

Royal Burgh of North Berwick Community Council

Minutes of the 440th Public Meeting held at 19:30 on Tuesday 05 February 2013 at St Andrew Blackadder Church, North Berwick

Present: Cllr S Sinclair Chair
 Cllr J Scott Treasurer
 Cllr K Smith Secretary
 Cllrs M Baker, R Bryson, E Danks, H Flanagan, L Hall, D Kellock, W Macnair,
 H Smith, I Watson

In attendance: ELC Cllrs D Berry, T Day & J Goodfellow, Mr R MacEwen, local press,
 Ms P Earle

Action

1 Apologies

Cllr M Baker, PC Dobbie

2 Minutes of the meeting held on 08 January 2013

Adoption of the minutes was proposed by Cllr Bryson and seconded by Cllr Watson.

3 Matters arising

3.1 *Parking byelaw*

(3.1)

The Secretary had asked ELC for an update on when the byelaw would come into force. As far as they were aware, no objections had been received and confirmation from the Scottish Government was awaited, following which they would advertise the coming into force of the provisions. It was noted that the Scottish Government could be somewhat tardy in such matters

3.2 *Public entertainment licensing*

(3.2)

Mr MacEwen reported that comments on the latest version of ELC's draft resolution on entertainment licences were due by the end of the week. He noted that one of the exemptions would exclude 'not for profit' events held by charitable, religious, youth and similar organisations but that many charitable fund raising events were held specifically with a view to making a 'profit' in order to provide financial support for the work they were doing. Fundraising events by groups such as the Rotary, where the fundraising was on behalf of organisations which were not the ones undertaking the fundraising, would also be caught by the proposed resolution; it was understood that they (Rotary) might be writing to object to the latest wording. It was felt that the appropriate course for East Lothian Council would have been to conduct a full review of entertainment licensing with full consultation, which might have avoided numerous re-drafts. The Secretary would object to the draft resolution on the grounds that NBCC was not satisfied that the revised wording was fair or achieved the intended effect.

KS

3.3 *Business name boards*

(3.5)

Mr MacEwen had sought clarification from ELC Cllr Goodfellow on the situation regarding advertising signs for businesses in Dirleton Avenue, particularly with regard to the dental practice sign and the Fidra Fine Art sign, which had recently appeared. ELC Cllr Goodfellow would investigate further but he explained that when the Conservation Area had been extended originally it had been decided not to include restrictions on advertising. Any business within the Conservation Area wishing to advertise, within limitations, had deemed consent. However, there seemed to be a procedure whereby consent could be revoked by ELC on the grounds of amenity. In the case of the dental practice (see item 3.5, 08 January minutes), it had been felt that there were not sufficient grounds to request revocation. However, if NBCC felt

JG

that there was a loss of amenity, it could still approach ELC. It was agreed that the dental practice sign was more prominent than others in the area and it was noted that a precedent could be set if it was allowed. NBCC would also object to the fine art sign. ELC Cllr Goodfellow would be copied into correspondence. **LH**

3.4 *Dog fouling*

(4.9) The Chair was meeting with the dog warden the next day to discuss various matters including greater visibility of wardens in the town, heightened awareness of penalties and a suggestion to incorporate disposable bags dispenser on bins. **SS**

3.5 *Jacob's Ladder car park*

(11.2) Cllr Day was thanked for his prompt action in having contractors make good the state of repair of Jacob's Ladder and the lower car park on Tantallon Terrace.

4 Police report

4.1 Unfortunately the police report had not been made available before the meeting.

5 Edington Hospital

5.1 NBCC had made it clear that they were determined to ensure that any changes to the provision of health care services at the Edington and the Health Centre would continue to meet the needs of residents. Several options to deal with the building constraints were under consideration and an architect would be examining the site shortly to suggest what could be done. A further meeting with NHS managers had been arranged to discuss compilation of a questionnaire to issue to residents seeking their views as to what services they would like to see.

6 Consultation on draft Strategic Police Plan

6.1 The deadline for comments on the draft Strategic Police Plan was 22 February. The final draft would be submitted to Scottish Ministers for approval, published and then laid before Parliament by the end of March. The Scottish Police Authority had made a commitment to review the first Plan within 12 months to ensure that focus on their priorities and objectives were maintained. Councillors commented that accessibility was considered to be of great importance and it was noted by several councillors that rural areas were being increasingly marginalised. ELC Cllr Berry reported that no noticeable changes were planned but that some traffic police bases might change. It was felt that the current police station was too large for purpose. ELC Cllr Berry commented that policing, in combination with wardens, was effective. Mr MacEwen had noted that local plans would follow later; he noted that trust in the police had not been mentioned in the plan and this was a vital issue. The Secretary would respond. **KS**

[Mr MacEwen left the meeting]

7 North Berwick harbour and dinghy park

7.1 The owners of a dinghy lost in the December storm had written to the Community Council with suggestions on the harbour and its management. It was noted that insurance underwriters were now unwilling to write new policies due to the harbour having suffered from three adverse events within a three year period. It was felt that this placed ELYC's future in jeopardy. The writers had suggested that Elcho Green could be used as a dinghy park. Suggestions had also been made for long-term solutions to the problem. It was felt that boat parking charges should be dropped until ELC could offer some degree of security. It was understood that the Seabird Centre had put forward a scheme to develop the sea defences and, along with ELYC, would be in a position to attract grants. Other storage solutions were made.

7.2 ELC Cllr Goodfellow explained that the Harbour Trust Association's plan to take over the management of the harbour was well progressed. He acknowledged that steps needed to be taken to help dinghy owners obtain insurance. Marine surveys needed

to be completed before the matter could be discussed further. The meeting felt that there could be vandalism at Elcho Green, which was also under flood alert and therefore may not be eligible for insurance. In addition, that area had been booked for car parking during The Open Championship qualifying at North Berwick West. It was noted that the SEPA early warning system should alert owners to the need to move dinghies when warnings were received. ELC Cllr Berry noted that the decision by harbour users to create a dinghy park was relatively recent; lessons were still being learned and the recent bad storms were unanticipated and unusual. The question of whether people could move dinghies to designated areas in emergencies was posed. This might not be possible to organise officially but the area recently used had worked for some. It was noted that there was no NBCC representative currently on the Harbour Trust Association although the intention was to have one when the Harbour Trust came into force. The writers of the letter would be asked to contact the Harbour Trust Association and ELC councillors.

8 Planning matters

8.1 It was noted that applications for the Bass Rock garage development and Blackdykes wind turbines had been passed that day. Cllr Hall reported other applications which had been passed.

8.2 The following new applications met with no objection:

Balgone South House – alterations and extension to building. It was noted that the property was a listed building. It was hoped that the extension would be in sympathy with the architecture of the building and Cllr Hall would write to that effect. **LH**

26 Gilbert Ave – extension to house to form wet room.

North Berwick Sports Club – formation of synthetic pitch with floodlighting and associated works. Cllr Kellock introduced and described the application as Cllr Hall had a personal interest in it. Preparation work would be considerable as the area was prone to flooding. The project was part funded by ELC, who had also obtained funding from other bodies. It was noted that the High School pitch had been lost to PPP and the new pitch would be an excellent additional facility, with different sports able to be played on it. The current lighting was not well sited but new lights would be directed onto the pitch. It was noted that it had already been agreed that the car park should be extended. Maintenance would be the responsibility of ELC.

9 Highfield Road – extension to house, formation of dormers and decking

14 Glasclune Gdns – alteration, extension to house and formation of hardstanding area

10 Melbourne Road - replacement windows. ELC Cllr Berry commented that sash windows let in rain in some circumstances and PVC was more energy efficient. Opinion on whether PVC should be allowed in conservation areas/for listed buildings was divided.

Abbot's Glade, 6 Tantallon Road – erection of balcony

2 St Ann's, 12 York Road – alterations to building, erection of railings and demolition of railings

28 St Andrew Street – display of advertisements (retrospective)

Links Lodge, Links Road – alterations, extensions to house and associated works

4 Rhodes Holdings – erection of garage, formation of vehicular access and hardstanding area (retrospective)

Gin Head – alterations, extensions and change of use to laboratory buildings to form 1 house with staff accommodation, swimming pool and underground car parking, change of use of laboratory and agricultural land to form garden ground for the house, formation of vehicular access and associated works

8.3 The meeting discussed the following application:

Ferrygate Farm – planning permission in principle for residential development. A second application was necessary due to a previous misunderstanding about ownership of part of the land. No change in application. The original objection would be resubmitted. **LH**

8.4 *North Berwick Golf Club*

The Chair reported that the Golf Club would be submitting a planning application for a vehicle drop-off point in Beach Road.

9 Reports from groups and societies

9.1 *CAPP*

The latest report would be circulated as the police report had not been available.

9.2 *Law Residents*

The group was discussing the dog fouling problem.

9.3 *Performing Arts Centre*

A public meeting with workshops to discuss a proposed performing arts centre would be held at 7.30 pm on 12 February in the Hope Rooms.

9.4 *Youth Network*

Plans for the Community Festival on 15 June were progressing.

9.5 *St Andrew's Old Kirk roof project*

Cllr Day confirmed that a meeting would be held in two days' time.

9.6 *Environment Trust*

Cllr H Smith reported that the meeting had discussed progress on the Kirk Ports project. The group had wanted the barriers in Beach Road removed and had discussed the permanent state of flooding in the Yellowcraig car park.

9.7 A request was made for Cllr H Smith to ask the Environment Trust about painting the harling on Brodie Court. It was understood that ownership of the building, being half private and half council, caused problems as no conditions regarding liability for this had been written into the title deeds. **HS**

9.8 *Association of East Lothian Community Councils*

Cllr Flanagan reported that new office bearers had been elected. The committee was to be made larger as more work was anticipated. Cllr Flanagan had put her name forward to join the committee. Two speakers were available for Community Council meetings: The East Lothian Emergency Planning Officer and the Community Service Manager.

9.9 A Scottish Government consultation on Community Councils was being undertaken; after that was completed, best practice would need to be reviewed.

9.10 *Christmas lights*
Cllr Scott reported that there was enough financial reserve to be able to have lights in 2013. £482 had been taken from the Local Priorities Scheme for the Christmas tree for the first time without the sub-committee or Treasurer having been informed. After discussion, it was agreed that this was acceptable.

10 Correspondence

13.1 *Oasis*
A lunch invitation for 19 March had been received from the Minister of St Andrew Blackadder.

13.2 *Crossing at Glasclune Gardens*
Residents in Glasclune Gardens had complained again about traffic safety whilst crossing East Road from The Lodge. They had suggested that the reactive speed sign be re-sited on East Road at the Glasclune Gardens junction as the sign in Dirleton Avenue had been obtained with a view to changing sites. The Secretary would make enquiries. Cllr Bryson would request at the next CAPP meeting if speed checks could be set up. It was noted that a previous suggestion regarding installing a crossing at the Greenheads Road junction had not been thought to be a satisfactory solution. **KS**

13.3 *Rural East Lothian Bus Users (RELBUS)*
A meeting would be held in the Town House, Haddington on 21 February. It was noted that Iain Gray had introduced a Private Members Bill on the reintroduction of bus operations.

13.4 *Local Economy Workshop*
A meeting on job creation opportunities in a low carbon economy would be held from 12.30 to 5pm on 12 March in John Muir House, Haddington.

13.5 *Community Service Manager*
As per item 9.7 above, an offer to give a presentation on voluntary work had been received.

[Cllr Flanagan left meeting]

13.6 *Guide to emergency planning for community groups*
Publications were distributed.

11 AOCB

14.1 *Restoration of town signs*
Cllr Watson would order materials and organise repairs.

14.2 *Community Notice board*
So that a further application for funding could be made for the proposed new community notice board, the Chair would ask Osprey for an updated estimate.

14.3 *Website*
The Stella Moffat application form could go on the site and North Berwick in Bloom would be linked. An additional page would include draft responses, downloads etc.

14.4 *The Open*
ELC councillors had met with the police inspector in charge of The Open. Details of roads affected would be included in the next newsletter.

12 Date of next meeting

19.30 on Tuesday 05 March 2013 in St Andrew Blackadder Church.