and Martyn Huish who again had generously provided golf balls and the Crawford Cup prizes at cost.

The Secretary was thanked for organising the event.

**10 Communications Group:**

10.1 There was nothing to report. It was noted, however, that some houses in Victoria Road and Forth Street had not received the recent newsletter. Cllr Sinclair was to take this up with Royal Mail. She reminded everyone that copies were available at the library.

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

11.1 The Secretary had sent a letter to the Chief Executive of ELC requesting a hold on the sale of the Lime Grove Depot pending further discussion by the community regarding its future use and investigation into a possible community landownership buy-out. The Chief Executive was investigating the matter

11.2 ELC Cllr Berry had written to the Chief Executive supporting the Community Council’s position, pointing out that ‘yet more 5 bedroom homes would not only further skew the social mix but abdicate any pretence of planning sustainable communities’.

11.3 Cllr Ellis had been in touch with the Scottish Land Fund regarding the possibility of the Community Council leading an acquisition of a property for community use with support from the Scottish Land Fund. He had been advised that it was unlikely that a Community Council would meet the criteria that it had for the community organisations it supported.  There had been examples, however, of a Community Council doing the first phase, such as a feasibility study or suchlike, which the Scottish Land Fund could in principle support with a small grant and afterwards pass on the responsibility and information to a vehicle specially set up or more suitable for the land acquisition, such as a trust or other community organisation.

11.4 Cllr H Smith reminded members that the ‘Community Conversation’ organised by the Area Partnership would be taking place in the Spiegeltent on 15th August at 7.00 pm.

**12 Law Race**

12.1 Members were reminded that the Law Race would be taking place the following evening (3rd August). The Community Council had been asked again to help with the handing out of the medals. The Chairman asked for volunteers.

**13 Reports from Groups & Societies:**

13.1 **Coastal Communities Museum:** Cllr Moodie reported that nearly 5,200 people had visited the 99 Objects exhibition by the end of July.

13.2 **Christmas Lights:** Cllr Scott reported that the sub-committee had met recently and the switch on of the lights would take place on Saturday 19th November

13.3 **Environment Trust:**  Cllr H Smith reminded members that the Trust was sponsoring a talk entitled ‘Whale Meat Again’ at the Fringe by the Sea on Sunday 14th August. To coincide with the talk, British Divers Marine Life Rescue would be holding a demonstration on the beach in the morning on how they go about saving stranded animals. Weather and beach use permitting they hoped to carry out another demonstration in the afternoon

13.4 **North Berwick in Bloom:** Cllr Sinclair reminded members that the Beautiful Scotland judging would be taking place on Tuesday 9th August from 9.00 am. Any help with litter picking etc before then would be appreciated. The Chairman congratulated ELC on replacing the rusted railings at the harbour and painting the link chains along Beach Road.

**14 Correspondence:**

The Secretary had received the following communications –

14.1 A letter from the **Post Office** regarding the modernisation of the post office at 7 High Street which was to become a new *main* style branch. This would mean a newly refurbished branch providing a modern open plan environment for customers; the same products and services; longer opening hours; selected Post Office services. The branch would close for refurbishment on 5th September at 17.30 and re-open on 13th September at 13.00.

14.2 An e-mail from the East Lothian Community Care Forum regarding their **Wellbeing Passport.** The passport carries details of the holders’ important medical details but also gives information on their life needs, wants and aspirations. The Forum was looking for volunteers to act as interviewers for prospective Passport holders. [info@elccf.org]

14.3 An e-mail from **What’s On East Lothian.** The 6 Area Partnerships had been working to develop a single event database for use by the whole East Lothian Community to publicise local events and activities. Development work on the project was nearing completion with the launch of the full service to the wider community due very soon.

14.4 An invitation from **North Berwick Harbour Trust** to attend a small event at 11.15 am on 12th August (meeting at ELYC) to mark the completion of the new sea wall at the east end of the Esplanade. Cllr Macnair agreed to attend. **ACTION: Cllr Macnair**

14.5 An invitation to attend the **Scottish Resilient Communities Conference** on 7th October from 10.00 am to 3.30 pm at Victoria Quay, Leith. As the Community Council has a Resilience Plan it was agreed that one place should be reserved. **ACTION: Cllr K Smith**

14.6 Notice of temporary road traffic restrictions for the Law Race on 3rd August.

14.7 Notice of temporary road traffic restrictions for the Highland Games on 6th August.

14.8 Notice of temporary speed restrictions (30mph) on the A198 during the Paul Lawrie Match Play from 4th to 8th August

14.9 An e-mail about the launch of a new **Contact the Elderly** group in North Berwick for older people over 75+ living alone, to enjoy monthly outings involving tea, cake and good conversation.

**15 Any other competent business:**

15.1 ***20 mph speed limit***: Cllr Kellock had asked that a request for a 20 mph speed limit in the centre of the town following the recent accident in Beach Road be discussed. It was pointed out that this had been raised on a number of occasions before and police speed surveys had been carried out which had indicated that speeding was not an issue. As the trial 20 mph limit in the Lochbridge Road area was to be reviewed soon it was felt that the result of that should be awaited before doing anything further. Cllr Hamilton commented that the police had indicated that the accident would have happened even if the speed limit had been 20 mph.

**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 6th September 2016 at 7.30 pm.

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

The 483rd Public Meeting of the Royal Burgh of North Berwick Community Council to be held in the Fire Station, Station Road on Tuesday 6th September 2016 at 7.30 pm

**AGENDA**

1. Welcome
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of Meeting held on 2nd August 2016
4. Matters Arising
5. Police Report
6. Youth Project - presentation
7. Community Conversation
8. Planning Matters
9. Community Rail Partnership
10. West bay water pollution
11. Bins
12. Community Council Elections
13. Reports from Groups & Societies
14. Correspondence

15. Any other competent business

16. Date of Next Meeting - Tuesday 4th October