**Royal Burgh of North Berwick Community Council**

**Minutes of the 483rd Public Meeting held at 19.30 on Tuesday 6th September 2016**

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

**Present:** Cllr David Kellock, Chairman

Cllr Kathryn Smith, Secretary

Cllrs M Baker, E Danks, P Hamilton, G Moodie, W Macnair, J Scott, H Smith,

& I Watson

**In attendance:** ELC Cllrs D Berry & J Goodfellow, Lesley Kay, Lauren Cowie & 4 members of the Youth Project, PC D Gray, local press, 4 members of the public

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

**2**  **Apologies:** Cllrs M Ellis & S Sinclair, ELC Cllr T Day

**3 Minutes of the Meeting held on 2nd August:**

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

**4 Matters Arising:**

4*.*1***4.1 Queen’s 90th Birthday***: The Chairman reported that the Community Council was ‘in the queue’ for the allocation of a bench.

4.2 ***4.5 Royal Humane Society***: The Chairman reported that the presentation to the two young people, which was reported in the local press, had taken place in the Old Council Chambers.

4.3 ***7.1 Planning Matters – 91 High Street***: Cllr Moodie confirmed that the concerns expressed about seating outside the roof dome had been noted.

4.4. ***10.1 Communications Group***: The Chairman asked for a report but the Group had not met recently.

4.5 ***11.1 Lime Grove Site – Community Landownership***: The Secretary reported that she had received an update from the Chief Executive to the effect that because of officers working on the Local Development Plan consideration of any options for the Lime Grove site had not been progressed yet though she did give an undertaking to include the Community Council in discussions regarding its future use. ELC Cllr Berry commented that he had updated the Chief Executive on past disposals of ELC properties not being of benefit to the town. Cllr Macnair had attended a site meeting recently.

4.6 ***14.4 NB Harbour Trust***: Cllr Macnair had represented the Community Council at the ‘opening’ of the new sea wall when all contributors to the cost of construction had been thanked. The wall was very impressive but had yet to be put to the test. He also commented that the Harbour Trust was considering putting up beach huts at the harbour.

**5 Police Report:**

5.1 PC Gray 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***

* There were no road safety matters on which to report.

2. ***Antisocial Behaviour***

* On 02/08/16, a male was charged with a breach of the peace after he shouted and swore at persons outside The Golfers Rest, North Berwick.
* During the early hours on 22/08/16, there was a report of loud behaviour by patrons leaving The Auld Hoose public house, North Berwick. There were no persons on Police arrival and the premises were closed.
* On 26/08/16, 2 shopliftings occurred at The Co-op, High Street, North Berwick. Enquiries were ongoing to identify a male youth responsible for stealing a bottle of alcohol on each occasion.
* On 27/08/16, there was a report of a disturbance outside The Auld Hoose public house. On Police arrival it was established that it had been a verbal argument between friends.
* During the early hours of 03/09/16, there was a report of a customer refusing to leave The Auld Hoose public house. On Police arrival, the person had left.

3. ***Housebreaking***

* There were no reports of housebreaking during the month.

4***. Parking***

* Several parking tickets were issued during the month. Illegal parking continued to be a regular complaint.

5. ***Other incidents of note –***

* On 14/08/16, there was a report of a 20 year old female with a broken ankle at the top of North Berwick Law. She was recovered by mountain rescue team and conveyed to hospital.
* On 15/08/16 there was a report of a male having been assaulted at Marine Parade, North Berwick. A male was subsequently arrested and charged with assault.
* On 16/08/16 there was a report of theft of fuel from Dalrymple Service Station. Enquiries were ongoing to trace the vehicle.
* During the afternoon of 17/08/16, a motor cycle was stolen from Melbourne Road, North Berwick. Enquiries were ongoing.
* On 21/08/16, 3 males were disturbed attempting to steal £250 worth of meat from Aldi, North Berwick. Enquiries were ongoing to trace the males concerned.
* On 24/08/16, a vehicle was damaged whilst parked in Fidra Road, North Berwick. Enquiries were ongoing.
* On 27/08/16, there was a report of a 62 year old female having suffered a stroke whilst on North Berwick Law. She was conveyed to hospital by ambulance.

5.2 ***CAPP***

***Agreed priorities –***

* Speeding motorcycles on coast road from Aberlady to North Berwick
* Attention to parents dropping off/uplifting children at the Primary School

The date of the next CAPP meeting is 28th September 2016.

5.3 ***Other matters raised*:**

* ELC Cllr Goodfellow confirmed that ELC was looking at ways to stop problems with buses being unable to exit Church Road due to vehicles parked on the double yellow lines in front of the bookies in the High Street.
* There had been complaints from residents in the Harbour area about noise in the early hours from people leaving late night Fringe by the Sea events. Otherwise generally it had been quiet during the Fringe.
* 2 members of the Law Residents & Tenants Association (LRTA) asked why the bus shelter which had been removed from Dundas Road had not been replaced. It had attracted a lot of anti-social behaviour when it was there and a resident immediately affected was concerned that this would happen again if replaced. Others missed the narrow seat in the shelter for those unable to stand for long. ELC Cllr Goodfellow felt a compromise could be reached regarding its location. It was suggested that erection of a one sided shelter which might be less likely to attract anti-social behaviour could be looked into. It was agreed that the LRTA would take the matter back for further discussion.

**6 Youth Project – presentation:**

6.1 Lesley Kay, Youth Project Manager under the auspices of the Youth Network, presented the 2015/16 Annual Report for the Youth Project. The Community Council was impressed with the activities through the year which included:

* Working in partnership with the Midlothian Training Services to deliver a stage 2 Employability Fund Course though they are not now doing this.
* Opening their 5th Cafe in the Lodge for 6 weeks in the summer.
* Working in partnership with the High School supporting the transition from primary to secondary.
* Assisting in refurbishing their premises in the Hope Rooms.
* Launching a Youth Committee.
* Fundraising for a trip to Rwanda in February next year.

The group was also working in partnership with the High School, the Police and the Coastal Communities Museum regarding the provision for young people in the past and proposals for a youth shelter.

**7 The Community Conversation:**

7.1 The ‘Community Conversation’ organised by the Area Partnership which had taken place in the Spiegeltent on 15th August was regarded as a success but it was pointed out that was only the beginning of the ‘Conversation’. Another event was being planned for the High Street in October.

7.2 The second Annual Public Meeting of the Area Partnership would take place from 7.00 – 9.00 pm on 11th October in the Hope Rooms.

**8 Planning Matters**

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

**Engine Cottage, Abbotsford Road:** Erection of walls, gates, piers, hard standing areas, installation of stone plaque, intercom/letter box and demolition of wall. No objection was raised.

**10. Westgate:** Alterations and extension to building, formation of decking & steps and heightening and alterations to wall. No objection was raised.

**Westfield House, 8 Links Road:** Erection of summerhouse (retrospective). No objection was raised.

**10 & 10a West Bay Road:** Erection and demolition of gates. No objection was raised.

**20 Fidra Road:** Formation of vehicular access, hard standing area, erection of gates and fencing. No objection was raised.

**16 West Bay Road:** Alterations to flat, formation of raised deck with steps and glazed balustrade. No objection was raised.

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

**31 Rhodes Park:** Extension to house. No objection was raised.

**8 Quadrant:** Alterations, extension to house, erection of gates, formation of hard standing area and part demolition of wall. Concern was expressed about overlooking neighbouring properties but no objection was raised.

**Site at Tantallon Road/Heugh Road:** Variation of Condition 4 of planning permission 14/00868/P that there should be no occupation of any flats unless and until the business units approved under planning permission 15/00296/P had been fully constructed and available for occupation; Cllr Moodie explained that the planners had been concerned about this variation and had confirmed to him that McCarthy & Stone would still be held to the condition imposed by the planning application approved earlier this year. On that basis no objection was raised.

**3a Dirleton Avenue:** Replacement windows. No objection was raised.

**Gilsland Park, Grange Road:** Erection of caravan park office/kitchen building, change of use of agricultural land to caravan stances, parking area, erection of shower/toilet building, formation of bunding and associated works. Concern was expressed regarding the change of use of agricultural land and whether it was prime agricultural land was to be queried.

**ACTION: Cllr Moodie**

*[Cllr Macnair left the meeting whilst this item was discussed]*

**11a Dirleton Avenue:** Replacement windows. No objection was raised.

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

**9 Community Rail Partnership:**

9.1 Harry Barker (CRP Chairman) and Peter Forsyth (ELC Head of Transportation) had recently met regarding toilet provision at the station. Money had now been ring fenced for this purpose and a planning application was to be submitted.

9.2 No-one had been able to attend the RELBUS AGM on 31st August.

**10 West Bay water pollution:**

10.1 The Chairman reported that SEPA was still carrying out investigations into the source of the water pollution but had confirmed that the last two water samples had all been well within compliance. Members questioned the method of notifying changes in the conditions. ELC Cllr Goodfellow confirmed that ELC posts safe bathing notices on the advice of SEPA and SEPA posts them on their website. Cllr Watson suggested reverting to the use of flags which would be a more visible way of showing that the water was safe.

**11 Bins:**

11.1 The Chairman had visited Kinnaird Park to look at the gull resistant bins there but had concluded that our ‘big belly’ bins were better.

11.2. The Secretary had received e-mail correspondence from a resident in Forth Street regarding the refuse collectors’ refusal to empty bins with lids open. This problem was compounded during the holiday period as a result of the number of holiday lets in the area. Apparently there were similar problems in other areas of the town due to the increased population and fortnightly lifts. It was suggested that it was the rental companies’ responsibility for ensuring the bins were emptied. It was agreed that they should be spoken to about this. **ACTION: Cllr K Smith**

**12 Community Council Elections:**

12.1 The Secretary reminded members that the deadline for lodging nomination papers was 4.00 pm on Thursday, 15th September.

**13 Reports from Groups & Societies:**

13.1 **CAPP:** Cllr Hamilton reported that the community warden had attended a disturbance in the Lodge grounds.

13.2 **Coastal Communities Museum:** Cllr Moodie reported that 6,700 people had visited the 99 Objects exhibition by the end of August.

13.3 **Community Centre:** Cllr H Smith reported that the AGM of the Centre would be taking place shortly and that they were trying to source funding for an artist in residence.

13.4 **Association of East Lothian Community Councils:** Cllr H Smith reported that the first meeting of the new term would be in November when the topic for discussion would be Health provision in East Lothian.

13.5 **North Berwick in Bloom:** Cllr Danks confirmed that the Beautiful Scotland awards ceremony would be taking place in Aberdeen on 14th September.

13.6 **Environment Trust:**  Cllr H Smith commented that the ‘Whale Meat Again’ talk at the Fringe by the Sea on Sunday 14th August had been a great success. There had been a meeting with the environmental charity Fidra with a view to forming a group to encourage the use of alternatives to polystyrene so that we could become a ‘compostable town’.

13.7 **NBGC Community Project:** Cllr Moodie confirmed that applications for funds would be considered in October.

13.8 **North Berwick Trust:** Cllr Baker confirmed that applications for funds would be considered at the beginning of October. He also confirmed that the launch of the low cost affordable housing being built by Crudens would take place on 12th September with the first handovers due in mid November.

13.9 **Youth Network:** Cllr Watson reported that the funding through the Area Partnership for a youth worker had been withdrawn as it had to be approved by ELC’s Head of Education who was on holiday.

13.10 **Kirkports Project:** The Chairman tabled a progress report on the conservation of the ruin of St Andrew’s Kirk in Kirkports. It had become clear that it would be impossible to attempt the single large scale programme of works originally envisaged because of costs and that a progression of smaller steps would be more attainable.

**14 Correspondence:**

The following communications had been received –

14.1 An e-mail from the **Seabird Centre** requesting support for the nomination of their volunteers for the Queen’s Award for Voluntary Service. This was agreed subject to the junior guides being included.

14.2 An e-mail from **David Small**, Chief Officer, East Lothian Integrated Joint Board, in response to a request for an update on progress in renewing the Health Centre provision. In the short term a small scheme to create more space in the Health Centre had been agreed. Work on the number of beds and sheltered housing places needed in East Lothian for the future should come to a conclusion in October. This would help determine the capacity needed in North Berwick for the Abbey and the Edington. Once this was known the Board would be in a better place to look at the re-provision of these facilities and then be clearer about the Health Centre because it shares the same building as the Edington.

14.3 An e-mail from **NHS Lothian** intimating that the NHS Lothian 2016 Annual Review had been rescheduled to Monday 10th October. The Public Session would be held at 2.00 pm at NHS Lothian, Waverley Gate, 4 Waterloo Place, Edinburgh.

14.4 An e-mail from **Edinburgh Airport** informing that the closing date for the Airspace Change Programme Consultation had been extended to 19th September due to a website error.

14.5 An e-mail from the **North Berwick Harbour Residents Association** regarding the state of the beach. It was agreed that a plan for beach cleaning needed to be in place and ELC Cllr Goodfellow agreed to follow up.

14.6 A letter from **ELC Cllr Berry** expressing disappointment that the Community Council had rejected his proposals for land for employment use. At the ELC meeting that morning the East Lothian Local Development Plan had been approved with 2 hectares allocated in North Berwick. It was pointed out that the Community Council Response to the consultation had reflected the views of the community but that further discussion of this issue would be appropriate.

14.7 An invitation from **St Baldred’s Church** for a representative to attend the institution of the new rector on 6th October at 7.30 pm. Cllr Baker or Cllr Scott offered to attend.

**ACTION: Cllr Baker or Cllr Scott**

14.8 An e-mail from **Greenspace Scotland** seeking applications for Tesco Bags of Help funding for improving local green spaces or parks.

14.9 An e-mail about **Want to Change the World** free weekly courses from 8th September to 27th October at the Sustaining Dunbar Offices, Station Road, Dunbar.

14.14 An invitation to **Diversity in Community Council Workshops & Drop-in Sessions** in Septemberat 14 Forth Street, Edinburgh run by Edinburgh & Lothians Regional Equality Council.

**15 Any other competent business:**

15.1 ***Cycling in the Lodge***: The Secretary had been approached by a lady whose husband had almost been knocked down by a speeding cyclist in the Lodge. Cllr Danks explained that when the grounds were upgraded it was a condition that they should be open to all, including cyclists. It was suggested that a double chicane could be introduced at the danger point to slow down cyclists. It was agreed that this should be referred to the On the Move group on the Area Partnership. **ACTION: Cllr H Smith**

**16 Date of Next Meeting:**

The next meeting of the Community Council will be held at the Fire Station, Station Road, North Berwick on Tuesday 4th October 2016 at 7.30 pm. This will be the last meeting of the current Council.

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

The 484th Public Meeting of the Royal Burgh of North Berwick Community Council to be held in the Fire Station, Station Road on Tuesday 4th October 2016 at 7.30 pm

**AGENDA**

1. Welcome
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of Meeting held on 6th September 2016
4. Matters Arising
5. Police Report
6. Planning Matters [including update on Blenheim House]
7. Community Council Elections
8. Reports from Groups & Societies

[including Reports from Chairman & Treasurer]

1. Correspondence

10. Any other competent business

11. Date of Next Meeting - Tuesday 1st November