**Royal Burgh of North Berwick Community Council**

**Minutes of the 493rdPublic Meeting held at 19.30 on Tuesday 6th June 2017**

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

**Present:** Cllr H Smith, Chairman

Cllr K Smith, Secretary

Cllrs L Cowie, G Moodie, C Mackenzie, W Macnair, S Northrop, T Todd  
 & I Watson

**In attendance:** Peter Hamilton, Susan Lassesen, Tony Thomas (Apt Planning & Development Ltd), Stuart and Jo McNicol, ELC Cllrs J Goodfellow & J Henderson, Jane McMinn (North Berwick Harbour Trust), Jill Taylor (Minutes), local press and local residents.

**1 Welcome:** The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed all present, including recently newly elect ELC Cllr Henderson and minute taker Jill Taylor..

**2 Apologies:** Cllrs J Lockhart, O Owen & L Kay, ELC Cllr J Findlay, PC’s D Gray & I Paterson and Gavin Harper.

**3 Minutes of the Meeting held on 2nd May 2017:**

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

**4 Matters Arising:**

4.1 *4.1 Planning Aid* – They are no longer able to send representatives to attend a meeting this month. Chair will liaise with a view to reschedule in July/August/September.

4.2 *4.7 Christmas Lights* – Cllr Macnair reported that the new group had met and there was another meeting planned for this Friday 9/6.

4.3 *7.1 Consultations* -- Only 2 Cllrs had responded to the request to let the Secretary know areas of interest regarding consultations. Cllrs were reminded of their active role. Cllr Mackenzie suggested that a list of action points is circulated after each meeting. 2 outstanding relevant consultations would be discussed at AOCB.

4.4 *12.6 Russell Bequest, -* Cllr Northrop was still waiting to hear who would represent ELC on this committee which meets irregularly. Discussion followed on how residents find out about the Bequest and how to apply.

4.5 *14.3 Stella Moffat Trust*– All grants allocated at the recent meeting were being disbursed by the Factor.

4.6 *14.4 Alternative venue* - An alternative meeting venue for NBCC meetings due to the international terrorist threat level being raised to severe was discussed briefly. All were asked to look for alternative meeting places and times. This would be an agenda item for the future.   
 **5 Police Report:**

5.1 In the absence of PC’s Gray & Paterson the Secretary read out the Police Report which is summarised as follows:

During the period of the last 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 22/05/17, 4 motor cycle riders were issued with anti-social behaviour orders after being stopped by an unmarked Police motor cyclist on the A198 at North Berwick.

**2. Antisocial Behaviour**  
- During the evening of 06/05/17, a complaint was received regarding loud music coming from The County Hotel due to premises keeping their fire door open. Police attended and advised staff to close same.

**3. Housebreaking**  
- Between 16/05/17 and 17/05/17 a dwelling house under construction in Glenorchy Road, was broken into and a quantity of tools stolen. Enquiries are still ongoing.  
- During the early hours on 04/06/17, 2 males were seen by witnesses to break into AC Styling, High Street, and to throw items from the shop into a silver vehicle, before making off on foot. Enquiries are currently ongoing by CID.

**4. Parking**  
- This continues to be monitored by East Lothian Council Parking Attendants.

**5. CAPP**

The agreed priorities for the month were following up on drug misuse around Craigleith Avenue & Lochbridge Road, anti- social behaviour around the Skate Park and Recreation Ground and speeding on the A198.

Local metal thefts, school children congregating at Gin Head (reported to police at the time) and large volume of fast cars and motorcycles on Grange Road late at night were discussed. It was agreed to raise the speeding issue at the next CAPP meeting.

The recent drug arrests had also been discussed at the CAPP meeting.. 2 people were now on bail and one on remand.

After the recent terrorist incidents in Manchester and London, Police Scotland had sent a message to community groups which would be posted to NBCC Facebook page. Thoughts of all NBCC were given to those affected by recent events.

The date of the next CAPP meeting is on Wednesday 28th June 2017, 1930 hours, Council Chambers, North Berwick.

**6. Other Incidents of note**   
- On 01/05/17, the CO-OP, High Street reported the theft of a jar of coffee. Enquiries are ongoing.  
- During the early hours of the 06/05/17, a sign outside North Berwick High School was damaged. 3 persons caught on CCTV images and a positive line of enquiry is being followed.  
- On 05/05/17, £140 of forged £20 and £10 notes were passed in Tesco over the previous week and handed to Police.  
- On 18/05/17, a Misuse of Drugs warrant was executed at an address in Lochbridge Road, and a large quantity of illegal drugs were recovered, with an approximate value £47,000. 3 males and 1 female arrested and charged with being concerned in the supply of illegal drugs.  
- Overnight on 19/05/17, a rear number plate from a vehicle in Forth Street, was stolen. Enquiries are ongoing.  
- Between 20/05/17 and 25/05/17, a pedal cycle was stolen from an insecure shed in School Road. Enquiries are ongoing.  
- During the early hours on 21/05/17, a male was arrested in Grange Road after shouting and swearing at Police and threatening them with violent behaviour.  
- Overnight between 23/05/17 and 24/05/17, a BMW motor bike was stolen from a courtyard in Balfour Street. It had subsequently been recovered in Edinburgh and enquiries are ongoing.  
- Overnight between 23/05/17 and 24/05/17, a pedal cycle and power tools were stolen from a shed at Coastguard Cottages.. Enquiries are ongoing.  
- Overnight between 23/05/17 and 24/05/17, an attempt was made to steal a pedal cycle from a cycle rack on the roof of a vehicle which had been parked in Melbourne Road. Enquiries are ongoing.  
- Overnight between 23/05/17 and 24/05/17, a motor bike was stolen from Forth Street and recovered a short distance away. Enquiries are ongoing.  
- Overnight between 23/05/17 and 24/05/17, a quantity of petrol was stolen from a canister within an unlocked shed in Marmion Road. Enquiries are ongoing.  
- Overnight between 23/05/17 and 24/05/17, a quantity of white spirit was stolen from an unlocked shed in Clifford Road. Enquiries are ongoing.  
- During the day on 25/05/17, a quantity of alcohol and food was stolen from The CO-OP, High Street. A male and a female suspect were caught on CCTV and enquiries are still ongoing.  
- During the evening of 26/05/17, £240 of alcohol and food was stolen from The CO-OP, High Street. A male and a female suspect were caught on CCTV and enquiries are still ongoing.  
- During the evening of 04/06/17, a quantity of food and alcohol was stolen from The CO-OP, High Street. A male and a female suspect were caught on CCTV and enquiries are still ongoing.  
  
Feedback welcome to [NorthBerwickCoastalCPT@Scotland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:NorthBerwickCoastalCPT@Scotland.pnn.police.uk) or[deborah.gray@scotland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:deborah.gray@scotland.pnn.police.uk) and [john.paterson2@scotland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:john.paterson2@scotland.pnn.police.uk).

**6 Presentation by Stuart and Jo McNicol:**6.1 Anthony Thomas of Apt Planning & Development Ltd gave a presentation on plans for the proposed Castleton Farm Coffeehouse which was not at the planning application stage yet. They are looking to diversify the farm and create a destination coffee house of 40 covers, open 7 days – 9.30am-6pm, and using up-cycled shipping containers. Cllr Moodie asked about parking, but this was not yet agreed, but likely to be around 20 spaces. Cllr Macnair asked about toilet waste – this will be kept on site and taken away. Cllr Watson asked about people stopping on the main road and walking in – it was felt that the parking allowed would alleviate that, giving people looking at the view somewhere to park. Mr and Mrs McNicol and Apt Planning & Development Ltd were thanked for giving NBCC a heads up on their plans.

**7 Planning Matters:**

7.1 Cllr Todd had attended the ELC planning meeting that day. The West Bay beach café application had been refused but the totem clock at North Berwick Golf Club had been approved.

7.2 The following new applications had been viewed beforehand and no objections had been raised –

**North Berwick Harbour**: Siting of building, storage cage and erection of signage (retrospective)

**North Berwick Harbour:** Display of advertising (retrospective)

**North Berwick Tennis Club:** Resurfacing tennis courts

**25 St Andrew Street:** Extension to house, formation of hard standing & steps, relocation of wall

**North Berwick Harbour**:: Variation of condition 1 of planning permission 11/00786/P to extend period of siting snack bar with seating area and storage cage for further 3 years (retrospective)

**Land adjacent to Harbour**: Erection of storage shed (retrospective)

**8 Tantallon Terrace**: Alterations to house and painting trellis & gate

**16 Lady Jane Gardens**: Formation of decking

**65 Old Abbey Road**: Erection of car port and first floor extension

**22 Marmion Road:** Installation of summerhouse

**30 Stair Park:** Erection of lean-to shed

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

**Scottish Seabird Centre**: Alterations and extension to SSC and adjacent sun lounge to form a national marine centre and associated work. Concerns were raised that what had been submitted was different from that presented at public meetings. There were a lot of documents to review. Groups that could help inform NBCC’s decision were meeting over next few days/weeks. It was agreed to discuss the application at NBCC’s mid month meeting on Tuesday 20th June 2017 and submit comments on Wednesday 21st June 2017 to ELC. ELC Cllr Henderson was asked to check if NBCC could have a short extension to the deadline for the planning application submissions. Cllr Todd would also ask if NBCC could have a short extension. All were asked to look at the application documents prior to the mid month meeting.

Jane McMinn, Chairman of the Harbour Trust, spoke and raised a number of concerns about this application regarding access to harbour during the construction period and beyond. The Harbour Trust had a unanimous lack of support for this plan but would support plans for a National Marine Centre if it could be developed in the same footprint as the current building. The Harbour Trust had decided to oppose the planning application via a firm of consultants.   
**91 High Street (Why Not?):** Formation of octagonal stair enclosure, erection of fencing, formation of decked sitting area. It was pointed out that there had been noise concerns from residents raised at a meeting to discuss the previous application. There were no figures or distances on their plans and no indication where the fire exit would be. The level of external seating was also a concern of neighbouring residents. Following discussion and a vote, the motion to object to the application was carried. Cllr Todd would submit an objection on behalf of NBCC based on concerns about the. fire escape and potential noise for neighbouring residents.  
**The Abbey Retirement Home, Old Abbey Road:** Erection of yurt. After discussion no objections were raised to this application. Cllr Northrop had also spoken to the Manager of the Abbey and it was felt that this social enterprise would build relationships with communities and young people and would allow young people to access mental health and wellbeing support.   
**28 St. Andrew’s Street**: Erection of shed (retrospective). After discussion there was no strong feeling about this and it was agreed to leave it to see what ELC decide at the Planning Committee.

**8 Communications Group:**

Cllr Mackenzie commented as follows - 8.1 A High Street event enabling Cllrs to meet residents/traders/visitors to town had been proposed on Saturday 17th June; however Cllr Mackenzie & Cllr H Smith were the only ones available. Saturday 1st July was discussed as an alternative when Cllrs K Smith, H Smith, Northrop and Mackenzie could attend. A presence at Tesco or Aldi was discussed. The Chairman would circulate 2/3 different dates/times for availability   
8.2 The Café in the Lodge launches on 1st July and there was an open day bbq on 2ndJuly. She asked if NBCC could be present at this to meet people.  
8.3 She reported that she was currently finalising the content for the newsletter. There would be a schedule of content circulated to Cllrs soon. Options for support for layout/artwork was discussed..   
8.4 She was focussing on putting a number of posts on Facebook to generate interest in NBCC and NBCC’s work and asked that events be posted and the website calendar updated with events/meetings attended. She would also change the picture on the Facebook page.

**9 Budget 2017/18:**

9.1The potential Local Priorities under spend of £5,000 after payment for a newsletter (£1,000), the Raft Race (£500), Law Race medals (£100), fireworks (£500), website (£200) was discussed. Ideas included more editions of the newsletter, funding things identified by the Area Partnership, buy something e.g. boxes for AEDs or handrails, have a community event. The Chairman suggested that it may be possible to do a number of these things with the budget for example:-  
£1.5k to buy something i.e. 2 x AED boxes

£1k for 2nd newsletter/extra communication  
£1k Area Partnership local plan areas

£1.5k community event

Perhaps funds could be given to other community groups such as RNLI, or North Berwick in Bloom.   
Cllr Mackenzie would ask for ideas from the community in the forthcoming newsletter.

Cllr Moodie suggested that once priorities had been decided, NBCC could go to other funders to ask for more support for ideas.

9.2 The Secretary asked for approval of the payment of £500 to the East Lothian Yacht Club for the fireworks display and this was agreed.

**10 24 hour Defibrillators:**

10.1 Cllr Todd reported that after meeting with the Friends of the Edington (FOTE) 4 locations had been ear marked as possible locations for 24-hour access AED's. -Why Not?, NBRFC, the Fire Station and the RNLI. The FOTE had agreed to move AED's from other current limited access locations into 3 of the external boxes. The one at the rugby club was owned by the club. It was now possible to progress things via the architect and to obtain planning permission for those that require it. One location may not require planning permission and if so, this can be placed as soon as possible and give the external box donor, Paul Burns, closure on his fund raising efforts.

The FOTE are looking for someone to take on the annual maintenance of the AED's owned by them. Batteries need to be replaced after 5 years and pads every 2 years i.e. an annual cost of £52/AED total £468 p.a. This cost may be found in the NBCC budget.

**11 Area Partnership – Charrette:**

11.1 Cllr Northrop thanked all who had attended. It was felt to be successful and interesting. There is to be a community meeting on the findings from Charrette on a date to be advised. Cllr Northrop would be meeting the consultants later that week. Some feedback received was that commuters/school parents had found it difficult to drop in due to times. The onus had been on the consultants to ensure as much of the community as possible had been included, but there was acknowledgement that work on this had been undertaken. General discussion ensued about how NBCC could include everyone. The role of a Community Cllr is to talk to people and get opinions and information out. Cllr Moodie suggested having a town strategy and the meeting agreed that NBCC, as democratically elected representatives, had the legitimacy to pull this together. Cllr Mackenzie volunteered to scope this idea which was unanimously agreed with the possibility of .set ting up a sub group. It was suggested that the Dirleton Village Association could be contacted for advice/support.

**12 Reports from Groups & Societies:**

12.1 **Calder & Crawford Cups:** The Secretary confirmed preparation for this event on 25th & 27th July would be dealt with on her return from holiday at the end of the month.

12.2 **St Andrew’s Old Kirk Project:** The Secretary had circulateddetails of the proposed interpretation board for approval and this was agreed.

12.3 **Community Centre:** The AGM was due to take place on 29th June.

12.4 **Parent Council:** Concern had been expressedat a recent meeting about safety on Grange Road as a result of speeding traffic. It was agreed that NBCC would support them in their concerns and contact ELC regarding speed restrictions.

12.5 **Youth Project:** Cllr Watson reported thata youth worker had been appointed and would start work shortly with youngsters on a Lottery Heritage funded project with the Coastal Communities Museum.

**13 Correspondence:**

The following communications had been received –

* Request from Charter for Trees, Woods & People to plant a Charter Legacy Tree in celebration of the launch of the new Tree Charter. The Chairman had registered the Community Council as a local Charter Branch.
* E-mail from Scottish Community Development Centre about proposed research focusing primarily on engaging with community councillors. It was agreed to register.
* A letter from the Merchant Navy Association regarding flying the red ensign on 3rd September.

**14 Any other competent business:**

14.1 *North Berwick Resilience Plan:* Cllr Northrop commented that this was being updated as there were gaps regarding carers, new builds, supporting neighbourliness, and awareness of terrorism.

14.2 *Resignation:* Cllr Cowie tendered her resignation with regret as she felt she did not have the time to commit to the work of the community council as she would wish. She would, however, be happy to continue on the Christmas Lights subcommittee for 2017. The Chairman thanked her for her contribution during her short time on the Community Council and wisher her well in the future.

14.3 *The High Street:* Cllr Todd commented that the independent traders were reliant on a total shopping experience but that North Berwick was becoming known for its charity tourists and as a result he felt the High Street was slowly dying. There was no marketing of the town. Who the High Street was for needed to be addressed.

**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 4th July 2017 at 7.30 pm.