**Royal Burgh of North Berwick Community Council**

**Minutes of the 480th Public Meeting held at 19.30 on Tuesday 7th June 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, G Moodie,

S Sinclair, H Smith & I Watson

**In attendance:** ELC Cllrs T Day & J Goodfellow, C Spencer, Mrs R Oberlander, PC I Paterson, local press, 14 members of the public

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

**2**  **Apologies:** Cllr J Scott

**3 Minutes of the Meeting held on 3rd May 2016:**

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

**4 Matters Arising:**

4*.*1 *4.1 The Auld Hoose*: Cllr Hamilton commented that at the last CAPP meeting it was reported that everything seemed to be quiet.

4.2 *4.3* *Youth Network*: Cllr Watson confirmed that the next meeting would be focusing on mental health.

4.3 *4.5 Queen’s Birthday*: The Chairman commented that there was nothing to report yet but that ELC were due to report on their review on the provision of commemorative seats by the end of June.

4.4 *5.5* *Old Abbey Road*: The Chairman had received further complaints about speeding in the street. The Secretary reminded PC Paterson that she had e-mailed PC Gray about this after the last meeting. He undertook to investigate.

**5 Police Report:**

5.1 PC I Paterson 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 17th May, there was a report of a vehicle being driven at speed on Lochbridge Road and on the 23rd May, there was a report of the same vehicle travelling at speed in Lochbridge Road. The male driver has been traced and issued with an Anti Social Behaviour Warning in relation to the manner of his driving.

2. ***Antisocial Behaviour*** -

* During the early hours on 9th May, there was a noise complaint from persons congregating outside the Auld Hoose, Forth Street. All quiet on police arrival.
* On the 22nd May, there was a report of a minor assault on High Street. Enquiries are still ongoing.
* On the 22nd May, there was a report of youths causing annoyance in the play park to the rear of Lochbridge Road. No trace of youths on police arrival.

3. ***Housebreaking* -**

* Between 9th May and 11th May, there were 3 separate reports of attempted break-ins to garages in Dundas Road/ Dundas Avenue/Gilbert Avenue. Enquiries are still ongoing.
* Between 27th and 28th May, two metal containers were forced open at Ferrygate gasworks and 2 motorbikes and other equipment to the value of £11,000 was stolen from one container and a grandfather clock from another. Enquiries are still ongoing.

4. ***Parking* -** Parking in High Street continued to be an issue and local officers would carry out patrols whenever possible over the coming weeks. Several tickets had been issued over the last month.

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

* Speeding on B1377 Ballencrieff to Drem road.
* Excrement/urinating at car park used by camper vans near sewage works, Tantallon Terrace.
* Town centre parking including the Quadrant.

5.3 Date *of next CAPP meeting –* 29/06/2016 at 1930 hours in the Old Council Chambers

**6 The North Berwick Golf Club Community Funding Project**

Chris Spencer, Managing Secretary of North Berwick Golf Club (NBGC) explained that the Club had always had a close relationship with the town with its increased reputation resulting in higher visitor numbers from all over the world. As the Club continues to prosper the Committee had decided to give something back to the community with the creation of the NBGC Community Fund. Depending upon the Club’s financial state, up to £10,000 would be available for distribution by awards of not more than £2,000 each to organisations and people within the EH39 postcode area on an annual basis. A committee would be formed to distribute funds and NBCC was invited to nominate a member to join 2 past Captains of the Club on the committee.

The Chairman thanked Mr Spencer for his presentation, confirmed that NBCC was happy to support the project and would nominate one of their number to be their representative on the committee.

**7 North Berwick in Bloom – presentation by Mrs Rosie Oberlander**

Mrs Oberlander started her presentation by showing the short video which had been shown to RHS Britain in Bloom judges last summer.

She explained that 24 volunteers contribute more than 3,000 volunteer hours throughout the year. As well as gardening and associated activities such as watering and litter picking, their work includes administration, letters, fundraising and social media. She emphasised that what the group does in North Berwick is not just about winning medals and awards but keeping the town looking at its best not only for residents but also for the many visitors.

Since the first round of council cuts the group’s workload, not just on the horticultural side but also other aspects of keeping the town looking good, had increased substantially but it was impossible for a small voluntary group to take up all the slack.

The Chairman thanked Mrs Oberlander and the group for all the work they do in the town.

**8 Planning Matters**

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

**57a Westgate:** Painting of door and surrounds (retrospective). No objection was raised.

**90e High Street:** Alterations and extension to flat. No objection was raised.

**15 Melbourne Place:** Erection of gates and installation of lighting (retrospective). [*Cllr H* *Smith declared an interest in this case.*] No objection was raised.

**3 Fidra Road:** Alterations to house to form 2 houses and formation of hard standing area. No objection was raised.

**4a Victoria Road:** Replacement roof tiles. No objection was raised.

**24 Fidra Road:** Application to vary condition 1 of planning permission 08/00029/FUL to extend the time period for a further 3 years. No objection was raised.

**Hideaway, 17 Ferrygate, Gasworks Lane:** Extension to house. No objection was raised.

**3 May Terrace:** Extension to house. A resident in Abbey Crescent present pointed out that the height of the two storey extension and its closeness to the boundary with the Abbey Court bungalows would result in it overshadowing the gardens to the rear of the Abbey Court properties, overlooking bedrooms and blocking sunlight. It was agreed that concern should be expressed and a full evaluation of these points by ELC requested.

**Engine Cottage, Abbotsford Road:** Erection of gates, piers, formation of hard standing areas, installation of stone name plaque with intercom/letterbox and part demolition of wall. No objection was raised.

**28 Trainers Brae:** Extension to house. No objection was raised.

**20 Gilsland Grange:** Erection of flue (retrospective). No objection was raised.

**Site at Tantallon Road/ Heugh Road:** Changes to the design of the business units (Class 4) use and associated works as changes to scheme of development the subject of planning permission 14/00868/P. No objection was raised but subject to an assurance that the through route for cyclists and walkers from Tantallon Road through to the Law was not compromised.

**Pine Lee, 6a Strathearn Road:** Alterations to house - No objection was raised.

**18 Stair Park:** Extension to house. No objection was raised.

**Arngask House, 6b St Margaret’s Road:** Erection of sheds, fencing, walls, formation of steps and hard standing areas. No objection was raised.

**1 Cheylesmore, 67 Dirleton Avenue:** Erection of garage, demolition of wall and formation of hard standing. No objection was raised.

8.2 A Proposal of Application Notice (PAN) in respect of the proposed development of the former East Fortune Hospital site had been received. Although East Fortune is not in the NBCC area, notice had been given because of the impact of more housing on the North Berwick Schools. A public exhibition would be held at the Merryhatton Garden Centre on 14th June from 2.00 pm to 7.00 pm.

**9 East Lothian Development Plan Consultation on possible employment use:**

9.1 NBCC had been asked by ELC to seek the views of the community on 6 new sites proposed for employment use in the North Berwick area. To this end, a public meeting in the Hope Rooms on 2nd June was arranged which was attended by 25 people.

9.2 A Report on the meeting (prepared by the Secretary) was read out by Cllr Moodie who had chaired the meeting.

The Report, which was generally acceptable to those present, concluded that the consensus was not to recommend any of the 6 green field sites for development and to request ELC to conduct a full analysis on the potential brown field sites around North Berwick linked to a coherent economic and employment development strategy.

It was agreed that the Report would form the basis of the Response to ELC.

**ACTION: Cllr K Smith**

**10 Community Rail Partnership:**

10.1 Cllr Sinclair reported that the notice board was working now and the number of spaces for cycles had been increased. She was also pleased to announce that ScotRail had confirmed that it would be running an earlier service on Sundays, leaving Edinburgh at 9.33 am and returning at 10.20 am.

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

11.1 The Secretary reported that Tuesday 19th July for the qualifying of the putting competitions and Thursday 21st July for the finals had been confirmed with ELC. She asked Cllr Watson to prepare posters for the event. A rota for help on the days would be circulated.

**ACTION: Cllrs K Smith & Watson**

**12 Communications Group**

12.1 A date for a further meeting had yet to be agreed.

**13 Reports from Groups & Societies:**

13.1 **North Berwick Business Association:** Cllr Macnair reported that the Association’s website was receiving more and more hits and the information point in Whynot? was being well received and used.

13.2 **Coastal Communities Museum:** Cllr Moodie reported that over 3,000 people had visited the new exhibition by the end of May.

13.3 **Area Partnership:** There was to be an On the Move meeting on 20th June and a full Partnership meeting on 28th June.

13.4 **CAPP:** Cllr Hamilton was disappointed to note that at the last meeting the police had indicated all was quite at the Auld Hoose but that the police Report had indicated there had been an incident.

13.5 **North Berwick Trust:** The Chairman read out the following statement from the Trust –

*‘We are delighted to announce that the first tranche of funding totalling £50,000 will be available later this year. Application forms will be available from the Secretary or our new website from September 2016.*

*This website, which is currently under construction, will allow the wider community to have an increased awareness and understanding of the role this charitable Trust will play.*

*We will share news, announcements and any other relevant information through our website and other communications channels. In line with normal charity practice, minutes and Trustees’ personal details will not be publicised but any information relating to the Trust’s role in the wider community will be actively shared.*

*North Berwick Trust is looking forward to this exciting new chapter and what it means for the many deserving causes there are in our town.’*

**14 Correspondence:**

The Secretary had received the following communications –

14.1 A report from ELC’s Senior Roads Officer on the speed survey at the 30 mph sign 50m east of Lime Grove which indicated a significant number of motorists had exceeded the speed limit and the 10% buffer. ELC would have no objection to a 40 mph buffer zone east of the caravan park but indicated that it would be highly unlikely that Police Scotland could enforce it. It was agreed that a 40 mph buffer zone should be created. It was also suggested that the town sign should be moved out. It was noted that the current 30 mph sign was obscured by trees. The Secretary would take up these matters with ELC. **ACTION: Cllr K Smith**

14.2 The Forth Estuary Forum bulletin, which contained an interesting article on the Forth Ferry launch between North Berwick and Anstruther, had been circulated.

14.3 Notice of the RELBUS meeting on 15th June in the Town House, Haddington which had been circulated. The main item on the Agenda was the withdrawal of the First bus services.

14.4 The final recommendations of the Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland. East Lothian would lose one councillor but no change to the North Berwick Coastal ward was proposed.

14.5 Notice that the Topper National dinghy championships were being hosted by East Lothian Yacht Club from 7th to 12th August. It was anticipated that they would bring 300+ families to North Berwick and the surrounding area for the period.

**15 Any other competent business:**

15.1 *Rotary Way*: The Chairman reported that, with the unlawful removal of the signs, the Rotary Club was in discussion with ELC regarding the way forward. He confirmed that the Community Council continued to support the Rotary Club’s proposal.

**ACTION: Cllr D Kellock**

15.2 *NBGC Community Project*: It was agreed that Cllr Moodie should be NBCC’s representative on the committee.

15.3 *Coastal Erosion*: As Cllrs Macnair & Moodie had been unable to attend the meeting on 2nd June it was hoped there would be feedback available.

15.4 *Home Energy Scotland*: It was agreed that a representative should be invited to address the community Council on the subject of fuel poverty at the 2nd August meeting.

**ACTION: Cllr D Kellock**

15.5 *Ambulance response times*: Concern was expressed at the delays in ambulance response times, a recent heart attack victim having to wait an hour for one to arrive.

15.6 *Agenda meeting*: As both the Chairman and Secretary would be on holiday, Cllr Macnair agreed to chair the meeting on 21st June.

**16 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 5th July 2016 at 7.30 pm.

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

The 481st Public Meeting of the Royal Burgh of North Berwick Community Council to be held in the Fire Station, Station Road on Tuesday 5th July 2016 at 7.30 pm

**AGENDA**

1. Welcome
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of Meeting held on 7th June 2016
4. Matters Arising
5. Police Report
6. Youth Network – Cllr I Watson
7. Planning Matters
8. Community Rail Partnership
9. Calder & Crawford Cups - putting competitions
10. Communications Group - update
11. Rotary Way
12. Site Community Landownership
13. Reports from Groups & Societies
14. Correspondence

15. Any other competent business

16. Date of Next Meeting - Tuesday 2nd August