**Royal Burgh of North Berwick Community Council**

**Minutes of the 488th Public Meeting held at 19.30 on Tuesday 10th January 2017**

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

**Present:** Cllr Hilary Smith, Chairman

Cllr Kathryn Smith, Secretary

Cllrs L Cowie, L Kay, G Moodie, C Mackenzie; W Macnair, O Owen, S

Northrop, T Todd & I Watson

**In attendance:** ELC Cllrs D Berry & J Goodfellow, local press, 4 members of the public.

**1 Welcome:** The Chairman opened the meeting, welcomed all those present and wished everyone a happy New Year.

**2**  **Apologies:** PCs D Gray & I Paterson

**3 Minutes of the Meeting held on 6th December 2016:**

Adoption of the Minutes, which had been circulated previously, was proposed by Cllr Owen and seconded by Cllr Moodie.

**4 Matters Arising:**

4.1 ***4a.3 Planning Aid:*** It was confirmed that a training schedule was still awaited.

4.2 ***4a.4 Traffic Wardens:*** It was confirmed that until 23rd January the traffic wardens would be issuing advisory notices only. Thereafter tickets would be issued. Concern was expressed about the clarity of the road signs in certain places; it was to be hoped that the current rules would be followed.

4.3 ***4b1 Presentation by P7 pupils:*** The Chairman had written to various organisations regarding some of the points raised by the young people in their presentation and commented as follows –

* ELC’s Peter Forsyth was looking at putting in a crossing from Glasclune Gardens across Dunbar Road to the Lodge;
* Landscape & Countryside would be responsible for a handrail on the Glen footpath;
* North Berwick Movies were supportive;
* Enjoy Leisure were planning to run ‘fun’ sessions at the pool;
* Enjoy Leisure were looking at sources of funding for a dugout at the 3G pitches which would cost £1,300-£1,500 for a basic model.

The P7 teacher had thanked the Community Council for giving the pupils the opportunity to present their proposals.

4.4 ***10 NBCC Ward Boundary:*** The Chairman had spoken to both Gullane & Area and Dunpender Community Councils and it was agreed that the boundaries needed to be reviewed in the near future.

4.5 ***11 Christmas Lights:*** Cllr Moodie pointed out that he had offered to be involved in the new Christmas lights committee.

4.6 ***12 Provost’s Reception:*** The Chairman reported that she and the Secretary had attended the Provost’s reception at which Mrs Elma Danks and Miss Sheila Sinclair had received long service awards.

**5 Police Report:**

5.1 In the absence of PCs Gray & Paterson the Secretary read 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***

* There were no issues regarding road safety to report.

**2*. Antisocial Behaviour***

* On 01/12/16 there was a report of a parked car left running with loud exhaust on Church Road. Police attended – no trace of vehicle.
* On 16/12/16 there was a report of males in Forth Street causing a nuisance, urinating in the street. No persons seen on police arrival.

**3*. Housebreaking***

* On 06/12/16 The Grange, High Street was broken into and a till stolen. Enquiries ongoing.
* Between 14/12/16 – 16/12/16 there was an attempted break in to The Buttercup Café, High Street. No entry gained. Enquiries ongoing.
* Between 15/12/16 – 16/12/16 there was an attempted break in to Emma Combe Hair, Market Place and Fat Face, High Street. No entry gained to either shop. Enquires ongoing.
* In the early hours of 16/12/16, there was an attempted break in at the Nisa Store, High Street. No entry gained. Possible CCTV. Further enquiries to be made.
* There was a report of an attempted break in to a café at 96 High Street between 26/12/16 and 27/12/16. Enquiries are ongoing.
* There was a report of an attempt to break into a garage in Marmion Road between 29/12/16 and 30/12/16. No entry was gained and no property stolen. Enquiries are ongoing.
* On 9/1/17 the occupier of a dwelling house in Westgate reported that there had been a break in to the property over the previous 6 weeks and a quantity of jewellery stolen. Enquiries are ongoing.

**4. *Parking***

* Parking in the town was still being monitored on a regular basis by the Community Policing Team, as well as the new Parking Attendants.

**5. *CAPP***

The date of the next CAPP meeting is on Wednesday 25th January 2017, 1930 hours, Council Chambers, North Berwick.

**6. *Other Incidents of note***

* On 17/12/16 there was a report from North Berwick Opticians that the glass panel on their front door had been smashed. Details taken and enquiries ongoing.
* There was a Report of a theft of several sections of lead roofing from an outbuilding in West Bay Road between 22/12/16 and 23/12/16. Enquiries are ongoing.
* There was a Report of a theft of fuel from Tesco garage on 30/12/2016. Registration number noted and enquiries are ongoing.
* There was a Report of a smashed window at The Hope Rooms on 01/01/17. No culprits seen and enquiries are ongoing.
* Between 20/12/16 and 2/1/17 there was a theft of a child’s scooter reported from a garden at Green Apron Park. Enquiries are ongoing.
* During the evening of 8/1/17 a quantity of batteries was stolen from the recycling plant in Heugh Road, North Berwick. CCTV footage is available and enquiries are ongoing.

5.2 Concern was expressed at the high level of attempted break ins in the High Street and whether the poor lighting in the street was significant. The level of police staffing was also queried.

**6 Planning Matters:**

6.1 The following new applications had been viewed beforehand and no objections had been raised -

**4a Victoria Road:** Alterations to building.

**The Harbour, Victoria Road:** Siting of storage container for lobster hatchery operations and interpretative display purposes for temporary period of 3 years (renewal of planning permission 14/00216/P).

**11 Warrender Court:** Extension to house and formation of 1st floor terrace area.

**20 Green Apron Park:** Extension to house and formation of decking.

**8a Links Road:** Demolition of wall/fence and gate; alterations, extension to house, formation of vehicular access, hard standing area, decked area, erection of shed, gates, walls & fencing.

**12 Quality Street:** Alterations, extension to building and erection of wall.

**Ferrygate Farm, Dirleton Road:** Erection of sales cabin and associated works for a temporary period of 6 months.

**Land to east of 18 & 18a Dirleton Avenue/ Ware Road:** Installation of BT cabinet.

**Ferrygate Farm, Dirleton Road:** Substitution of house type on plot 8.

**West to East of North Berwick Shoreline:** Construction of soft engineered coastal defences including a combination of geotextiles, marram grass, rock armouring, timber sleepers and soft rock sand bags.

**65 Old Abbey Road:** Extension to house.

**3 Inchgarry Court, Links Road:** Replacement widows.

**19 Dirleton Avenue:** Demolition of gates,alterations to house, widening of vehicular access and erection of gates.

**2 Moffat Place:** Extension to house.

**4 School Road:** Extension to house and formation of hard standing.

**The Harbour, Victoria Road:** Erection of 6 buildings for storage or distribution (class 6)

6.2 The following new applications were viewed, discussed and commented on as follows –

**The Harbour, Victoria Road:** Erection of freestanding removable canopy. Concern was expressed and a caveat given that the temporary structure should be removed at the end of each summer season.

**32 Marmion Road:** Erection of one house and associated works. Concern was expressed that this was an infill building within a conservation area and was of poor design and quality.

**7 NBGC – coastal erosion:**

7.1The Chairman commented that she had not expected the planning application to be lodged till April which would have been after the public exhibition which was due to take place on Wednesday 15th February from 3.00 pm to 7.00 pm in the Community Centre. In summary, the coastal defence mechanisms designed to help further erosion were re-instatement of timber sleepers; planting of marram grass within geotextiles; and installation of soft rock bags.

7.2 It was agreed to support North Berwick Golf Club’s proposals but the Chairman encouraged members to attend the public exhibition on 15th February.

**8 Communications Group Report:**

8.1 Cllr Mackenzie referred to the Report which had been circulated prior to the meeting and which she summarised as follows - the web site had been updated and included a calendar and e-mail addresses for everyone; a further review of the newsletter regarding content, regularity and distribution was being carried out; it was hoped to have an intern in place by the February meeting.

**9 Area Partnership – Charrette:**

9.1 Cllr Kay confirmed that funding for the proposed charrette (the main purpose of which was to address the pedestrian safety and parking issues within the town centre) had been obtained. There would be a meeting of the Partnership’s On the Move, which would be the lead working group, at 7.00 pm in the Hope Rooms the following evening to discuss further. There would be a press release to encourage community involvement and consultation with various groups in the town.

9.2 As the Area Partnership was not a constituted body, Cllr Kay asked if the funds for the charrette could be ‘parked’ in the Community Council’s bank account till required. This was agreed.

**10 NBCC - Governance:**

10.1 Although governance was covered by the ‘green book’, the Chairman indicated that she would like to set up a sub-group to consider the objectives of the Community Council, its effectiveness in meeting these objectives, and its accountability.

10.2 Cllr Moodie agreed to head up the group with Cllrs Northrop, Kay & Mackenzie.

**11 Casual vacancy:**

11.1 The Chairman confirmed that the vacancy would now be advertised. Applicants should write formally to her with their reasons for wanting to join the Community Council. The deadline for applications was 10th February. Thereafter, there would be a meeting of all candidates and the existing Community Council on 21st February when the successful applicant would be selected.

**12 Reports from Groups & Societies:**

**St Andrew’s Old Kirk Project:** Cllr Owen confirmed that there was to be a meeting of the group on 12th January.

**13 Correspondence:**

The following communications had been received –

* An e-mail from the Edinburgh & Lothians Equality Council with a community councillor survey [circulated].
* An e-mail from Sandy Baptie, ELC Emergency Planning and Risk Manager with a Met Office yellow warning for snow, ice and wind for 3 days from 11th January [circulated].
* An e-mail with the final call for nominations for the Scottish Civic Trust ‘My Place’ Awards - deadline 31st January [circulated].

**14 Any other competent business:**

***Development Trust:*** Cllr Owen intimated that there would be a meeting on 12th January in the Hope Rooms to discuss the setting up of a Development Trust to acquire the Lime Grove site for the benefit of the community. A public meeting to enable public engagement was planned to take place in the Community Centre on 26th January.

***Dog mess:*** Cllr Mackenzie pointed out that there had been comments on Facebook about the increase in dog mess in Lochbridge Road. The matter should be referred to the dog warden.

***Loony Dook:*** Cllr Todd commented that there had been 22,500 hits on his Facebook posting of the Ne’er Day Dook.

**15 Date of Next Meeting:**

The next meeting of the Community Council will be held at the Fire Station, Station Road, North Berwick on Tuesday 7th February 2017 at 7.30 pm.

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

The 489th Public Meeting of the Royal Burgh of North Berwick Community Council to be held in the Fire Station, Station Road on Tuesday 7th February 2017 at 7.30 pm

**AGENDA**

1. Welcome
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of Meetings held on 10th January 2017
4. Matters Arising
5. Police Report
6. Update on Harbour Trust by Jane McMinn
7. Planning Matters
8. Planning Consultation
9. Communications Group Report
10. Governance Group Report

1. Community Development Trust – Lime Grove
2. Emergency Response
3. 24 hour Defibrillators

14. Casual Vacancy

15. Reports from Groups & Societies

16. Correspondence

17. Any other competent business

18. Date of Next Meeting - Tuesday 7th March 2017