**Royal Burgh of North Berwick Community Council**

**Minutes of the 479th Public Meeting held at 19.30 on Tuesday 3rd May 2016**

**in The Fire Station, Station Road, North Berwick**

**Present:** Cllr David Kellock Chairman

Cllr Kathryn Smith Secretary

Cllrs M Baker, E Danks, M Ellis, P Hamilton, W Macnair, J Scott, H Smith, & I

Watson

**In attendance:** ELC Cllrs T Day, D Berry & J Goodfellow (part), Dr C Cavers, Ms C Devereux, M Atton, local press, 12 members of the public

**1 Welcome:** The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed all those present.

**2**  **Apologies:** Cllrs G Moodie & S Sinclair, PC’s D Gray & I Paterson

**3 Minutes of the Meeting held on 5th April 2016:**

3.1Adoption of the Minutes, circulated previously, was proposed by Cllr Macnair and seconded by Cllr Scott.

**4 Matters Arising:**

4*.*1 *4.1 The Auld Hoose*: The Secretary and Cllr Hamilton had been invited by ELC’s Licensing Standards Officer to a mediation meeting on 20th April with residents, police & representatives from the licensed premises. It was a positive, encouraging meeting with a plan put forward based on better communication and education.

4.2 *9.2 Children & Young Peoples Services Strategy*: Cllr H Smith was pleased to report that as a result of the discussion at last month’s meeting, study space had been offered to pupils.

4.3 *12.6 Youth Network*: Cllr Watson confirmed that the next meeting would be on 19th May. The Chairman hoped to attend to report on the informal meeting on drug misuse.

**ACTION: Cllr D Kellock**

4.4 *14.2 Ferrygate Farm*: The Chairman had received a letter from a resident indicating that he had further queried with ELC the foul odour from the farm.

4.5 *14.5 Queen’s Birthday*: Following a suggestion to provide a commemorative seat outside the Hope Rooms, the Chairman had discussed the matter with ELC. They are currently carrying out a review on the provision of seats and should be reporting back shortly.

**ACTION: Cllr D Kellock**

**5 Police Report:**

5.1 In the absence of police representatives the Secretary read out the Police Report, which is summarised as follows -

During the period of the Report there had been several incidents of note which were broken down in terms of the agreed priorities for the ward as follows –

1. ***Road safety*** – On 16th April an ASBO warning was issued to a driver of a vehicle in Lochbridge Road in relation to the manner of driving.
2. ***Antisocial Behaviour*** *-*

* Between 7th and 8th April an attempt was made to force entry to a hut in the rear garden of a house in Lochbridge Road. No entry was gained and nothing was stolen..
* On 16th April there was a report of a smashed window on a vehicle in Craigleith Avenue. One male has been charged with vandalism.
* On 19th April a male was arrested and charged with breach of the peace after shouting and swearing at another male in Craigleith Avenue. The matter has been reported to the Procurator Fiscal.
* On 22nd April there was a report of a male at Tesco breaching the conditions of his bail. On 24th April the same male appeared on the roof of a dwelling in Lochbridge Road and was arrested for various offences including breach of bail and breach of the peace.

1. ***Housebreaking***– Overnight on 6th April 3 vehicles were stolen from outside a property in Westgate. One was recovered in Gullane and the other two subsequently recovered in Craigmillar and Restalrig. Two males have been charged with numerous offences including theft, housebreaking and theft motor vehicle.
2. ***Parking***– Parking in the High Street continued to be an issue. Local officers would carry out patrols whenever possible over the coming weeks.

5.2 Community *and Police Partnership* *(CAPP) Priorities –*

* Parking on concreted areas/pavements in the Gilbert Avenue, Craigleith Avenue and Lochbridge Road areas.
* Parking in the High Street with specific attention required in loading bays.
* Speeding on A198

5.3 Date *of next CAPP meeting –* 25/05/2016 at 1930 hours in the Old Council Chambers

5.4 *Operation Monarda*, which relates to doorstep crime, is running from 26/03/16 to 04/05/16 inclusive. There are various leaflets available for distribution, including nominated neighbour cards which can be displayed on house doors.

5.5 A resident in Old Abbey Road had complained about speeding in the street. It was agreed to ask the police to carry out a speed check. **ACTION: Cllr K Smith**

**6 Fidra – presentation by Dr Clare Cavers**

Dr Cavers explained that she works for Fidra, a new charity started in 2013 and based in North Berwick, seeking to find ways to engage local concerns over current and emerging environmental issues.

Nurdles pollution was the charity’s initial concern. There was no practical way of removing them from the sea but the problem could be stopped from getting worse. A nurdles hunt was set up to publicise the problem.

However, further pollutants such as cotton buds and polystyrene containers were causing concern with polystyrene waste being a particular problem in North Berwick. The aim was to encourage local businesses to use biodegradable containers and to have compostable bins on the sea front. North Berwick Business Association was happy to engage in getting the message across and encouraging food outlets to change from polystyrene containers. The Community Council was happy to support this project.

Cllr H Smith commented that ELC was carrying out a residents’ review on waste with the aim of having a zero waste town.

**7 Marine Parade car park – presentation by Clare Devereux**

Ms Devereux gave an update on the petition objecting to the principle of encroaching on to the beach which she had started. In four weeks it had attracted 3,989 on line signatures and 1,488 on hard copy. Questions were raised as to the validity and wording of the petition.

After heated discussion on the subject Ms Devereux asked the Community Council

* to re-consider its position in relation to the Marine Parade Car Park proposals in light of the public’s concerns and
* to write a letter to East Lothian Council with the following points:
  + to update on the numbers of people who have signed the petition
  + to express residents’ loss of confidence in relation to the East Lothian Council parking ’strategy’ given that three proposed car parks currently on the table were problematic (Tantallon Terrace, Marine Parade and the Glebe) and that residents were willing and keen to look at ways of moving forward with alternative solutions with ELC/NBCC.
  + in the short term, to expedite immediate solutions to the issue such as better signage, improved information on websites etc before visitors travel to North Berwick, talking to businesses about encouraging employees to not use car parks for all day parking,support/facilitate in partnership with the North Berwick Coastal Area Partnership On the Move group a process of engagement with residents to develop creative solutions to the current problems.

The Community Council were not minded to alter their decision but the Chairman undertook to write to the Council as requested. He also pointed out that NBCC had raised the issue of improved signage with ELC on several occasions but legal and financial considerations were delaying matters.      **ACTION: Cllr D Kellock**

**8 Planning Matters**

8.1 **The Blenheim House Hotel:**

Matt Atton, the owner of the Blenheim, explained that the property had been purchased in October 2012 with the intention of converting part of the property into guest suites targeting golfers and part into a family home. ELC had indicated that there should not be a problem, providing the rear flat roofed residence was demolished as it was uninhabitable. However, when the application was submitted ELC had changed its mind and insisted on its continued use as a hotel. Mr Atton pointed out that there had been no capital expenditure on the property for 50 years and to justify the level of expenditure required, its use as a home could be affected. It had been marketed widely for 18 months but no offers had materialised. A new application was expected to be submitted shortly but, in the meantime, the flat roofed residence at the rear had been demolished.

8.2 Recent **Planning Decisions:**

(a) The Chairman reported that at the recent planning committee the following decisions were reached –

* The Glebe car park & flats – continued for further consultation with ELC
* Extension to existing Marine Parade car park – continued for further legal consultation
* Tantallon Terrace car park alterations – continued for further consultation
* Ferrygate – carried forward for discussion on mix of affordable housing to include 3 bedrooms
* 5 High Street, food distribution shop – recommended for refusal but approved

(b) He was also pleased to report that the 21 Westgate Appeal had been rejected by the Reporter and that the decision was final.

8.3 **The following new applications were viewed, discussed and commented on, where appropriate –**

**17 Clifford Road:** Erection of 4 houses, garages, bowling club building and associated works. Although concern was expressed at the loss of green space, no objection was raised

**Flats 1-6, Glen House, 1 Tantallon Terrace:** Installation of gas pipe and vent.Noobjection was raised.

**Land adjacent to the Harbour, Victoria Road:** Erection of storage shed (class 6). No objection was raised.

**47 Forth Street:** Alterations to house. No objection was raised.

**Links Lodge, Links Road:** Alterations to the house changes to the scheme of development, subject of planning permission 15/00122/P (Retrospective). No objection was raised.

**9 Community Rail Partnership:**

9.1 ELC Cllr Berry confirmed that the new destination board at the station was about to be installed.

9.2 ELC Cllr Day confirmed the ELC did not own the land under discussion for the proposed toilets

In the absence of Cllr Sinclair there was nothing further to report

**10 Calder & Crawford Cups – putting competitions**

10.1 The Secretary confirmed that the tennis championships were due to be held from 16th to 23rd July and suggested holding the putting competitions on Tuesday 19th July for the qualifying and Thursday 21st July for the finals. This was agreed. **ACTION: Cllr K Smith**

**11 Communications Group**

There had been an initial meeting but there was nothing to report at this time.

**12 Reports from Groups & Societies:**

12.1 **Area Partnership:** Cllr H Smith confirmed that there was to be an On the Move meeting on 10th May and a full Partnership meeting on 24th May.

12.2 **CAPP:** Cllr Hamilton reported that the police had no particular concerns about where a youth shelter should be situated. It was confirmed that the owner of the shop at the station did not want a phone charger installed in the passenger waiting room.

12.3 **Environment Trust:** Cllr H Smith reported that details of a joint event with Fringe by the Sea were being finalised.

12.4 **Association of East Lothian Community Councils (AELCC):** Cllr H Smith thanked Cllrs Sinclair, Smith & Scott for attending the Association meeting held on 21st April in the Town House, Haddington when transportation was the topic for discussion. It had been a good meeting with 10 community councils represented.

12.5 **Coastal Communities Museum:** Cllr Watson reported that 1,297 adults and 268 children had visited the new exhibition during April.

12.6 **North Berwick Trust:** Cllr Danks had received an e-mail expressing disappointment at the negative publicity in the local press and urging that steps be taken to repair the damage caused by the Trust’s badly managed PR. Cllr Macnair commented that there should be a vote of confidence in the Trust and trustees who had been through some very difficult times.

**13 Correspondence:**

The Secretary had received the following communications –

13.1 Notice of an increase in the rental for the lease of the store 2, 45 Melbourne Place from £927 to £995.

13.2 An invitation to attend an East Lothian Broadband event on 10th May in Haddington Town House regarding a project to improve broadband connectivity in rural and remote areas of East Lothian.

13.3 An invitation to become a representative of East Lothian Integration Joint Board which had been circulated.

13.4 An e-mail from Brian Verth thanking the Community Council for their support in the 21 Westgate Appeal and Cllr H Smith for her submission at the planning meeting.

13.5 Notice that ELC proposed making a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) to allow cyclists to use the public footway from Strathearn Road to Ware Road, Dirleton.

13.6 Notice that ELC proposed making a TRO to stop up a section of the B1347, Haddington Road as a suitable alternative had been constructed recently.

13.7 Notice that ELC proposed making a TRO to facilitate and assist with the safe passage of runners in the Edinburgh - North Berwick road race on 7th May with no waiting or loading on the south side of Beach Road from its junction with West End Place westwards for 90 metres.

13.8 Cllr H Smith had received a communication from ELC’s Amenity Department advising that work would commence on 16th May to illuminate The Watcher at the Seabird Centre and suggesting that the Celtic Cross on Anchor Green could be done at the same time if the Community Council applied for funding from the Civic Pride fund. It was decided not to support that project.

**14 Any other competent business:**

14.1 *Minute Secretary*: The Chairman reminded members that a Minute Secretary was still being sought. A short article would be submitted to the local press. **ACTION: Cllr K Smith**

14.2 *Street names*: The Secretary confirmed that she had submitted the names of the 8 provosts not already recognised in the town – John Macintyre, John Whitecross, George Eeles, George Sim, Peter Farquharson, John Grieve, James Dall, and David Meikleham. She had not submitted Catherine Blair as she felt the North Berwick connection was rather tenuous. After further discussion it was agreed her name should be submitted.

**ACTION: Cllr K Smith**

14.3 *Rotary Way*: It was disappointing to note that the new signage on Elcho Green had been stolen and there had been negative correspondence in the local press. As it was the path over Elcho Green which was being named it was suggested that ‘Elcho Green’ should be added under ‘Rotary Way’ on any new signage. **ACTION: Cllr D Kellock**

14.4 *Law Primary May Fair*: The Chairman had asked if the Community Council could have a stand at the event to be held on 28th May.

14.5 *Home Energy Scotland*: It was agreed that a representative should be invited to address the community Council on the subject of fuel poverty. **ACTION: Cllr D Kellock**

**15 Date of Next Meeting:**

The date of the next meeting of the Community Council will be held at the Fire Station, Station Road, North Berwick on Tuesday 7th June 2016 at 7.30 pm.

**The Royal Burgh of North Berwick Community Council**

The 480th Public Meeting of the Royal Burgh of North Berwick Community Council to be held in the Fire Station, Station Road on Tuesday 7th June 2016 at 7.30 pm

**AGENDA**

1. Welcome
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of Meeting held on 3rd May 2016
4. Matters Arising
5. Police Report
6. The North Berwick Golf Community Funding Project
7. North Berwick in Bloom – presentation by Rosie Oberlander

1. Planning Matters
2. East Lothian Development Plan Consultation on possible employment use
3. Community Rail Partnership
4. Calder & Crawford Cups - putting competitions
5. Communications Group - update
6. Reports from Groups & Societies
7. Correspondence

15. Any other competent business

16. Date of Next Meeting - Tuesday 5th July