**Royal Burgh of North Berwick Community Council**

**Minutes of the 484th Public Meeting held at 19.30 on Tuesday 4th October 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, G Moodie, W Macnair, J Scott, S

 Sinclair, H Smith & I Watson

**In attendance:** ELC Cllrs T Day & J Goodfellow, PC D Gray & PC I Paterson, local press, 1 member of the public

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

**2**  **Apologies:** None

**3 Minutes of the Meeting held on 6th September:**

3.1Adoption of the Minutes, as amended from the version circulated, was proposed by Cllr Moodie and seconded by Cllr Scott

**4 Matters Arising:**

4.1 ***9.1 Community Rail Partnership***: Cllr Sinclair reported that she and Harry Barker had met with ELC Cllr Day and an application was to be submitted for the toilets which would be located in the shrubbery at the entrance to the station. This would also make available some extra parking places.

4.2 ***10.1 West Bay water pollution***: The Chairman had received confirmation from SEPA that the final 3 water samples taken had been well within compliance but that they were still investigating the potential sources of the pollution.

4.3 ***14.1 Seabird Centre nomination of volunteers***: The Chairman confirmed that a letter had been sent supporting the nomination.

4.4 ***14.5 NB Harbour Residents’ Association***: Cllr H Smith confirmed that the Area Partnership was planning to put forward a programme for beach cleaning which was in their budget.

4.5 ***14.7 NBCC representation at St Baldred’s institution***: It was confirmed that Cllrs Baker and Scott would represent the Community Council at the Institution of the new Rector at St Baldred’s on 6th October

4.6 ***15.1 Cycling in the Lodge***: Cllr H Smith confirmed that this would be raised at the On the Move meeting that evening.

**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***

On 20/09/16 a female was charged with riding a motorcycle in Glenburn Road whilst being a learner rider and not displaying ‘L’ plates.

2. ***Antisocial Behaviour***

* On 21/09/16 a male from North Berwick reported that a brick had been thrown through his front windscreen. Enquiries are ongoing to trace a male suspect.
* During the early hours of 25/09/16, a fight was reported outside The Ship, North Berwick whereby the alarm box at The North Berwick Fry was removed from the wall. Enquiries are still ongoing to trace those responsible for the damage.

3. ***Housebreaking***

Between 12/09/16 and 17/09/16 there was a break-in to 10 High Street, North Berwick whereby a quantity of cash and jewellery was stolen from a safe within. The jewellery and cash were recovered nearby and enquiries are ongoing.

4***. Parking***

Parking in the town continued to be an issue and attention had been given to it over the course of the month.

 5. ***Other incidents of note –***

* On 09/09/16, there was a theft of 4 bottles of alcohol from the Co-op, High Street, North Berwick. Enquiries are still ongoing to identify the culprits from cctv footage.
* On 10/09/16, there was a further theft of alcohol valued at £149 from the Co-op, High Street. Enquiries are still ongoing to identify the culprits from cctv footage.
* Between 10/09/16 and 13/09/16 a mountain bike was stolen from the High Street, North Berwick. Enquiries are still ongoing.
* On 17/09/16, there was a report of a theft of 2 litres of vodka from the Co-op, High Street, North Berwick. Enquiries are still ongoing to identify the culprits from cctv footage.
* On 19/09/16, there was a report of a sum of cash stolen from the staff room at Astley House Nursing Home, North Berwick. Enquiries are still ongoing.
* On 19/09/16, two bottles of alcohol were stolen from the Co-op, High Street. Enquiries are still ongoing to identify the culprits from cctv footage.
* On 20/09/16 there was a report of the theft of £166 worth of alcohol from the Co-op, High Street. Enquiries are still ongoing to identify the culprits from cctv footage.
* On 27/9/16, there was a report of an abandoned vehicle in Station Court, North Berwick. East Lothian Council were contacted and the vehicle is to be uplifted and scrapped.

**6 Planning Matters**

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

**8a Hamilton Road:** Alterations and extension to house and formation of hard standing area. No objection was raised.

**13a School Road:** Replacement window, doors and fanlights. No objection was raised.

**Bunkerhill, Abbotsford Road:** Vent installation, formation of replacement 2nd floor decking and handrails. No objection was raised.

**117 High Street:** Display of advertisements (Co-op). No objection was raised.

**6 Lamb Court, Dirleton Avenue:** Formation of dormers, installation of roof windows and vent pipe. Concern was raised that the south facing dormer windows would result in a lack of balance with the rest of the building and be out of character. **ACTION: Cllr Moodie**

**7 Lorne Square:** Conversion of existing cellar to form ancillary accommodation, erection of handrails and lighting installation. No objection was raised.

**Castleton Farmhouse:** Extension to house. No objection was raised.

6.2 **Blenheim House Hotel – update**

The Secretary read out a statement from Matthew Atton regarding the Blenheim House hotel which is summarised as follows:

Having committed significant time and costs and approximately 18 months on the open market, Mr Atton had to explore alternative options for the property. Given the results from the specialists employed, the severely dilapidated condition of the building and its limitations within the existing use class as identified by the specialists which demonstrated that it was an unviable business proposition, he would be submitting an application for change of use of the property back to its original residential use, and an application for sympathetic subdivision of the property to four apartments.

He hoped that the community of North Berwick would embrace and support the application which would see this once grand building, now sadly a dilapidated eyesore, returned to its original use and fully refurbished internally and externally. He would be happy to attend when the application came before the community council to discuss further.

Disappointment was expressed by some of the community councillors that the property was to be subdivided but there would be to opportunity to question Mr Atton further in due course.

6.3 **East Lothian Development Plan**

The Chairman circulated the Response he had submitted regarding further possible sites for employment use. The deadline for submitting responses had been extended for a further 7 days from 31st October to 7th November.

6.4 **91 High Street (whynot?)**

The Chairman commented that the application for the rooftop dome had been passed by the ELC Planning Committee but he noted that despite assurances made by Mr Elder at the community council meeting on 2nd August that reference to seating outside the dome would be deleted, the application had not been amended. There was, however, a condition to have a 1.8m fence around the area. It was agreed that the Chairman would write to the applicant expressing disappointment at the outcome. **ACTION: Cllr Moodie/Cllr Kellock**

**7 Community Council Elections:**

7.1 The Secretary reminded members that they ceased to be community councillors at the close of poll on 6th October and that the result would be notified to candidates on 7th October. The Count was being carried out by the Electoral Reform Society in London. The first public meeting, when the roll call and the election of office bearers take place, would be held on 18th October in the Fire Station at 7.30 pm.

7.2 ELC Cllr Goodfellow commented that the new community council should consider whether the cottages in Gasworks Lane should be included in the NBCC ward.

 **ACTION: new community council**

**8 Reports from Groups & Societies:**

8.1 **Chairman’s Report:** The Chairman gave his report for the year and concluded by paying tribute to retiring councillors Elma Danks and Sheila Sinclair for their 30 and 8 years respectively of service to the community.

8.2 **Treasurer’s Report:** Cllr Scott tabled the NBCC Accounts for the year ended 31st March, the Balance Sheet as at 31st March and the Local Priorities Fund Statement which had been forwarded to ELC.

The following payments were approved - £99 to Vote Pedro for maintenance of the website from April to September; £245 to Cllr K Smith for Minute taking from April to October; and £66 to Lady Haig Poppy Factory for 2 wreaths for Remembrance Day.

Adoption of the Reports was proposed by Cllr Baker and seconded by Cllr Moodie.

8.3 **North Berwick in Bloom:** Cllr Danks reported that at the 50th Anniversary Beautiful Scotland Awards held in Aberdeen, North Berwick had won a Gold Medal, the Premier Award Rose bowl and the David Kerr Coastal Resort Trophy. In addition ELC had won the Royal Caledonian Horticultural Society Award and Haddington had won a Gold Medal in the medium town category as a Britain in Bloom finalist. The Chairman congratulated NBIB for the wonderful results. It was agreed that a letter should be written to ELC asking that the East Lothian successes should be recognised. **ACTION: Cllr K Smith**

8.4 **Christmas lights switch on:** Cllr Scott confirmed preparations were well in hand for the switch-on on 19th November.

8.5 **Remembrance Sunday:** The Chairman confirmed that arrangements for Remembrance Sunday on 13th November were almost finalised.

8.6 **Association of East Lothian Community Councils:** Cllr H Smith confirmed that the first meeting of the new term would be on 9th November when health provision and the new East Lothian Community Hospital would be the topic for discussion.

**9 Correspondence:**

The following communications had been received –

9.1 An e-mail from the **David Small,** Chief Officer, East Lothian Integrated Joint Board, regarding the start of construction of the new East Lothian Community Hospital (circulated).

9.2 E-mails regarding the obnoxious smell from Ferrygate. ELC Cllr Goodfellow confirmed that Environmental Health was monitoring the situation on a regular basis. The farmer was obeying the rules and operating within the legislation.

9.3 An e-mail from **the Scottish Seabird Centre** regarding a survey on creating a national marine centre (circulated).

9.4 An e-mail from **Planning Aid Scotland** about free impartial advice on planning and related matters which can be provided to community councils.

9.5 An e-mail from **BT** regarding a consultation on the removal of underused public payphones. There was only one in North Berwick, in Couper Avenue, which outside of Musselburgh had the highest usage. Cllr Hamilton agreed to pass this on to the Law Residents & Tenants Association for further consideration. The consultation closes on 28th November. **ACTION: Cllr Hamilton**

9.6 An email regarding **The Broad Alliance,** of which No Fracking North Berwick is a member, highlighting a unique citizens’ research and writing project stating the community case against UOGE (fracking). The group’s views can be seen on <http://www.broad-alliance.org/work-groups/>.

**10 Any other competent business:** There was none.

**11 Date of Next Meeting:**

The next meeting of the Community Council, which will be the Roll Call and first meeting following the election, will be held at the Fire Station, Station Road, North Berwick on Tuesday 18th October 2016 at 7.30 pm.