

**Royal Burgh of North Berwick Community Council**

**Minutes of the 456<sup>th</sup> Public Meeting held at 19.30 on Tuesday 03 June 2014 in The Fire Station,  
Station Road North Berwick**

**Present:** Cllr S Sinclair Chairman

Cllr K Smith Secretary

Cllrs M Baker, R Bryson, E Danks, D Kellock, L Hall, J Scott, H Smith, I Watson

**In attendance:** ELC Cllr T Day, local Press, PC Cameron Tait, Mrs A Turgoose.

**1 Apologies:** ELC Cllr D Berry, ELC Cllr J Goodfellow, Cllr W Macnair

**2 Minutes of the Meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2014**

**Amendment to Item 5.1 Local Priorities and Budgets for 2014/2015**

**Delete** “She suggested that some of the money could be used to fund training events for Cllrs to increase their effectiveness in engaging with the Community. Cllr Danks stated that this would be an inappropriate use of the Local Priorities Budget which must be used for services within the Community”.

**Substitute** “She suggested that attendance at free training events could help identify more effective use of funding.”

The adoption of the Minutes, subject to the foregoing amendments, was proposed by Cllr Scott and seconded by Cllr Hall.

**3 Matters Arising.**

**3.1 Planning Matters**

(3.4) In response to a question from Cllr H Smith, it was confirmed that no further information was forthcoming on the “temporary” status of the proposed gazebos at 26 Victoria Road.

**3.2** ELC Cllr Day advised that the spiral staircase had been deleted from the new plans which had been submitted for 66 High St.

**3.3 12 Quality St and Quarterdeck, High St**

(14.1) The Secretary reported that both applications for variations (Major) of Premises Licences had been granted.

**Association of Rail Partnerships (ACoRP)**

(7.3) Cllr Scott welcomed the fact that ELC had allocated £1.5m for rail improvements in East Lothian.

**3.5 Car Sharing Schemes**

(9.1) The Chairman indicated that enquiries were ongoing with the existing car schemes. No new money was available but she was aware that Dunbar has applied for funding for two cars for North Berwick.

### **3.6 North Berwick in Bloom**

(13.5) The Chairman, as In Bloom Secretary, had submitted a bid to Civic Pride for another compacting bin, similar to the one in Quality St.

### **3.7 Removal of bins from Lodge Grounds**

Cllr Hall had noted the removal of some bins in the vicinity of the Café, within the Lodge Grounds. The Chairman and Cllr Danks, as Friends of the Lodge, agreed to investigate.

### **3.8 Notice Board**

(15.1) The Chairman, on behalf of NBCC, has applied to Civic Pride for funding to install a Notice Board, specifically to promote volunteering activities in the town

## **4 Police Service of Scotland Report**

4.1 PC Tait set out Ward Priorities.

### ***1) Road Safety:***

Throughout the month, speed checks were carried out in the North Berwick area, including Old Abbey Road. Several drivers were warned regarding their manner of driving but no offences were detected.

### ***2) Anti Social Behaviour:***

On 09/05/14 a male was observed drinking alcohol in public on Law Road. He was cautioned and charged and issued a fixed penalty.

On 28/05/14 a vandalism (graffiti) took place on Balderstones Wynd, North Berwick. Enquiries are ongoing to trace the culprit.

### ***3) Substance Misuse:***

On 29/05/14 a misuse of drugs warrant was executed in the North Berwick area. This resulted in three charges being made, possession of Class A and B drugs and obstruction.

### ***4) Theft***

On 08/05/14 a theft by shoplifting (alcohol) occurred in the Co-operative, Dunbar Road. A male has been traced and reported to the Procurator Fiscal.

### **4.2 *Other incidents of note***

The Police had received 93 calls, 7 recorded crimes

On 21/05/14 between 21.30 hours and 22.00 hours at Bank St, a female was approached by an unknown male who indecently assaulted her. Specialist departments were currently investigating the incident and were following lines of enquiry.

### **4.3 CAPP (28/5/14) Agreed Priorities**

A CAPP meeting had taken place on 28<sup>th</sup> May and highlighted two areas of concern in North Berwick:

- Parking issues in the Harbour area and Tantallon/ Marine Terrace/ The Quadrant.
- Litter in the Lodge Grounds and Recreation Park.

The next CAPP meeting would take place at the Council Chambers, Quality St North Berwick on Wednesday 25 June at 19.30.

- 4.4 In response to a query, PC Tait confirmed that 25 tickets had been issued in respect of parking matters. The Chairman considered this figure to be low in view of the dreadful traffic and congestion at the weekend and welcomed more vigorous policing. It was explained that the 25 tickets related to those who met the criteria as many people drove off when a police presence was noticed. PC Tait asked that people note the car registration number and phone 101 if they detect an offence. It was important that the public continued to notify the Police of any concerns. He reminded Cllrs that, while enforcement was a priority, the Police were also trying to educate the public. which would take time.
- 4.5 The Chairman had been approached by Library staff who asked if they could take pictures of people misusing bays allocated for disabled drivers using the Library. While this was possible, it could result in drivers becoming irate so, on balance, PC Tait suggested that information is passed to the Police, without taking pictures.
- 4.6 While parking was an issue throughout East Lothian, ELC Cllr Day did not consider it appropriate that police time was devoted to local traffic duties/ issuing tickets. Cllr Kellock noted that congestion in the High St, eg outside NISA as lorries attempted to unload, was sometimes due to bad parking. Cllrs Bryson and H Smith highlighted the issues resulted from the volume of traffic in the harbour and seafront areas. Cllr H Smith suggested that Peter Forsyth was approached to improve signage to the underused, parking facilities at the Recreation Ground. Both Cllr Watson and Cllr Bryson agreed that the signs informing about 7 day parking restrictions were too small to be fully effective.

It had been observed by Cllr Danks that while some people were parking on the High St for several hours, many vehicles parked for 24 hours in centre car parks. She had noted that 10 - 12 vehicles had been parked in the same place for a full week.

The results of the consultation on parking was awaited. ELC Cllr Day could not confirm the exact timing but indicated that, after the initial findings, further consultation was likely.

- 4.7 The Chairman requested that the information outside the public toilets was updated and moved to the notice board outside the Police station

If there are any questions, please email North [BerwickCoastalCPT@Scotland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:BerwickCoastalCPT@Scotland.pnn.police.uk) or [ColinBanks@Scotland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:ColinBanks@Scotland.pnn.police.uk)

## **5 Area Partnerships**

- 5.1 The Chairman reported on the first Area Partnership meeting which she had attended with Cllrs Danks and Hall. The meeting had been chaired by David Small but it was expected that the Group would select a Chairman in due course and working groups would be established. The agenda had focused on membership and setting ground rules but future meetings should begin to identify issues to be addressed by the Partnership. ELC was writing to Groups who should be invited eg Aberlady Village Hall, Gullane Village Hall, NB Community Centre, Association of EL Day Centres, NB Sports Hub, Children and Youth Network. All four .NBCC representatives would attend the next meeting on 24 June.

Cllr Hall expressed concern about the absence of representation from the Business Community and was advised that membership suggestions were welcome.

- 5.2 Minutes of the Area Partnership meeting were available from the Chairman.
- 5.3 ELC Cllr Day emphasised the need for a broad membership and suggested that it might require a few meetings before tangible results would be achieved.

## **6 Tourist Information Office**

- 6.1 The Chairman had spoken to the Library staff regarding Tourist Information provision. They would assist as much as possible but, given that Library duties had priority, there were constraints on what they could offer. Visit Scotland had visited and looked at layout, materials, signage etc. Signage within the town is also being reviewed. A photographer had visited to take local photographs as it was acknowledged that there was a shortage of publicity specific to North Berwick. Cllr Kellock said this had become very obvious during a recent visit by a group of visitors from India. The Chairman was pleased to report that the Station Kiosk was prepared to have leaflets etc and that John Yellowlees from Scotrail would provide a cabinet for their display/ storage. Cllr Danks drew attention to the Tourist Information board outside the Library. She suggested that its position caused confusion and that it should be moved closer to the entrance.
- 6.2 The absence of a map to illustrate the role of the town within the John Muir Way and the lack of maps/ information to show walks around North Berwick, information readily available in many small tourist towns, was noted by Cllr H Smith. She suggested that the Schools could become involved in designing an App for the town. The Chairman reported that the Community Rail Partnership was looking at the local information available at each station eg "What can you do?" "Where can you go"? leaflets.

## **7 St Andrew's Auld Kirk**

- 7.1 The Friends of the Museum had expressed interest in using technology to create a visual display of how the Auld Kirk had looked in its original state. The Chairman was also aware that they hoped to produce a scale model which could be displayed within the Museum. Cllr Kellock agreed to link up with the Friends to discuss the potential use of technology. The Community Council supported these initiatives by Friends of the Museum.

## **8 Crawford and Calder Cups**

- 8.1 The Secretary drew attention to the Putting Green competitions. The qualifying events would take place on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 10am - 7pm. On Thursday 24<sup>th</sup>, the Children's competition for the Crawford Cup would take place 11am - 1pm with the Seniors competition, Calder Cup, starting at 6pm. Cllr H Smith offered to help both with pre event organisation and on the day and suggested the formation of a small group to assist the Secretary.
- 8.2 Cllr Baker asked if the Press could help with promotion, as the number of entrants had fallen. The Secretary confirmed that there would be publicity nearer the time. Meanwhile, a notice would be placed on the Community Notice Board. She also indicated that there would be prizes for the Children's competition and vouchers for the Seniors.

## **9 Planning Matters**

- 9.1 The following new applications were viewed, discussed and commented on, where appropriate.

**The Harbour, Victoria Road** – erection of storage buildings (class 6) with toilets, showers, changing room facilities, viewing terrace and formation of breakwater enhancements.

**25 Links Road** – extension to flat with roof terrace, formation of vehicular access, hardstanding area, erection of gates and building to form ancillary residential accommodation.

**17 Forth Street** – erection of conservatory and fence.

**33 Smileyknowes Court** – extension to house.

**1 Quality Street** – change of use of Tourist Information Office (class 2) to ice cream parlour/ café (class 3)

**Fisherman's Hall, 32 Victoria Street** – alterations, extension to 2 flats, erection of gates, balustrade, change of use of public open space to domestic use for the erection of an external staircase and formation of hardstanding area. Objections would be raised regarding the external staircase and balcony/ balustrade, creation of hardstanding and loss of green space. The changes were not in keeping with the local area.

9.2 Cllr Scott enquired about the best way to access planning details on line. It was agreed that Cllr Hall would clarify this.

## 10 Reports from Groups and Societies

10.1 **CAPP:** Cllr Bryson had been present at the last CAPP meeting. He highlighted Police concerns regarding scrap metal thefts which now extended to theft of gates and climbing frames/ trampolines. Anyone who had concerns about unfamiliar vans in their area should report details to Police. Parking issues should also be notified.

10.2 **St Andrew's Auld Kirk Project:** A written report was provided by Cllr Kellock in which he set out the background and aims of the project. At present, the focus was on seeking funding to contribute to the cost of interpreting at the building and improving the site and access. He would liaise with Friends of the Museum regarding use of technology to assist in provision of Information.

10.3 **Arts Centre:** Cllr Watson reported that the feasibility study was now in progress. He would appreciate details of any local events where the survey could be undertaken.

10.4 **Coastal Communities Museum:** The "Winter Feast" exhibition which had attracted reasonable numbers had now closed. Cllr Watson advised Cllrs that The World War 1 exhibition will follow.

10.5 **Commonwealth Games:** Cllr Watson drew attention to the fact that the Queen's Baton would be coming to North Berwick on 17 June between 3.30pm – 4pm. All agreed that this was good news for the town.

10.6 **Queen's Garden Party:** Cllr Hall confirmed that Sandy and Mike Forrest had received their invitations to the Queen's Garden Party.

10.7 **Gardening Scotland Success:** The success of North Berwick in Bloom and Law Primary School in the pallet gardens at Gardening Scotland was highlighted by Cllr Danks. With the theme of the Commonwealth Games, In Bloom had won Gold, for the 8<sup>th</sup> time, plus best in category

while P5/6 pupils won Gold and came second in the Schools' category. Both gardens are on display outside Abbey Church.

- 10.8 **Friends of the Lodge:** Cllr Danks alerted Cllrs to the AGM of Friends of the Lodge in the Lodge Café on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> June at 7.30pm
- 10.9 **Environment Trust:** The Trust would not be meeting during the summer. Cllr H Smith reported that, at a recent meeting, "cycle forth" and affordable housing had been discussed.
- 10.10 **Community Centre:** Cllr H Smith informed Cllrs that the Community Centre would be closed over the summer so that a new lift could be installed. She planned to obtain a list of classes which could possibly be included in the Autumn Newsletter.
- 10.11 **Stella Moffat Trust:** Cllrs Baker and Bryson had attended an event to launch the excellent new school facilities, thanks to an award from the Stella Moffat Trust. They both commented on the key role played by parents.

## **11 Correspondence**

### **11.1 Local Government Boundary Commission**

The Secretary drew attention to a letter received from the Local Government Boundary Commission. Every 8-12 years, the number of Councillors is reviewed, taking into account demographic changes. A 12 week consultation exercise is underway with comments to be with the Local Boundary Commission by 21 August. The proposal for ELC is a reduction of 2 Councillors. The Chairman confirmed that a view would be submitted by NBCC.

## **12 Any other competent business**

- 12.1 It was agreed that Peter Forsyth, ELC Transport Manager, would be invited to attend the NBCC meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> July.

### **12.2 "The Watcher" sculpture**

Cllr Kellock had been approached by a resident who expressed concern about the siting of the sculpture near the Scottish Seabird Centre as it caused an obstruction on the pathway. The Chairman reminded Cllrs that she had already approached Tom Brock about this and had been advised that there were few places in that vicinity where the sculpture could be sited due to positioning of underground essential services. She would write to ask if there was planning approval for the sculpture to be installed in its present location.

### **12.3 Car Parking Fees**

In line with the experiences of other Cllrs, Cllr Bryson had witnessed people paying to park outside the Lodge Grounds, in what was a free parking area, in the belief that it was part of the Seabird Centre car park. The signage was unclear. He had spoken to ELC Cllrs Berry and Goodfellow about this. ELC Cllr Day agreed that the matter needed to be addressed and that Peter Forsyth should be made aware. Cllrs Baker and Bryson confirmed that the renewal date for the Seabird Centre car park lease was 2019.

### **12.4 Craft Fair at Harbour**

Cllrs agreed with Cllr H Smith that this type of initiative should be applauded.

12.5 ***New Flag poles at the Fire Station***

Cllrs agreed to fund the purchase of two flag poles for the Fire Station, at a cost of £140, the Treasurer having confirmed that funds were available.

**13 Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting would take place at 19.30 on Tuesday 1st July at the Fire Station, Station Road, North Berwick