**Royal Burgh of North Berwick Community Council**

**Minutes of the 499thPublic Meeting held at 19.30 on Tuesday 5th December 2017**

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

**Present:**Cllr T Todd - Chair, Cllr C Mackenzie - Vice-Chair, Cllr K Smith - Secretary, Cllr J Lockhart – Treasurer, Cllr W Macnair, Cllr G Moodie, Cllr L Kay, Cllr O Owen, Cllr I Watson, Cllr S Northrop, Cllr L Foster, Cllr G Prince

**In attendance:**ELC Cllr Jeremy Findlay, ELC Cllr Jim Goodfellow, ELC Cllr Jane Henderson, Peter Hamilton, Gavin Harper (press), Jill Taylor (Minutes) and members of public.

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| **Agenda item** | **Discussion** | **Action** |
| **1 Welcome** | The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed all present. |  |
| **2 Apologies** | PC I Paterson & PC D Gray |  |
| **3 Previous Minutes** | Adoption of the Minutes, which had been circulated previously, was proposed by Cllr Northrop and seconded by Cllr Owen. |  |
| **4 Matters Arising** | **4.1** *6.4* Cllr Todd had e-mailed ELC Planning Enforcement and as a result relevant applications are to be submitted for :-  - 13 Market Place – retrospective planning permission for a change of use class; retrospective advertisement consent for erection and display of advertisement. - 20 Forth Street – retrospective advertisement consent for erection and display of advertisements; retrospective planning permission for painting of building.  Further to the serving of a Statutory Notice on 19 Market Place an application for advertisement consent for retrospective erection of adverts [17/01083/ADV] and an application for planning permission for retrospective painting of building [17/01082/P] had been submitted.  **4.2** *7(a)* The landlord had objected to the proposed permanent site for the telecoms mast. There was now a risk that the temporary site for the mast in the Recreation Park might become permanent. After discussion it was felt that the stage had been reached where legal advice should be sought. Cllr Smith would send the email conversation thread to all ELC Cllrs for onward transmission to the ELC legal team.  **4.3** *9.2* Cllr Mackenzie commented that the spine road to Kingston was now open.  **4.4** *9.3* Cllr Mackenzie was still to publicise the ‘North Berwick Majors’.  **4.5** *11.1 & 11.2*. Cllr Todd would email Lauren Cowie to thank the Christmas Lights Committee on behalf of the community for organising the Christmas lights switch-on.  **4.6** *14* Cllr Todd welcomed Cllrs Foster and Prince who had been selected to fill the casual vacancies.  **4.7** *15.2* Friends of the Edington: Cllr Kay had been invited to a community consultation set up by the East Lothian Health & Social Care Partnership to engage communities in health and social care in the Hope Rooms on 14th December. As this was an open meeting Cllr Northrop would forward the email invitation to all Cllrs.  **4.8** *15.7* The Stella Moffat Trust had granted funding for the installation of a defibrillator at the Fire Station.  **4.9** *16* Trees at Coo’s Green had been cut down but the grass had been left in a mess. Cllr Todd is to write to Mike Foy, ELC Trees Officer, to ask what his future plans are for trees in North Berwick.  **4.10** *17* Cllr Owen had attended the Youth Philanthropy Initiative at NBHS on behalf of NBCC. The event had been inspiring and lots of young people were engaged in community work.  **4.11** *17* Civic Pride Fund – closing date 22/12: Hilary Smith is submitting an application for a parklet on behalf of the Area Partnership but had asked to submit it via NBCC as the Area Partnership is an un-constituted body. Concern was expressed that there may be a maintenance responsibility, which would then fall on NBCC. Cllr Kay is to circulate the application, which would answer Cllrs queries. The parklet would be implementing a recommendation from the charrette.  The parklet was proposed as a solution tothe problemsbuses were having getting out of Church Street due to illegal car parking in front of the bookies. Cllr Watson suggested putting the litter bin outside the bookies at the edge of the pavement along with another one to stop cars parking there. Cllr Watson would investigate further.  Following on from the foregoing, disabled parking outside the Hope Rooms was discussed. There was a need for a drop-off point to be identified. Cllr Kay would forward information to ELC Cllr Goodfellow so that he could follow it up.  **4.12** *17* Pigeon pollution should be reported to ELC Environmental Health. It is suspected that the pigeons are roosting in the old church tower.  **4.13** *17* Regarding the Old Council Chambers maintenance, ELC Cllr Goodfellow confirmed that an order for the work to the gutters had gone out and that the harling and roof tiles were to be inspected. If the maintenance engineers think it is justified, it will also be painted. Funding will come out of the Common Good Fund, whose next meeting was on Thursday 7th December. | KS  CM  TT  SN  TT  IW  LK |
| **New business** |  |  |
| **5 Police Report: (further details attached separately)** | 5.1 Cllr Smith read out this month’s police report which is attached separately.  5.2 The recent CAPP meeting was on Wednesday 29th November. CAPP priorities for this month are:-   * Noisy vehicles in Lochbridge Road, particularly around Law Primary. * Increased patrols due to recent break-ins around North Berwick Coastal area. * Police will be in attendance at North Berwick’s Hogmanay celebrations.   The date of the next CAPP meeting is 31st January 2018 in the Old Council Chambers.  5.3 A request will be made to move the speed reactive sign in Dirleton Avenue.  5.4 Cllr Mackenzie raised concerns regarding noisy trailer motorbikes racing around the town, particularly on Trainer’s Brae and in Grange Road. Cllr Smith will email the police and let them know this is happening.  Feedback welcome to [NorthBerwickCoastalCPT@Scotland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:NorthBerwickCoastalCPT@Scotland.pnn.police.uk) or [deborah.gray@scotland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:deborah.gray@scotland.pnn.police.uk) and [john.paterson2@scotland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:john.paterson2@scotland.pnn.police.uk). |  |
| **6 Greener North Berwick Initiative including Men’s Shed presentation** | 6.1 Presentation given by a representative from the Men’s Shed: Beach signs, designed by the Men’s Shed, to encourage individuals to beach clean, were discussed. It was suggested that one should be placed on both East and West beaches at a litter bin. It was agreed to ask the Men’s Shed to progress this project. Rough cost is likely to be under £100. There would be no need for planning permission as the boards are moveable, although fixed with a chain/padlock so they can’t be easily moved. Cllr Todd is to be champion of this project.  6.2 A wider plan for a Greener North Berwick was discussed. The plan is to become a plastic and polystyrene free town, to get rid of plastic straws and Styrofoam, and food outlets to provide biodegradable cutlery/plates. It was agreed that Cllr Todd would write to these outlets. It was suggested that stickers could be provided for shop windows and hessian bags sold to promote the initiative.  6.3 From the suggestion boxes promoted in the recent newsletter, an idea had been submitted to have micro museums in the telephone kiosks in Westgate; the Men’s Shed could be involved in this. The micro museums could use items collected on beach clean ups. | TT  TT |
| **7 Planning Matters (attached separately)** | 7.1 The October planning applications were lead by Cllr Watson and Cllr Kay.  7.2 List A – no comments.  7.3 ***11*** ***Glenorchy Road:*** The Secretary had received a letter from a neighbour drawing attention to the application for a new house in the garden of the property. The letter pointed out that, because of the slope on the site, the building would be overbearing and dominant and the scale of the development and its design would have a significant impact on privacy and amenity. After discussion it was agreed to write to the Planning Department with concerns about the application, but not to submit a formal objection. Councillors were reminded that NBCC has a policy of not agreeing to infill developments in gardens.  7.4 ***57A Westgate***: After discussion it was agreed there were few concerns to the proposed canopy and vent and as this was a small and unimposing development it was moved to List A.  7.5 ***21 Westgat*e:** The proposed change of use from office to restaurant was discussed. Some felt that it was important that office space within the town was preserved whereas others felt they were happy the building was to be conserved and used. It was agreed that the physical alterations were acceptable though where the flues and vents would be was questioned. However, a comment about change of use should be raised; Cllr Todd would email ELC Cllrs for input.  7.6 ***2 Law Road***: This application to extend the building was discussed at length. Whilst this was an opportunity to expand retail space in the town by expanding an existing business into underused space, questions were raised as to whether it was infill development in a different way. Another class II unit in North Berwick should be welcomed. However, there was reportedly some negativity from planning officials about forming openings in the old stone wall and attaching things to it. The neighbouring business was reportedly content with the proposal. Some concerns were raised about the loss of the iconic view of the gable end. However, others felt that the economic argument could outweigh this. NBCC would comment thus.  7.7 ***Rocketeer:*** This application for a permanent external glass enclosure to enable a year-round presence, 7 days a week, involving 40 covers for lunch and dinner was discussed. Previous applications had all been for seasonal use. Concerns were expressed by some as this was a unique and sensitive site. It was agreed to note these concerns to ELC.  7.8 Cllr Kay and Cllr Lockhart will lead on the planning applications for January’s meeting. | TT and All Cllrs |
| **8 Treasurer’s Report** | Cllr Lockhart reported as follows:-  8.1 £2,588 had been paid from the Community Council account for the printing of the newsletter. She would contact Lilian Pryde to have this paid from local priorities instead.  8.2 £587.88 had been collected by the Rotary Club at the Christmas lights switch-on and £850 raised from the sale of Christmas lights stickers to local businesses. Some donations are still to be determined and the final total would be announced likely at the February meeting.  8.3 The Community Council was required to give ELC some indication as to how the Local Priorities under-spend of around £5,000 would be spent in order to carry the money over to 2018. Christmas lights and park improvements were discussed. These ideas could be changed and the Community Council would not be tied to them. |  |
| **9 Communications Group** | 9.1 Cllr Mackenzie has arranged a meeting in January, with the Editor of East Lothian Courier to discuss plans for providing content for EL Courier’s 4 times a year ‘Connect’ booklet, which is delivered to all EH39 postcodes. There would be a cost involved which would need to be determined.  9.2 Some Cllrs volunteered to do a mail drop of newsletters to all new houses in the town. These should also be put in the sales offices of all house builders.  9.3 It was agreed there should be a page on the NBCC website noting all local clubs.  9.4 It was noted that Garden Stirling Burnet, Solicitors had indicated a wish to be involved with and possibly help with funding for the telephone kiosks in Westgate. Ownership would need to be established before anything further could be done. | SN, LF, IW, GM, TT |
| **10 24 hour defibrillators** | 10.1 Cllr Todd confirmed that Phase I was now complete; he expected Phase II to be completed in 2018. |  |
| **11 North Berwick Coastal Area Partnership including Lime Grove Update** | 11.1 Cllr Kay commented that ELC’s parking strategy would be coming out for consultation soon.  11.2 A new economic sub group had been set up with Hilary Smith as chair.  11.3 The Lime Grove Group had met with North Berwick Trust and ELC and was due to meet with the Scottish Land Fund on 13th December. A sub group was preparing a business plan. |  |
| **12 Consultations** | 12.1 *East Lothian Public Consultation 2018-19* which gives the public an opportunity to answer questions and air views before the Council sets its budget: Cllr Moodie questioned the need for the Community Council to comment. It was agreed it should be left to individuals to respond.  12.2 *East Lothian Partnership Structure Review*: At a recent Association of East Lothian Community Councils meeting Option 3 was recommended as the only one to allow a two-way or multi-way method of informing and providing feedback and suggests a more inclusive approach though the Association still had reservations.  12.3 *Carers (S) Act ELH&SCP Survey on eligibility criteria:* Cllr Northrop would deal with the response and asked for any comments to be sent to her. |  |
| **13 Common Good Fund update** | 13.1 Cllr Henderson reported that reserves as at 31st March were £355K. The budget for awards in 2017/18 was set at £10,000; the award budget for next year is yet to be set. One award was made this year, 2 were turned down and 2 pending a decision at the next meeting. |  |
| **14 Remembrance Day 2018** | 14.1 Cllr Macnair commented that he understood that a piper would be playing at the War Memorial at 6.30 am on 11th November 2018 as that was the actual time the war ended. |  |
| **15 North Berwick Trust – Trustee required** | 15.1 Following the resignation of Hilary Smith, there was a vacancy on the North Berwick Trust for a representative from the Community Council. After discussion it was suggested delaying till January to fill the vacancy as the skill sets had still to be determined. |  |
| **16 Representatives on Groups and Societies** | 16.1 Deferred to next meeting due to the time. |  |
| **17 Reports from Groups and Societies** | 17.1 Deferred to next meeting due to the time |  |
| **18 Correspondence** | Deferred to next meeting due to time. |  |
| **19 Any other competent business** | 19.1 Cllr Todd and Cllr Foster had met with an ELC representative to look at the replacement bollards proposed for Elcho Green and other areas of the town. It was agreed that this required further discussion with ELC as the proposed replacements seemed inappropriate. |  |
| **20 Date of Next Meeting** | Tuesday 9th January 2017 at 7.30 pm in the Hope Rooms, Forth Street. |  |