

Royal Burgh of North Berwick Community Council

Minutes of the 447th Public Meeting held at 19:30 on Tuesday 03 September 2013 at St Andrew Blackadder Church, North Berwick

Present: Cllr S Sinclair Chairman
Cllr K Smith Secretary
Cllrs R Bryson, E Danks, H Flanagan, L Hall, D Kellock, H Smith, I Watson

In attendance: ELC Cllr D Berry, local press.

1 Apologies

Cllrs M Baker, W MacNair & J Scott, ELC Cllr T Day, PC L Dobbie (late).

2 Minutes of the meeting held on 06 August 2013

The adoption of the Minutes was proposed by Cllr Watson and seconded by Cllr Bryson.

3 Matters arising

3.1 *Bus Regulation (Scotland) Bill - consultation*

(5.1)

The Secretary had submitted a response on behalf of the Community Council by the deadline of 31st August only to have been informed that the deadline had been extended to 11th October.

3.2 *Station Court parking*

(9.3)

There had still not been a response from Peter Forsyth of ELC Transportation to the points raised by the Residents' Association or the Secretary.

3.3 *Re-active speed sign*

(10.1)

The pole had been installed on Dunbar Road but there was no sign yet.

3.4 *Christmas lights*

(9.1)

A meeting to discuss arrangements for this year's switch on was scheduled for 10th September.

The Secretary commented that she had been asked by the Secretary of AELCC who had been responsible for putting lights on the jawbone at the top of the Law as the tape used to secure the lights had been left on resulting in the discolouring of the jawbone. Cllr Watson undertook to investigate. The Council did not want to stop the practice providing permission had been sought and any fixing material removed afterwards. After discussion it was agreed that lighting the jawbone could be incorporated into the Christmas lights display and this would be investigated further.

4 Police report

There was no police presence and no report was available

4.1 *Traffic wardens*

The Chairman had learned that Police Scotland would be giving up control of traffic wardens next summer with responsibility for them being transferred back to councils. The Council was aware of this and, as part of a general parking overhaul, was looking at the role of traffic, community and park wardens in general.

- 4.2 *Break-ins*
Cllr Berry reported that there had been a worrying spate of break-ins of tradesmen's vans in the neighbouring villages.
- 4.3 *CAPP*
Cllr Bryson reported that the CAPP meeting scheduled for 28th August had been cancelled.
- 5**
AELCC AGM report (*deferred from last month*)
The report was not yet available.
- 5.1
Cllr Flanagan had not attended the last meeting. The Minutes were to be circulated but she could report that the scheduled awards ceremony had been cancelled and that there was to be a meeting of all community council chairmen to discuss what they wanted from the Association.
- 5.2
The next general meeting would be on Wednesday, 13th November in the Town House, Haddington when presentations would be given on two of the Council's essential services, Graveyards & Burials and Waste Services.
- 6**
Proposed town food market
6.1
The Chairman reported on the local press coverage and the reaction thereto. She had written to the food market group confirming that the Community Council applauded the initiative but could not support its proposed location in the Law Road car park. The group had asked for a meeting to explain their position; they would be invited to the next mid-month meeting.
- 7**
Litter Bins
7.1
The Chairman had written to Stuart Pryde of ELC's Landscape & Countryside Department regarding the problem with seagulls and litter bins. He appeared less than enthusiastic about gull proof bins and more interested in reducing the waste at source. It was noted that other councils had gull proof bins and it was agreed to contact Edinburgh and Berwickshire for more information. In the meantime it was agreed that we should (a) write to the takeaway outlets in the town asking them to replace their polystyrene containers with more eco-friendly ones and (b) start a letter writing campaign on the subject.
- 7.2
The litter collection squad was praised for the sterling work carried out by them during the particularly busy summer months.
- 8**
Performing Arts Centre – feasibility study
8.1
Cllr Watson reported that the group was now properly constituted with a bank account. An appeal was to be launched for £15-35,000 which was the amount required for undertaking a feasibility study to look at possible sites and what could be achievable. A myriad of sites had been suggested; their 'wish list' included a multi-purpose 500 seat theatre to attract touring companies, a black box studio and a restaurant.
- 9**
Old St Andrew's Kirk project - update
9.1
Cllr Kellock reported on the background to the project and the progress the working group had made to date. Following an open tender a firm of architects had been appointed to undertake a feasibility study on how best the building could be maintained as a town feature and resource. Their brief included undertaking a fully costed inspection of the site and a condition survey, reviewing information about the building and consolidating the structure, restoring the bell tower roof, arresting deterioration and interpreting the area to arrange safe access and an on-site history display. The final version was expected shortly.

10 War Memorial & World War 1 projects

- 10.1 The Secretary reminded members that the War Memorials Trust and Historic Scotland funding was for war memorials only. The Heritage Lottery Fund was providing funding for other projects up to £10,000 to help understand the WW1 and its legacy. It was suggested that the Graveyard Group, who wanted to investigate the names on the war memorial and the Coastal Communities Museum, who could stage an exhibition on the subject should be advised about the availability of the funding.

11 Minute Secretary

- 11.1 The Secretary reported that another lady was considering the position but no decision had been made as yet.

12 Planning Matters including Ferrygate update & Local Development Plan

- 12.1 *Ferrygate* – The Reporter had been appointed and his decision was now awaited. It was not known whether a site visit would be arranged. The Council planners were not optimistic about the outcome.

- 12.2 *Local Development Plan* – An update from ELC had been circulated to members. It was anticipated that an additional 750 houses would have to be built on top of the 6,000 already agreed. The potential to develop Blindwells was to be looked at again. The Council was working on the Local Development Plan's Main Issues Report which had to conform to the SESPlan which had not been issued yet. It was anticipated the Main Issues Report would be published in the autumn for public consultation for a period of at least 6 weeks.

- 12.3 *26 Victoria Road (The Rocketeer)* – Despite a recommendation by the planners that the retrospective application for permission for the display of advertisements be refused, permission had been granted but with the recommendation that the signage in the harbour area in general should be looked at.

- 12.4 The following new applications were viewed, discussed and commented upon where appropriate:

- *Engine Cottage, Abbotsford Road* – alter size and position of windows, doors and roof lights as design changes.
- *49a Kirk Ports* – alteration and part change of use of retail building (class 1) to café use, including formation of external seating areas for café use, siting of 1pg bottles & cage. Although not a permitted material planning condition, the proliferation of cafes in the centre of the town was noted.
- *42 St Baldred's Road* – erection of one house, formation of vehicular access and associated works. Concern was expressed about another infill build.
- *7a Dirleton Avenue* – erection of garden shed/sunroom.
- *Gilsland Park* – erection of laundry building.
- *11 & 11a Abbey Road* – Alterations to house and buildings (class 4) and erection of gates.
- *53 Old Abbey Road & former builders' yard* – Planning permission in principle for erection of one house.
- *Former builders' yard & 53 Old Abbey Road* – Change of use of builders' yard to domestic garden ground, extension to house and erection of garage.

- 12.5 *Impact of Road Traffic Orders during The Open* - It was noted that North Berwick had been adversely affected during the day by the road traffic orders issued during The Open with businesses reporting a drop in sales. There had, however, been a boost in business in the evenings, particularly at the east end of the town.

13 Reports from Groups & Societies

There was nothing to report

14 Correspondence

14.1 *Grazing at North Berwick Law* – The Law was a site of special scientific interest for its grasslands. It was intended to improve their condition by removing some areas of gorse and by grazing a small number of Exmoor ponies and Luing cattle. A community event would be held over the coming month to explain the project in more detail.

14.2 *Scotland's Seas – Consultation 2013*

Over Summer 2013, Marine Scotland would be consulting on a number of proposals to take forward integrated marine planning for Scotland's seas. Cllr Berry pointed out this was an important matter which the Community Council should consider. It was agreed to look into the issue further and to liaise with the Scottish Seabird Centre. The consultation would run till 13th November.

14.3 *Community Rail Partnerships (CRP)*

CRPs were grassroots organisations which aimed to link local railways with the communities they served. They involved local people in the development and promotion of local and rural routes, services and stations. RAGES had identified the North Berwick line as having great potential in the formation of a CRP and support had been invited.

14.4 *Housing Allocations Policy Review*

ELC and ELTRP had organised a joint consultation event on housing allocation which would take place at the John Gray Centre, Lodge Street, Haddington on 17th September at 6.30 pm. The consultation closed on 30th September.

15 Any other competent business

15.1 *Signage*

Guidelines on town signage were to be produced by ELC. It was agreed that once the guidelines had been seen by the Community Council an opinion should be formulated on this matter which had been the subject of public comment in the recent past.

15.2 *Fringe by the Sea*

Complaints had been received that late licences till 2.00 am every night had been disruptive to residents in the harbour area. The area had been unpoliced and damage had been done.

16 Date of next meeting:

19.30 on Tuesday 01 October in St Andrew Blackadder Church