**Royal Burgh of North Berwick Community Council**

**Minutes of the 501st Public Meeting held at 19.30 on Tuesday 6th February 2018**

**in The Hope Rooms, Forth Street, North Berwick**

**Present:**Cllrs Tommy Todd - Chair, Kathryn Smith - Secretary, Judy Lockhart – Treasurer, W Macnair, G Moodie, L Kay, S Northrop, O Owen, G Prince & I Watson,

**In attendance:**ELC Cllr Jane Henderson, Peter Hamilton, PC D Gray, PC I Paterson, Gavin Harper (press), Mike Foy (ELC Tree Officer), Rick Finc (RFA) and 10 members of the public.

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| **Agenda item** | **Discussion** | **Action** |
| **1 Welcome** | The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed all present to the 501st meeting of the Community Council at its new venue. |  |
| **2 Apologies** | Cllrs L Foster & C Mackenzie, ELC Cllr J Findlay   * See item 16 |  |
| **3 Previous Minutes** | Adoption of the Minutes held on 9th January, which had been circulated previously, was proposed by Cllr Owen and seconded by Cllr Moodie. |  |
| **4 Matters Arising** | 4.1 ***4.4*** The telephones would be removed from the Westgate kiosks on 8 February.  4.2 ***6.3*** The speed of traffic around the schools had been raised at last month’s CAPP meeting and was a priority for the current month.  4.3 ***7.6***The PAN for the proposed Whitekirk development had been circulated. The date of the public exhibition had been changed to 23rd & 24th March.  4.4 ***7.7*** Cllrs Todd, Smith & Moodie had attended an informative stakeholders’ presentation regarding the NBGC Coastal Erosion Protection Project. A soft engineering approach was being taken. The planning application was proceeding and would be lodged shortly.  4.5 ***9.2***. Cllr Todd was preparing to send a letter to ELC pointing out that the recommendations of the charrette should be taken into account when formulating their parking strategy. |  |
| **New business** |  |  |
| **5 Police Report: (further details attached separately)** | 5.1 PC Gray read out this month’s police report which is attached separately.  5.2 The date of the next CAPP meeting is 28th February 2018 in the Old Council Chambers.  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 RFA Development Planning – Tantallon Road** | 6.1 Rick Finc from Rick Fink Associates, planning consultants for Frontier Estates, the developers of the Tantallon Road site, commented that the plans were still at a formative stage but he hoped to work with the Community Council on these and to give a more detailed presentation nearer finalisation. However, it was likely that the development would be for a 65 bed ‘budget style’ hotel and a 75 bed care home. Travel Lodge had expressed an interest.  6.2 East Lothian Council had asked them to look at access, noise levels and landscaping and to justify feasibility for the hotel.  6.2 Discussion took place regarding the type of care provision envisaged.  6.3 A public exhibition would be held in the Glen Golf Club from 1.00 pm – 7.00 pm on 20th February. |  |
| **7 Planning Matters (attached separately)** | 7.1 The January planning applications were led by Cllrs Lockhart and Mackenzie.  7.2 List A (previously circulated) – no comments.  7.3 ***3 West End Place:*** After discussion, as it was agreed that there were no concerns about the replacement of windows and erection of railings and gates, the application was moved to List A  7.4 ***19 Market Place:*** After discussion on the retrospective application for painting the building and the display of advertisements it was agreed that the use of vibrant colours did not comply with the colour palette for a conservation area which should harmonise with adjoining buildings. There was also doubt as to whether the TV screen complied with guidelines. Cllr Todd would comment accordingly.  7.5 ***Garden Ground at rear of 7, 9 & 11 Nungate:*** After a lengthy discussion on the application for the erection of one house and associated works in the rear communal garden, it was agreed to comment against the proposed development on the grounds that it did not integrate into its surroundings, is over development of an infill site, does not contribute to a sense of place or complement local character, is not in an urban location and would result in the loss of green and open space.  7.6 ***2 Law Road:***  Cllr Todd commented that the application to extend the building had been recommended for refusal by the planning officers and would be going to committee for a final decision. It was agreed by 7 votes to 3 to accept the planning officers’ recommendation.  7.8 Cllr Mackenzie and Cllr Macnair will lead on the planning applications for March’s meeting. | TT  TT  TT |
| **8 Licensing Application - Rocketeer** | 8.1 An application for a major variation of the licence for the Rocketeer, Victoria Road to change the opening hours from seasonal to open all year and from 11 am to 10 pm every day was discussed at length.  8.2 It was agreed by 5 votes to 3 not to object to the variation. | KS |
| **9 Treasurer’s Report** | 9.1 There was nothing to report. |  |
| **10 Communications Group** | 10.1 The Group had not met during the last month.  10.2 Cllr Mackenzie was due to meet with the Editor of East Lothian Courier to discuss plans for providing content for the Courier’s 4 times a year ‘Connect’ booklet. |  |
| **11 Town Plan** | 11.1 Cllr Moodie reported that the Town Plan Project comprised 6 members – himself, Cllrs Northrop, Mackenzie & Owen plus Hilary Smith, Area Partnership Chair and Adrian Bolt.  11.2 The tender document for consultants to carry out the project was being fine tuned and would be shared by all parties concerned including the Area Partnership and East Lothian Council before being sent out.  11.3 A budget would have to be decided and funding sought.  11.4 Once the consultants are appointed they would manage the project through to completion. The Town Plan would then be publicised and presented to the public by various means. A process for keeping it up to date and relevant in future years would also require to be set up. | GM |
| **12 Consultations** | 12.1 *Prohibition of consumption of alcohol within public places byelaw* – it was agreed that (1) byelaws prohibiting the consumption of alcohol in designated public places in East Lothian should exist and (2) there should be an exemption to cover Hogmanay.  12.2 *Draft East Lothian Housing Strategy* – it was agreed with ELC Cllr Goodfellow that Nicola Sandford from the East Lothian Housing Strategy team would give a presentation and answer questions at the next meeting. | KS |
| **13 Plastic Free North Berwick** | 13.1 There was nothing further to report at this stage. |  |
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| **14 Reports from Groups & Societies** | 14.1 *Christmas Lights*: The Treasurer thanked Elaine Smith for raising £154 from her crosswords in aid of Christmas Lights funds. |  |
| **15 Correspondence** | The following communications had been received –   * Invitation from RNLI to attend their AGM and supper on 15th February in the Glen Golf Club. Cllr Prince agreed to attend. * E-mail from ELC Emergency Planning & Risk Manager requesting attendance at a meeting to update on resilience. It was agreed that he should be invited to our next meeting. * Reminder e-mail from Association of East Lothian Community Councils about the meeting on 14th February to discuss the future role and status of East Lothian community councils. * E-mail from Scottish Fire & Rescue Service about sharing information for their Community Asset Register [circulated] * Posters about designing an East Lothian flag. | GP  KS |
| **16 Any other competent business** | 16.1 [*Note this item was discussed at the beginning of the* *meeting*] ***Tree felling at Greenheads*:** A number of residents present expressed their disappointment at the felling of sycamores at Coo’s Green. Mike Foy, ELC’s Tree Officer explained that as part of the Glen Management Strategy the work had been agreed more than 10 years ago and that the trees were being removed to try to return the land to grassland and scrubland.  Discussion took place regarding the legality of the felling, the lack of consultation and the impact on the biodiversity. Cllr Todd agreed that the issue should be revisited once the work had been completed and that ELC, the Area Partnership and community council should work together on what to do in the future.  16.2 ***Bollards*:** Cllr Macnair raised the issue of the unsightly post & chain fences in the town, particularly those on Beach Road, and indicated that points were being deducted in the In Bloom competitions because of this. A brief discussion as to the type of replacements took place. It was agreed to investigate further what was available and the costs involved before discussing again at a future meeting. | WM/TT |
| **17 Date of Next Meeting** | Tuesday 6th March 2018 at 7.30 pm in the Hope Rooms, Forth Street. |  |