

# Royal Burgh of North Berwick Community Council

## Minutes of the 418<sup>th</sup> Public Meeting held at 19:30 on Tuesday 2 May 2011 at the Council Chambers, North Berwick

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

**In attendance:** ELC Cllr Rankin, Mr & Mrs I Robertson, Mr H Mackenzie, Mr E Clark,  
Ms P Earle, local press

- 1 Apologies for absence** **Action**  
Cllrs P Burton and J Scott, ELC Cllr Berry, PC Dobbie.
- 2 Minutes of meeting held on 5 April 2011**  
The Minutes were approved with an amendment to the heading of item 11.4 to 'Petanque court' as this court was not within the Lodge grounds.
- 3 Matters Arising**
- 3.1 *Business Association website*  
(9.5) Cllr Goodfellow had not yet been able to contact Mr Danks to discuss the future of the NBCC web pages but would do so at the earliest opportunity. **JG**
- 4 Police report**
- 4.1 PC Dobbie's report was presented by the Secretary.
- 4.2 PC Dobbie had reported at year end to the Chief Executive, ELC and colleagues, emphasising the shared approach between all communities and agencies within the county. Although there would be economic challenges in the year to come, she was optimistic that professional working relationships would enable innovative and realistic solutions to problems to be found.
- 4.3 There had been 12 recorded crimes in the previous month, 8 of which had been solved:
- |                        |                        |                              |
|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 x drinking in public | 1 x malicious mischief | 1 x possession of controlled |
| 3 x theft              | 1 x arrest on warrant  | drugs                        |
| 1 x vandalism          | 2 x assault            | 1 x drink driving            |
- A breakdown of crime recording, solvency to date and solvency last year was presented in a table. Recording of violent crime had increased but the solvency rate had improved, with all crimes of violence having been solved. The solvency rate had not improved for the fewer recorded sexual crimes but enquiries were still ongoing into many of these. Solvency had increased in the greatly reduced number of crimes of dishonesty.
- 4.4 *Speeding*  
The East Lothian Community Action Team had attended in Lochbridge Road and Dunbar Road recently, with one penalty notice for speeding and one for mobile telephone offences being issues.
- 4.5 *Pubwatch*  
The initiative continued to be effective. There had been no incidents in the previous month.
- 4.6 *Community and Police Partnership (CAPP)*  
The last meeting had been well attended and members of all associations were reminded that all were welcome to attend these public meetings. It was noted that the system of meetings allowed for instant feedback. It also provided the opportunity to report local information without the need to phone the police with specific details. The next meeting would take place on Wednesday 25 May at 19:30 in the police station.

4.7 *Parking complaints*  
In response to complaints, 10 fixed penalty tickets had been issued. The public was reminded to park in a considerate manner to all road users and pedestrians.

## **7 Parking byelaw update**

7.1 Mr Robertson thanked the meeting for the chance to voice his concerns about overnight parking in Tantallon Terrace and the resulting problems in traffic congestion, litter and hygiene. He suggested overhead bars as a long-term solution and 'no parking' signs in the short-term, although it was acknowledged that these had been vandalised the previous year. 'No through road' signs in strategic positions might also be effective.

7.2 It was noted that NBCC had been in discussions with ELC on this subject for some time and had pursued the matter again recently. It was also noted that offenders returned after being moved on and there was some concern that large vehicles might simply move to car parks.

[Mr & Mrs Robertson left the meeting]

7.3 It was noted that the concrete sleepers had still not been replaced at the Castle Hill car park and that there was a huge pothole there. Although it was understood that this was in the repair programme, it was emphasised that repairs were needed before the tourist season began in the very near future. ELC Cllr Rankin would make enquiries on progress. **NR**

7.4 It was noted that potholes could not be reported if the road did not have an A or B number.

## **5 Planning**

### **5.1 4 York Road**

Mr Mackenzie circulated two documents from Historic Scotland and commented, with reference to correspondence between Historic Scotland and ELC, that their views had not been adequately represented at the Planning Committee. Neighbours had not been informed of revisions in plans immediately before the Planning Committee met and new plans were not posted on the website in a timely manner. Historic Scotland were not informed of the final revisions until after the committee had reached a decision and, when finally informed, they had stated that they did not feel that the proposed building would preserve or enhance the character or appearance of the conservation area. The Secretary would again write to ELC, reiterating previous comments and providing an up to date opinion from NBCC. **KS**

5.2 Two issues were under discussion: one regarding planning and one regarding procedure. Cllr Goodfellow had expressed similar concerns to the NBCC meeting in December (see item 8.8 in December minutes). It was agreed that the Planning Committee should have been fully informed of Historic Scotland's views. Cllr Goodfellow and the Secretary would liaise on communication to be sent to the Chief Executive. **JG/KS**

[Mr Mackenzie left the meeting]

### **5.3 Development at Gilsland/Mains Farm**

Cllrs Bryson, Macnair, Sinclair and MacEwen were thanked for their input to the response, which was tabled and discussed.

5.4 It was suggested that the previous consultation was not relevant to the development framework document but the meeting held the view that historic discussions were informative to the public, and especially to new residents. It was confirmed that the document under discussion would be made public. It was understood that health boards were reactive to need and therefore there was no statutory connection; however, consultation with the health board would still be sought.

- 5.5 There was no evidence to support the view that there was no need for expansion in education facilities outside the two existing campuses. Previous discussions had included a second infant school. It was noted that, if Haddington Road was not realigned, land for a school would not be safeguarded; it was essential that a school should not be placed on the other side of a main road.
- 5.6 It was noted that there would be an increase in traffic from all directions and a bypass should still be considered.
- 5.7 Other developments did not have 3-storey and tenement-type properties and the examples of housing in the document were not interesting designs.
- 5.8 Paragraphs 6.37 and 6.38 enabled the developer to apply to use surplus land for more houses if there was a demand. Development should be limited to 500.
- 5.9 Mr Clark noted that traffic flow on the Ware Road bridge and up Highfield Road had not been discussed adequately and he felt that a traffic impact survey should be conducted.
- 5.10 Mr Clark also felt that there was a credibility issue in the framework as it was based on a consultation in the 1990s, when housing was considered the best way forward to benefit the residents of the town through the North Berwick Trust. It was possible that the same conclusions would not be drawn in the 2010s and many of the town's residents might suggest other community-based projects. He was informed that the North Berwick Trust had legal obligations. Mr Clark felt that, as the document contained a first departure to the original conclusions (i.e. education), a second departure could also be proposed. It was noted that many houses were being put into the Lothians. If North Berwick decided that this land could be used for other purposes, houses would be situated elsewhere (e.g. west of the town) through a private developer, with resulting lack of control over the development. Situating the development at Mains Farm, through the North Berwick Trust, was for the good of the town. It was noted that the other half of Mains Farm was still safeguarded by the Trust and that the density of houses in the framework was quite high, therefore leaving green space.

5.11 A revised response would be circulated in the following week.

**JG**

5.12 *Pavilion Café in the Lodge*

The application was summarised and it was explained that the scheme would be run as a community project. As the application had been submitted by NBCC, there were no objections.

5.13 *10 Lorne Lane*

The application for alterations was considered and received no objections.

5.14 *Decided applications*

There were no decided applications of specific interest.

**6 Park and ride proposal**

6.1 Residents of Dirlerton Road had written expressing concern over recent reports of the proposal. The Secretary would again ask for a meeting as all opinion was based on speculation and nothing was known about ELC discussions on the subject. ELC Cllr Rankin reported that officials and councillors had discussed options on 20 April. A consultant was being hired to review the situation and choices would go out to public consultation.

**KS**

[ELC Cllr Rankin left the meeting]

**8 Reports from groups and societies**

8.1 *Communities in Bloom*

Judging would take place from 9 to 11 August.

8.2 *Coastal Command*

A commemorative service at their memorial at the Seabird Centre had been very

good, but not well attended.

## **9 Correspondence**

### 9.1 *Sewage pipe*

Cllr Macnair had enquired on the progress of discussions. It was understood that the matter would be discussed at the next Executive meeting.

### 9.2 *Community Planning Forum meeting*

An invitation had been received for a meeting to be held at 09:30 on 4 June in the High School.

## **10 AOCB**

### 10.1 *Glen lighting*

An invoice had been received from ELC for the lighting of the Glen walkway, which had been completed in February of last year. Two grants had been received but members were reminded that there had been a shortfall in the region of £600, which it had been hoped would have been taken up by ELC. The Secretary would make further enquiries. **KS**

### 10.2 *Friends of the Lodge*

The group was seeking a notice board to display details of buildings. NBCC would submit the application to save on costs.

### 10.3 *Tennis courts barrier*

The barrier had been locked by the tennis club, causing some problems. In future, Landscape & Countryside would provide, and be in control of, the lock.

### 10.4 *Vandalism in The Lodge*

A report had been made. It was noted that witnesses should report incidents to the police.

### 10.5 *Bank holiday*

It had been noted that there seemed to have been no police presence over recent bank holidays.

### 10.6 *Lodge gates*

The meeting was pleased that the gates had finally been repaired.

### 10.7 *Lobster shack*

The facility had received good reports and was felt to benefit the town.

### 10.8 *Community Councillor magazine*

The meeting's attention was drawn to articles on the Common Good.

### 10.9 *Grass cutting*

It was noted that residents in St Baldred's Road had had to cut kerbside grass, as it had not been done by ELC.

### 10.10 *Station toilets*

Again, visitors had expressed disappointment that there were no toilet facilities at the station.

## **11 Date of next meeting**

**19.30 on Tuesday 7 June 2011 in the Fire Station**