**Royal Burgh of North Berwick Community Council**

**Minutes of the 509th Public Meeting held at 19.30 on Tuesday 2nd October 2018**

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

**Present:**Cllr Claire Mackenzie – Acting Chair, Cllr Olwyn Owen & Cllr Ian Watson – Acting Vice Chairs, Cllr Kathryn Smith - Secretary, Cllr Judy Lockhart – Treasurer, Gordon Moodie, Lesley Kay, Sue Northrop & Geraldine Prince

**In attendance:**ELC Cllrs Jane Henderson, Jim Goodfellow & Jeremy Findlay, 12 members of the public, PC’s Deborah Gray & Iain Paterson, Community Warden Mandy Smith and local press.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Agenda item** | **Discussion** | **Action** |
| **1 Welcome** | Acting Chairman, Cllr Mackenzie opened the meeting and welcomed all present to the 509th meeting of the Community Council. |  |
| **2 Apologies** | Cllrs Lewis Foster & William Macnair, Peter Hamilton, PCs Deborah Gray & Iain Paterson and community warden Mandy Smith |  |
| **3 North Berwick Compostables Project** | 3.1 Clare Cavers, Senior Projects Manager at the locally based environment charity Fidra, explained the background to the charity which was seeking to find ways to engage local concerns over current and emerging environmental issues and use this to contribute to a wider dialogue at national and international levels. Once concerns had been established they use scientific evidence and research best practice to establish how best to influence positive environmental change. 3.2 She outlined some of the projects with which they have been involved such as nurdles, cotton buds and micro plastics. They would now be focusing on takeaway food packaging and were looking at a compostable packaging solution.3.3 Fidra planned to hold an event with takeaway businesses and government agencies in January/February next year to discuss the issue further.3.4 Ruth Hunter Pepper of Sustaining North Berwick spoke in support of Fidra’s project and was particularly concerned about the use of polystyrene takeaway boxes in the town.3.5 It was agreed that the Community Council would support this project.3.6 Fidra agreed to take on the Beach Clean boards which would link in with their work. Cllr Northrop undertook to make the link between the Men’s Shed and Fidra. | SN |
| **4 Previous Minutes**  | Adoption of the amended Minutes of the meeting held on 4th September, which had been circulated previously, was proposed by Cllr Moodie and seconded by Cllr Northrop. |  |
| **5 Matters Arising** | 5.1 ***4.2 Harbour Trust:*** Cllr Smith confirmed that David Windmill, Chairman of the Scottish Seabird Centre, had accepted the invitation and would present at the December meeting5.2 ***4.3 Lime Grove:*** The public representations to ELC closes on 5th October5.3 ***4.4 AEDs:***  Cllr Watson reported that he was still investigating the position regarding responsibility for the maintenance of the AEDs. This would be on the agenda for discussion at the next Association of East Lothian Community Council meeting though Cllr Lockhart was not hopeful of a solution as other community councils only had one or two.5.4 ***4.7 Motor cycle park:*** It was agreed that this matter be referred to the ‘On the Move’ sub group of the Area Partnership to carry forward. 5.5 ***6 Glasclune shelter:*** At the community meeting on 19th September it had been agreed to set up a sub group to look at alternative sites and funding for the project.5.6 ***9 Telephone-Exchange:*** An environment awareness group would be taking over one of the cabins in January/February.5.7 ***14 Casual vacancy:*** It was agreed that filling the casual vacancy should now be advertised.5.8 ***17.2 Emergency Response Plan review:*** Members were reminded that building on recent experiences, a desk top exercise to improve and develop procedures would be taking place from 9.30 am to 12 noon on 3rd November in the Marine Hotel.5.9 ***17.5 Sheila Sinclair Planter ceremony:*** It was confirmed that this would be taking place at the station at 11.30 am on 30th October. |  |
| **New business** |  |  |
| **6 Police Report: (further details attached separately)** | 6.1 This month’s police report had been circulated beforehand and was taken as read. 6.2 A resident had voiced her concerns about night cover in North Berwick given the recent spate of criminal activity and had questioned whether there should be 24 hour cover in the town. ELC Cllr Goodfellow pointed out that police vehicles tour the county overnight and can be summoned to an incident quickly. 6.3 Police Scotland had been asked to inform local Community Councils and CAPP groups about Community Speed Watch which involves community groups purchasing their own equipment and being trained in speed detection. It was agreed to defer any decision on this to a future date.6.4 The date of the next CAPP meeting is scheduled for 17th October in the Old Council Chambers. These meetings would now be held on a 6 weekly basis to tie in with the police shift patterns. Feedback welcome to NorthBerwickCoastalCPT@Scotland.pnn.police.uk or deborah.gray@scotland.pnn.police.uk and john.paterson2@scotland.pnn.police.uk. |  |
| **7 Traffic Issues**  | 7.1 Cllr Mackenzie had canvassed public opinion on safety concerns over the Ware Road bridge on social media and it was clear from the comments received that it did not provide a safe passage for pedestrians.7.2 It was agreed that she should write to ELC, local politicians, the police and the Area Partnership asking them to investigate and come up with proposals to resolve the problem.7.3 The issue of money from CALA specifically linked to the bridge a number of years ago was raised. ELC Cllr Goodfellow agreed to follow up and report back.7.4 Questions were raised regarding other money earmarked by developers. It was agreed that Cllr Mackenzie would raise this with Alan Stubbs at ELC and also seek clarification about the process around finances from developers for infrastructure impacts | CMJGCM/JG |
| **8 Planning Matters**  | 8.1 The September planning applications were led by Cllrs Watson & Foster.8.2 The following new applications had been viewed beforehand and following a brief discussion no objections were raised – ***6 Abbotsford Road & Engine Cottage*** – demolition of fencing & gates; erection of fencing & gates ***Flat 5 18 Fidra Road*** – renewal of planning permission 15/00561/P and alterations to flat***Upper Tantallon, 4 Marine Parade*** – alterations to flat and heightening of existing wall with railings***31 Brodie Avenue*** – erection of two storey extension finished in timber***Westerlea, Abbotsford Road –*** demolition of house, garage, fence, gates & wall; erection of one house, double garage & associated works ***Land adjacent to harbour, Victoria Road*** – alterations to harbour storage building. 8.3 The following new applications were viewed, discussed and commented on as follows –***12 Lime Grove*** – ***installation of dormers****.* After discussion, it was agreed to express concerns that a precedent would be set as other houses with loft conversions had velux windows in the roof. ***Pointgarry House, 20C West Bay Road*** *–* ***alterations******to form French doors in lieu of windows along with******internal alterations****.* After discussion it was agreed to object to the proposal to enlarge the front ground floor window to form French windows as the alteration would destroy the symmetry of the whole building of which it forms part and have a significant impact on the appearance of the building which is in the Conservation Area.***Castleton Farm –******PAN for******erection of care home (class 8); up to 160 private/public accommodation with care units for older persons (class 8); Community Health Centre (class 2); Community Hub; outdoor recreational uses (class 11); SUDSs: access arrangements; landscaping; and associated works****.* There would be a public consultation meeting between 2.00 pm & 8.00 pm on Thursday 8th November in the Community Centre and members were encouraged to attend.8.4 The following planning decisions had been made during the last month –***NBRFC*** – formation of hardstanding area for use as an outside drinking area and installation of lighting with conditions that it is not used after 2100 hours on any day and no amplified music and/or amplified speech is permitted to ensure that use of the area does not cause nuisance to neighbouring residential properties.***8 Dundas Avenue -*** extension to house subject to no windows or other glazed openings being formed within west elevation wall or within first floor of east elevation unless approved by planning authority to safeguard privacy and residential amenity of neighbouring properties.***Garage at Melbourne Place -*** alterations to garage.***6 Ben Sayers Park –*** erection of porch.***NBGC –*** erection of building for starter’s office/waiting area/toilet.8.5 Cllrs Foster & Lockhart will lead on the planning applications for November’s meeting. | KESKESKES |
| **9 Treasurer’s Report**  | 9.1 The Treasurer confirmed that the following payments had been made during the last month - £63.60 to Lady Haig Poppy Factory for 2 wreaths; £170 to Cllr Northrop for re-imbursement of payment made to Men’s Shed; £30.29 to Cllr Prince for re-imbursement of expenses for the telephone cabins & murals; £150 to Karsten Young for fee for certifying last two years’ accounts. |  |
| **10 Murals** | 10.1 Cllr Prince reported that the new proposal had been presented at the Area Partnership meeting on 25th September and it had been agreed that the funds held by the Community Council could be retained and spent on the murals in Cat’s Close.10.2 It was agreed that Cllr Prince would pull together a group to work on developing the project to repair and restore those parts which could be done and to remove those beyond repair. There were 12 people prepared to be involved. The Community Council would review its role once she had reported back on the options investigated.10.3 It was agreed that the birds in the Close should be protected. | GP |
| **11 North Berwick Trust** | 11.1 There was nothing further to report. |  |
| **12 Communications Group** | 12.1 Cllr Smith confirmed that when Cllr Foster returned from holiday a start would be made to putting together the articles for submission to the next edition of *North Berwick Connect.* | LF & KES |
| **13 Remembrance Day** | 13.1 Cllr Smith confirmed that arrangements were proceeding for this year’s event which would follow the established pattern which had worked very well for many years having been created firstly by the British Legion and continued by the Community Council when the local branch folded.13.2 There would be a parade from the Imperial Car Park to St Andrew Blackadder Church where the two minutes silence would be observed at 11.00 am and then the parade to the War Memorial for a second silence and wreath laying at noon.13.3 There had been talk from a small group about changing the timing so that the silence at the War Memorial could be at 11.00 am but, as the Rev Dr Neil Dougall had pointed out, the Remembrance Day Parade belongs to the North Berwick community and not one group in it and the community knows what to expect. There was no set procedure for the whole county.13.4 This year at 6.00 am a piper would be playing *‘When* *the Battle’s O’er’* at the War Memorial to signify the time of the signing of the Armistice which then came into effect at 11.00 am.13.5 Cllr Watson had tested projecting a poppy on to the wall at Lighthouse Corner which had been very effective. It was agreed this should be done as part of Poppy Scotland’s ‘Lighting up Red’ campaign. |  |
| **14 Annual General Meeting** | 14.1 It was agreed that the AGM should start at 7.00 pm with the monthly public meeting following at 7.30 pm. Cllr Smith would check the availability of the room.14.2 Cllr Smith commented that it was best practice for nominations for office bearers to be in the hands of the Secretary 7 days before the meeting and she asked that this be done.14.3 Cllr Lockhart agreed to circulate the accounts in advance of the meeting. | KESJL |
| **15 Reports from Groups & Societies** | * *Town Plan Group –* Cllr Moodie had made a presentation to the North Berwick Trust which he felt had been reasonably well received.
* *Harbour Trust* – Cllr Prince had attended a recent public meeting when the vision for the Trust and the Scottish Seabird Centre was confirmed as custodians of the area for future generations.
* *North Berwick Environment Trust –* There would be a Talk by Iain MacFarlane, Head of Planning & Development at ELC on 10th October in the Community Centre.
* *Christmas Lights –* Cllr Watson reportedthatnew lights were to be fitted to a tree in the Quadrant leading to the tennis courts. The lights on two trees also needed to be replaced. The total cost would be around £15,000. It was suggested that an annual trophy should be presented for shop window displays and it was agreed that this was a good idea and would start this year.
 | JL |
| **16 Correspondence** | * E-mail from Chairman of AELCC confirming that Iain McFarlane would be guest speaker at the next Association meeting at 6.30 pm on 30th October in the Council Chamber, Haddington.
 |  |
| **17 Any other Competent Business** | As he was leaving the *Courier* the Acting Chairman thanked Gavin Harper for his support over the last few years and wished him well in his new position. |  |
| **18 Date of Next Meeting** | Tuesday 6th November 2018 at 7.30 pm in the Hope Rooms, Forth Street. |  |