

Royal Burgh of North Berwick Community Council

Minutes of the 462nd Public Meeting held at 19.30 on Tuesday 02 December 2014

in The Fire Station, Station Road, North Berwick.

Present: Cllr S Sinclair Chairman

Cllr K Smith Secretary

Cllrs M Baker, E Danks, D Kellock, L Hall, P Hamilton, W Macnair, J Scott, H Smith, I Watson,

In attendance: ELC Cllr J Goodfellow (part of meeting), local Press, Mrs A Turgoose.

1 Apologies: Cllr D Ritchie, ELC Cllrs D Berry and T Day, PC Cameron Tait.

2 Minutes of the Meeting held on 4th November 2014.

The adoption of the Minutes was proposed by Cllr E Danks and seconded by Cllr L Hall.

3 Matters Arising.

3.1 Access to East Lothian Tourism Strategy

(3.2) Cllr H Smith reported that this matter was ongoing; there was a pulling together of strategy. She had asked some questions and would feedback when information became available.

3.2 East Lothian Community Education Programme

(3.3) **Communication Strategy:** The Chairman confirmed that the NB CC Communication Strategy would be discussed in the New Year, including the use of newer technology. The CC website was an issue at the moment as the person who had set it up was no longer available but ELC Cllr Goodfellow was dealing with this.

3.3 Centre for Youth and Criminal Justice Survey

(10.1) The Secretary had submitted the agreed response.

3.4 Remembrance Day Parade

(11.1) The arrangements for the Parade had gone well. The Chairman expressed thanks to all who had an involvement.

3.5 Christmas Lights

(14.3) 300 presents had been distributed and 200 cups of hot chocolate served. The presence of the choir had been greatly enjoyed by all. Cllr Scott reported that he had received very positive comments from parents and children regarding the quality of the presents. Full financial information was not yet available. The Chairman expressed thanks to all who had contributed to the success of the event.

3.6 Association of East Lothian Community Councils

(15.2) Cllr H Smith, who had attended the meeting on 13 November which included presentations on the Cockenzie Regeneration Project and Area Partnerships, was disappointed at the low representation of Community Councils. She drew attention to the fact that the Association

had a seat at some planning meetings which provided the opportunity for more influence than on an individual basis. The Chairman believed that the Association had lost its momentum and the present Chair had worked hard to reinvigorate it. Questions still remained regarding its objectives but there was agreement that it should have a stronger voice. Cllr Scott was the CC representative but Cllr H Smith also expressed interest in attending.

3.6 **ATC Presentation Event**

(15.1) The Chairman and Secretary had attended the Presentation ceremony on 28 November and commented that it was excellent to hear about youth involvement in worthwhile activities.

3.7 **Beach wheelchairs**

(16.1) Cllr H Smith had been invited to attend a discussion regarding the wheelchairs and would provide feedback in due course.

3.8 **Hazard on Station Hill**

(16.5) ELC Cllr Goodfellow was unavailable to address Cllr Baker's query as to the reason for the continuing presence of the hazard.

4 Police Report. This was read out by the Secretary as PC Cameron Tait was not present.

4.1 There had been 74 calls to the Police in the month,

4.2 **WARD PRIORITIES: 1] Road Safety:**

- There had been a number of minor vehicular accidents one of which related to a motorcycle being involved in a collision with a car, whereby the driver had broken his ankle. He was treated at the Royal Infirmary and released.
- A teenager had been struck by a vehicle near to Law Primary School and taken to the Sick Kids Hospital where he was treated for minor injuries. Enquiries into the cause of the accident were ongoing.
- There had been a reduction in the overall number of complaints regarding minor road traffic matters over the last month (parking/ obstruction etc.).

2] **Anti-Social Behaviour:**

- There had been a small number of calls regarding loud music from an address in Gilbert Avenue. This had been dealt with by the Officers attending and making the anti-social behaviour team aware.
- A male had been arrested following his refusal to leave a public house through intoxication. He had also committed a breach of the peace.

3] **Substance Misuse:**

- A male had been arrested for being concerned in the supply of a controlled drug in North Berwick.

4] Theft:

- There had been a small number of thefts of scrap from gardens. Members of the public were reminded not to leave copper/metal items in their gardens as this invited thieves to commit theft.

4.3 **Other Incidents/ Crimes:** No other incidents.

4.4 **CAPP priorities for North Berwick: Two areas were highlighted for the Coastal Area.**

- Dundas Road: Boy Racers/ Litter/ Speeding around the streets in the area (Parking in Loco (NISA) car park/ Dundas Road) - **Police to monitor and deal with any offenders/ offences**
- Law Road/ Clifford Road junction: (Vehicles “skipping” red lights) - **Police to monitor and carry out speed checks**

The Police also wanted to remind the public that, with winter coming now was a good time to be prepared for severe weather. In severe weather conditions, your journey could take longer than expected so, before travelling in bad weather, you should:

- Check the weather forecast and road conditions
- Consider whether you need to travel right now or if you can wait until the weather improves
- Consider alternative routes
- Consider alternative modes of transport
- Allow extra time for your journey
- Make sure your car is ready for a journey in poor weather
- Make sure your mobile phone is fully charged
- Tell someone your destination and when you expect to arrive
- Consider fitting winter tyres to your vehicle

Be prepared for severe weather by packing a few essential items. An emergency kit should at least include:

- An ice scraper and de-icer
- A shovel for snow
- A torch and spare batteries
- Warm clothes, boots and a blanket
- Some food and a warm drink in a flask
- A first aid kit
- Battery jump leads
- A map for any unplanned diversions

Date of the next CAPP meeting: Wednesday 28 January 2015 at 19.30 in the Council Chambers, Quality Street. Feedback to: NorthBerwickCoastalCPT@Scotland.pnn.police.uk or Cameron.Tait@Scotland.pnn.police.uk

4.5 Concerns were raised regarding the reported delay in response to a 999 call following the accident at Law Primary School. Cllr Kellock expressed disappointment at the slow response of the emergency services which meant that that injured child lay on the road for an unacceptable period. Cllr Danks noted that the absence of local Police resulted in traffic chaos. Cllr Hamilton asked if North Berwick would get a replacement PC. The Chairman noted the points all of which would be raised with the Police.

5 David Small – presentation on Health and Social Care Integration.

- 5.1** Mr Small is Director of Health and Social Care for East Lothian and General Manager of the Community Health Partnership. He explained that there would be a series of consultations on the development of a strategic plan for Health and Social Care and invited questions from Councillors on the current thinking. A strategic plan was required by legislation and would act as a blueprint for how services would be shaped and delivered. The Integrated Joint Board would have overarching responsibility for commissioning services on the basis of the strategic plan which he hoped would be finalised by 2014/15 with full implementation in 2016/17. In the light of reaction to the current consultations, more details would be available in the New Year. He drew attention to varying death rates for cancer, chest and heart disease and stroke across the County and an East /West split in terms of deprivation and life expectancy with the East faring better. These factors would have an impact on the content of the Plan. There was a lot of work still to be done with a number of planning gaps remaining e.g. dementia strategy, carers, primary care, transitions between services, data information and sharing, anticipatory and preventative care, strengthening links with housing, estate beds, Day Centres, acute services. Cllr Kellock wondered what lessons could be learned from Torbay which was recognised to have successfully integrated Health and Social Care Planning. Mr Small reported that a visit was planned. He also acknowledged that recruitment issues needed to be resolved. In response to Cllr Hall he said that, financially, in addition to efficiency savings, funds could be directed from institutions to the community. ELSIE – East Lothian Services for the Integration of Elderly People would be a key service in preventing people being admitted to hospital.
- 5.2** Cllr H Smith noted the absence of reference to young people and had concerns regarding the limited mention of services for people with mental health problems. She was reassured that there was a mental health strategy which would become part of the plan and that the position of children would be reviewed in 2015/16.
- 5.3** Cllr Danks asked when ELSIE would be introduced as, due to lack of care packages, people were remaining in hospitals, deteriorating and finally needed to be admitted to care homes. Mr Small said this was a national issue and that ELSIE was mainly about preventing hospital admission.
- 5.4** Cllr Danks pointed out that Day Centres now needed to register with the Care Commission. Currently, no funds were available to undertake this process. Mr Small clarified that Day Centres needed to apply for registration by January 2015. They will request a rolling programme to enable time for funding to be resolved as there was some money in the financial plan for Day Centres.
- 5.5** The Chairman asked why data across two localities, East and West, was being considered rather than the Area Partnerships. The Government required a minimum of two but, at present, Mr Small believed that not all details were available across all the Partnership Areas, although there could be more data which could be collated locally. He advised that 1.5 people were currently working on the development of the Plan. In response to Cllr Macnair he said that those monitoring the Plan had a mix of skills, including from the voluntary sector, a pharmacist, and statisticians. Discussions would be held with the GP Forum who knew the local population. The Chairman due attention to the increased housing plans contained within the Main Issues Report which highlighted future pressures on services arising from population growth. She questioned if concern regarding the scale of

essential additional capacity and facilities was fully grasped. Mr Small offered to update Councillors with more details in due course. The draft Plan would be available on the ELC Consultation hub and the NHS Health Consultation hub.

6 Resilient Communities

- 6.1 Cllrs H Smith and D Ritchie had attended one meeting and another was planned for 8th January 2015 in the Community Centre to which all interested parties would be invited. A Resilience Plan needed to be developed and the Councillors requested contact details of individuals who should have a role; information to be forwarded to Cllr Ritchie. It was hoped to operate mini hubs e.g. local residents' group.

7 Area Partnership

- 7.1 Papers had been circulated. The next meeting, in January, would concentrate on the Main Issues Report. Any issues to be raised at the meeting should be forwarded to the Chairman.

8 Street Naming

- 8.1 The Secretary had received an email from ELC informing the Community Council of a change in practice in naming streets. In future, NBCC would put forward names to be included in a name bank. It had been suggested that Stella Moffat be remembered in the Cala development and Moffat Place as a name had been accepted. It was agreed that adjoining streets should also contain a reference to Moffat.
- 8.2 Cllr Macnair reminded Cllrs that new developments e.g. on the Trust land would require street names. There was some discussion about potential names but a decision was deferred to a future meeting.

9 Coastal Erosion

- 9.1 The North Berwick West Golf Club had arranged a presentation to discuss erosion. A consultant had been appointed to consider and cost remedial action, in the short, medium and long term. The Chairman reported that no action was required by NB CC at this point. Cllr Watson said that a whole area approach was needed, piecemeal would not work. Cllr H Smith had been approached by a member of the public regarding the feasibility of repairing gabions which had burst open along the east beach. It was agreed that this was a matter for specialists and the CC would raise this matter with ELC Landscape and Countryside.

10 Main Issues Report

- 10.1 The Chairman reminded Cllrs of the informal drop-in event on the following Thursday afternoon from 2.00pm-5.30pm and the workshop in the evening from 6.30pm-8.30pm.

11 Planning Matters

- 11.1 Cllr Hall had attended the ELC Planning Meeting that morning and reported that planning permission had been refused for the Ferrygate development, for the third time. She informed Members that Dr Doldon had attended and expressed grave concerns about the ability of the Health Centre to cope with the additional demands caused by extra housing.
- 11.2 The following new applications were viewed, discussed and commented on, where appropriate:

Army Cadet Hall Dunbar Road EH39 4DG: Erection of building for Class 11 use (assembly and leisure) and associated works. No objection was raised.

56 High St EH39 4HQ: Alterations to building (Part retrospective). No objection was raised.

56 High St EH39 4HQ: Replacement of shop flue (Part retrospective). No objection was raised.

53 Old Abbey Road EH39 4BP: Extension to house with first floor balcony, formation of decking and erection of fencing. No objection was raised.

Site at Tantallon Road: / Heugh Road EH39 5NF: Display of advertisements. No objection was raised.

1, Glenorchy Road EH39 4PE: Change of grass area to form vehicular access, erection of 2 houses and associated works. No objection was raised.

Leuchie House EH39 5NT: Erection of flue. No objection was raised.

Site at Tantallon Road/ Heugh Road EH39 5NF: Erection of 41 flats, business units (class 4 use) and associated works. No objection was raised.

25 Keppel Road EH39 4QG: Extension to house. No objection was raised.

5 Dundas Avenue EH39 4PS: Extension to house, erection of garage and formation of hardstanding. No objection was raised.

The Harbour, Victoria Road: Siting of storage container for public display of lobster hatchery operations for a temporary period of three years. No objection was raised.

111 High Street EH39 4HB: Alterations to flat. No objection was raised.

16c Melbourne Road EH39 4JX: Replacement windows. No objection was raised.

Corner Cottage, 1 Quadrant Lane EH39 4LA: Erection of flue (retrospective) - No objection was raised.

11.3 The Secretary expressed concern regarding properties, for example 7 St Baldred's Crescent, where extensions had resulted in over development on the site. It was agreed that there was a need for closer scrutiny of proposed extensions.

11.4 Planning: the Chairman had received a proposal of application notice for the development of the site on Tantallon Road by McCarthy & Stone. A public exhibition would be held on 28th January 2015 3.00pm-8.00pm. An advert would appear in the East Lothian Courier on 12 January 2015.

12 Reports from Groups and Societies

12.1 **North Berwick Trust:** Cllr Baker requested that Cllr Kellock be nominated to replace Bob Bryson on the Trust, whose members included representatives from Schools, Medical services, Churches and the Community Council. This was agreed.

12.2 In response to a query from Cllr Macnair, Cllr Baker confirmed that no information was available regarding the date for submission of detailed plans for the Trust land.

- 12.3 **CAPP:** Cllr Hamilton reported that, in an attempt to deter people loitering in the area, the bus shelter at Dundas Road would be replaced by one which would not be so enclosed. There was an issue with litter and the Community Warden had attended but no fixed penalty notices had been issued. The absence of ring fenced police cover for North Berwick, with officers coming from Dunbar and Haddington, had been raised at the AGM of the Law Residents' Association. The Chairman confirmed that ELC Cllr Tim Day was actively pursuing Policing in North Berwick on a number of fronts.
- 12.4 **Old Pier:** Cllr Macnair reported that the work had been finished; a clean-up was underway.
- 12.5 **Begging on the High Street:** Cllr Hall asked if there was a bylaw forbidding begging on the High Street. Other Cllrs expressed concern about the practice and possible welfare issues. The matter had already been raised with ELC Cllr Goodfellow who confirmed that there was no bylaw. He would raise the matter at CAPP.
- 12.6 **"Tough Mudding":** Cllr Danks had been approached by the Press regarding a possible event on the Balgone Estate. The Chairman had passed the matter to Tourism.

13 Correspondence

- 13.1 **20's Plenty:** The Secretary reported that Peter Forsyth had intimated that an experimental Regulation Order, introducing a 20 mph speed limit, was to be put in place on a number of streets in the Lochbridge Road area for a period of eighteen months, commencing 30 March 2015. Cllr Hamilton enquired if the area could be extended but ELC Cllr Goodfellow replied that it was an experiment which, if successful, would be rolled out.
- 13.2 **Path through tennis courts:** A local resident had drawn attention to the condition of the surface of the footpath through the tennis court as more people used that route to access the town and the seafront as a result of the increased use of the car park at the Recreation Ground. The condition of the path raised safety issues. ELC Cllr Goodfellow confirmed that ELC Landscape and Countryside were aware.
- 13.3 **Yacht Club request:** ELYC had e-mailed the Secretary to thank the Community Council for the £400 funding towards the cost the annual Fireworks display. However, despite £1200 in donations, the Club was struggling to break even in running this event and had asked if the CC donation could be increased to £600/ £700 next year. The Treasurer advised that no decision could be made until the new budget was set. ELC Cllr Goodfellow suggested that the Yacht Club approach the "Common Good" fund and request matched funding with the CC donation. He believed that there was a precedent for this action. The Secretary would reply to the Yacht Club with this information.
- 13.4 **Rhodes Park volunteers:** the Access Officer at ELC had emailed the Secretary to praise the work of local volunteers from the Rhodes Park area who, with the Countryside Ranger, had worked to clear the path down to the beach. Those volunteers who undertake monthly tasks were regarded as local "unsung heroes".
- 13.5 **Coastal car parks:** ELC Cllr Day had called a meeting with Peter Forsyth to discuss the parking consultation and the proposal to ring fence money to improve Tantallon Terrace and double the parking capacity to 50 cars. The recommendation from ELC officers responsible for sea defences was awaited. The Community Council would write to support this proposal to increase parking capacity. The Chairman was aware that a member of the public was

threatening to sue ELC for the illegal erection of height barriers. The information had been passed to Peter Forsyth.

14 Any other competent business

14.1 **Christmas Reception:** Cllrs Hall and Scott would represent the Community Council at the Provost's Christmas Reception on 16 December at 7pm in Haddington. The Chairman and Cllr Danks would represent North Berwick in Bloom.

14.2 **Bike sheds:** Cllr Kellock reported that he had noted that, as the result of a Scottish Government initiative, the erection of bike sheds in front gardens was now subject to planning permission and would attract a cost of £202.

14.3 **North Berwick News:** The Chairman asked for agreement to re-contract with Royal Mail for the delivery of the Community Council's newsletter, North Berwick News, to all households for a further year. This was supported with the exception of Cllr H Smith who expressed reservations. In the light of that decision, the Chairman would take this forward

17 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Community Council will be held at the Fire Station, Station Road North Berwick on Tuesday 6th January 2015 at 19.30

