

Royal Burgh of North Berwick Community Council

Minutes of the 402nd Public Meeting held at 19:30 on Tuesday 19 January at the Council Chambers, North Berwick

Present: Cllr P Burton Chairman
Cllr M Baker Vice-Chairman
Cllr K Smith Secretary
Cllr E Danks Treasurer
Cllrs R Bryson, J Goodfellow L Hall, R MacEwen, W Macnair, J Scott,
I Watson, S Sinclair

In attendance: ELC Cllr Berry, Mr I Donald, Ms P Earle, local press

The meeting to be held on 5 January had been postponed due to bad weather. The Chairman welcomed all present to the first meeting of the year and wished everybody a happy new year.

- 1 Apologies for absence** **Action**
ELC Cllr N Rankin.

- 2 Minutes of meeting held on 1 December 2009**
The Minutes were approved with the following amendments:
Item 9.4 should read "...if 50% of the cuts..."
Item 14.3 should read "It was agreed that the Community Council..."
Proposer: Cllr Watson; seconder: Cllr Baker.

- 3 Matters Arising**
 - 3.1 *Christmas lights switch on, fundraising*
(6) Although the Courier had quoted £400 as having been raised, this was only half of the profit, which had been £923 plus a £100 donation. Mrs Burgon had won the Christmas hamper. The meeting thanked Cllr Sinclair for her efforts in creating the quiz, which had made almost as much as raffles in previous years. £230 had been banked through the Rotary collection at the switch-on and the organisation was thanked for their help at the event. Discussion on arrangements for 2010 would take place at a meeting in the near future. **ALL**

 - 3.2 *Cockenzie Power Station*
(11.1) A further meeting would be held at the power station on Wednesday 20 January from 19:00 to 20:30. Cllr Bryson would attend and Cllr Baker would try to do so. **RB/MB**

 - 3.3 An invitation to comment on a CD regarding the power station had been received from ELC, with a deadline of 12 February. Members were invited to view the CD. **ALL**

 - 3.4 *St Baldred's Road traffic management*
(13.2) The white line at the entrance of the house concerned was to be extended to make access easier. It had been suggested that more parking could be made available at the Edington Hospital but this was not felt to be a viable proposition. The Secretary would pursue the possibility of double yellow lines. **KS**

 - 3.5 *Hope Rooms disabled parking*
(14.1) The 1.5 car length space had been created for the lunch club bus; however, the lunch club no longer met at the Hope Rooms. The Secretary would confirm the position with ELC. **KS**

4 Police report

- 4.1 It was regretted that the police force was not represented at the meeting as several matters had been itemised for discussion. There were no reports from New Year but there did not seem to have been much rubbish on 1 January. The meeting had wished to clarify and discuss the drinking byelaws.

5 North Berwick & District Business Association

- 5.1 Mr Donald apologised on behalf of the Business Association for the cancellation of the meeting about Christmas lights. The next meeting would be held on 25 January, when the lights would be discussed, as well as liaison with the Community Council. Mr Donald's commitment to the Rotary Club, as incoming President, would prevent him attending Community Council meetings after February. It was possible that a representative from the Community Council would be invited to attend Business Association meetings, or liaison might be possible by email. It was thought that it would not be possible to continue the present arrangement of their representative attending Community Council meetings due to the difficulty in getting new members. The issue would be clarified after their AGM.

- 5.2 The Chairman congratulated Mr Donald on becoming President of the Rotary Club but was sorry to lose the representation of the Business Association at Community Council meetings. It was acknowledged that Mr Donald had worked hard for many years in this role and there were many ongoing issues of common interest to both groups, e.g. topically, The Edington Hospital, traffic issues, the museum, CCTV. It was vital to have liaison.

- 5.3 Lothian and Borders Police had asked the opinion of the Business Association on the drinking byelaws. The meeting was informed that the Business Association wished them kept as they were and that there was not a case for change as the system works well. The main problem in the town was under-age drinking, not infringement of byelaws by over 18 year-olds.

6 North Berwick Museum and CCTV

CCTV

- 6.1 There would be four cameras although tenders were only just back with ELC. Cameras would be at Sweet News, on Quality Street at the entrance to the Imperial car park, the Council office and the new Lodge grounds entrance (by request of the police). It may yet be possible to reposition one of these to the middle of the High Street.

- 6.2 It was noted that Dunbar would receive CCTV before North Berwick because the Scottish Government regeneration funds which had been received were to be spent by March. It was hoped the cameras in North Berwick would be in place by summer. The cameras would be actively monitored. The Treasurer would check to see if funds received last year from the Community Environment Fund for CCTV in the Lodge was in the bank account. The ELC officer had been very helpful in these discussions. **ED**

Museum

- 6.3 The Chairman had previously reported that she had asked ELC Cllr McLennan to clarify some points following the Community Council meeting he had attended. A date was still to be arranged for a visit to the museum building.

- 6.4 The Community Council felt that ELC had made a commitment regarding funds in 2009 and it was noted that ELC Cllr McLennan would look at this year's budget again. ELC Cllr Berry was asked to comment but was unable to do so before the budget was set on 9 February. Although the museum was in the budget as a capital investment, budgets had had to be re-examined due to the Scottish Government budget changes to local Councils. It had been

hoped that this administration would bring the museum back to the town. ELC Cllr Berry had been unable to predict that so much would be withdrawn by Government in the last year and the immediate future. It was noted that ELC had delivered three out of four commitments to the town and was still working to deliver the museum.

- 6.5 The meeting discussed the various problems concerning the building and it was requested that the meeting to visit it be arranged as soon as possible. ELC Cllr Berry reiterated that the museum in North Berwick, and a similar project for Musselburgh, was still on the table.

7 Traffic calming questionnaire

- 7.1 The Network Officer of the Traffic Division had asked if traffic calming had been welcomed in the town. There had been a varying response in Grange Road, with some residents saying that it had helped but school pupils now drifted into the road and it could be dangerous for tractors. It was agreed that visual calming is more acceptable than physical. It was thought that Marine Parade and York Road could benefit from traffic calming. It was felt that traffic calming need not be a high priority for ELC but roads should be monitored and, if there was an accident, steps should be taken. ELC Cllr Berry informed the meeting that ELC needed to reconsider reallocation of the traffic calming budget as most areas should have been dealt with by now.

- 7.2 It was noted that parking restrictions and new traffic lights had increased the traffic in outlying streets. The meeting discussed 20mph restrictions and noted that they were almost always accompanied by other measures.

- 7.3 The questionnaire ended by asking if the Community Council felt that other road safety measures would be considered appropriate. The meeting discussed options including the reduction of speed limits and it was thought that this could be included in Phase 2 of the traffic plan. It was agreed that a combination of traffic calming, speed advisory signs and road repairs would be beneficial. It was hoped that the Community Council would be consulted before any measures were implemented.

[Mr Donald left the meeting]

8 BT Adopt a Telephone Box

- 8.1 Although the information had been passed to Gullane, ELC had since written to the scheme's originator to express concern about it, including land ownership, management, maintenance, insurance and power supply. ELC would not adopt the box and felt that the telephones should remain available. Their letter would be circulated to councillors. It was noted that the phone box at Gillsland Caravan Park had been disconnected as it was no longer financially viable.

9 Planning matters

- 9.1 The replacement of the harbour crane was welcomed.
- 9.2 The second application for 20 St Andrew Street was discussed; there were no adverse comments.
- 9.3 The application for one CCTV camera in the High Street was noted.
- 9.4 An objection would be made against the application for the erection of a house at Benderloch, Dirleton Avenue, on the grounds of infill. **JG**
- 9.5 It was noted that the application for Elanora had been turned down on the same grounds as those given by the Secretary of State to the original

application, namely disturbance of the symmetry at the entrance to the town.

9.6 It was noted that there were not many working days in which to comment on the application for 23 Clifford Road. Legislation is for days, not working days, and this should be borne in mind over the winter holiday period.

9.7 A Community Council Cluster Training would take place on 13 February in Dalkeith. Training would be given on the changes in planning legislation for all community councillors.

ALL

10 Reports from groups and societies

10.1 *Lobster Hatchery implementation group*

There was good representation from local organisations in the group. It was hoped for a start date of Easter in 2012 or 2013.

10.2 *Hope Rooms*

A report on the progress in the bookings system had been received. Usage had not been as high as anticipated and it was thought that some groups may no longer make enquiries due to previous disappointment. Adjustments had resolved some of the problems. It was noted that a museum could be used for exhibitions and there would therefore not be a clash with the youth group during summer months, as there had been in 2009.

10.3 *North Berwick in Bloom*

The Secretary would remind ELC about updating the signs as soon as possible as the new year had begun.

KS

11 Correspondence

11.1 *"Living and Dying Well in Lothian"*

This NHS Lothian document was tabled. The deadline for consultation and response was 5 February. The Chairman and Cllr MacEwen would read it and respond.

PB/RM

11.2 *Community Environment Trust*

The application deadline was 29 January. The FLAG group had been asked for support in replacement of rusty notice boards which were difficult to use. It was felt that the community should not pay for these but the Treasurer would ask for financial information and the request would be discussed further. Councillors were asked for other suggestions for this grant application.

ED

ALL

11.3 *Girl Guiding centenary*

It was agreed to donate £100 to these celebrations.

11.4 *Keep Scotland Tidy*

There was an aim to find 7000 volunteers to pick litter in April. Information was tabled.

11.5 *HM Inspectorate of Education*

A workshop would be held the following day as a follow-up to last year's visit. Nobody was able to attend but the day centre would be represented by Mr Donald, who would be asked to report to the Community Council.

PB/ID

11.6 *Grit bins*

During the recent bad weather, Cllr Goodfellow had taken a note of the grit

bins in the town. He had found two private ones but was concerned that residents are paying high charges to service companies who do not spread the grit. Elderly residents were being put at risk.

11.7 *Cloaks*

Provision of cloaks for the Lifeboat Queen, for use at the Christmas lights switch-on, was in hand.

12 AOCB

12.1 *Scaffolding*

An enquiry would be made regarding why the scaffolding around the Old Kirk **KS** had been erected for over a year without apparent use.

12.2 *State of paths and banks*

The path between East Road and the Coo's Green was dangerous. It was understood that it was marked for improvement along with the Greenheads. The Elcho golf course path was bad and the sleeper retention wall was being eroded. The retaining wall at the bank above the tennis clubhouse was bulging. The Secretary would write to ELC about these two matters. **KS** There was a loose stone at the corner of Law Road and St Margaret's Road which the Environment Trust was contacting ELC about.

12.3 *Potholes*

The potholes in Bank Street were becoming dangerous. They would be added to the next letter to ELC about roads. It was noted that ELC was quantifying the damage and costs resulting from the recent bad weather. North facing areas had been dangerous and some grit bins seemed to have disappeared. It would be interesting to know if the grit would be replaced in empty bins.

13 Date of Next Meeting

19:30 on **Tuesday 2 February 2010** in the **Fire Station**.