**Royal Burgh of North Berwick Community Council**

**Minutes of the 489th Public Meeting held at 19.30 on Tuesday 7th February 2017**

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

**Present:** Cllr Hilary Smith, Chairman

Cllr Kathryn Smith, Secretary

Cllrs L Kay, G Moodie, C Mackenzie; W Macnair, O Owen, S Northrop,

T Todd & I Watson

**In attendance:** ELC Cllrs D Berry & J Goodfellow, Jane McMinn, local press, 6 members of the public.

**1 Welcome:** The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed all those present, including 4 of the applicants for the casual vacancy.

**2**  **Apologies:** Cllr L Cowie

**3 Minutes of the Meeting held on 10th January 2017:**

Adoption of the Minutes, which had been circulated previously, was proposed by Cllr Watson and seconded by Cllr Northrop.

**4 Matters Arising:**

4.1 ***4.1 Planning Aid:*** A training schedule was still awaited. However, ELC’s community training Schedule was now available.

4.2 ***4.2 Traffic Wardens:*** It was noted that the traffic wardens were now operating and that parking in the High Street did seem to be easier.

4.3 ***4.3 Presentation by P7 pupils:*** The Chairman had met with Stuart Pryde, ELC’s Principal Amenity Officer regarding some of the outstanding points raised by the young people in their presentation and commented as follows –

* It was unlikely that trampolines would be re-instated in the Lodge for a variety of reasons. He would enquire at the Forum for Amenity Officers if there was something similar available;
* The play area at the Recreation Park was due to be upgraded. He would try to include ‘something bouncy’ there;
* If there was space additional swings should be possible;
* Arrangements would be made for the pupils to meet with the people who look after the birds in the Aviary. This would give them a better understanding of what was involved.

Cllr Macnair pointed out that a handrail on the Glen footpath had already been installed.

4.4 ***7.00 Coastal Erosion:*** Members were reminded about the NBGC Public Exhibition in the Community Centre on 15th February and encouraged to attend.

4.5 ***14.00 Dog Mess:*** The dog warden had been informed of the problem and a ‘bag it and bin it’ banner had been put up.

**5 Police Report:**

5.1 In the absence of PCs Gray & Paterson the Secretary read 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 29/01/17 there was a report of a one car vehicle accident, hitting a wall at St Andrews Street caused by ice on road. No injuries. Damage only.

**2*. Antisocial Behaviour***

* On 10/01/17 youths aged approximately 10 years old seen throwing stones at a dwelling house window on Greenheads Road, damaging same. Description of youths given and enquiries to be made.
* On 21/01/17 there was a report of a smashed window at a house in York Road. Police attended and report taken.
* On 23/01/17 there was a report of loud music coming from house in Lochbridge Road. Police attended and asked occupant to turn music down which was done. No further complaints.
* On 27/01/2017 there was a Report of a disturbance at a property in Brodie Avenue. On Police attendance, all was quiet and no complaints were made.
* On 31/01/17 a male has been charged with a breach of the peace after a disturbance in St Margaret’s Road.

**3*. Housebreaking***

* On 12/01/17 there was a report of a break in to the Recycling Centre, Heugh Road, and items stolen. Police attended. There was CCTV; however, the quality was poor. Enquiries ongoing.

**4*. Parking***

* On 17/01/17 there was a report of vans being parked on the cycle path between Dirleton and North Berwick due to nearby building works. Police attended and asked for vans to be moved off path. Complainer informed of result and advice given re any further problems.

**5*. CAPP***

* The priorities for the following month were (1) anti social behaviour in and around Couper & Gilbert Avenues; (2) drug misuse around Craigleith Avenue; (3) speeding on the A198 and B1345 at Drem.
* The date of the next CAPP meeting is Wednesday 22nd February 2017, 1930 hours, Council Chambers, North Berwick.

**6. *Other Incidents of note***

* On 24/01/17 there was a report of youths hanging around Cala Homes Site at Gilsland Grange. Police attended however no trace of youths.

* On 28/01/17 there was a report of a male hit by a glass in the County Hotel, High Street. Police attended however male refused to provide any information as to what had happened and declined medical attention.
* On 03/02/17 a female was arrested and charged with a domestic assault at a property in Lochbridge Road and has been reported to the Procurator Fiscal.
* On 31/01/17 there was a report of a vehicle damaged whilst parked in North Berwick. Police attended, statement taken and door to door carried out.

**6 Update on Harbour Trust Association (HTA):**

6.1 Jane McMinn, Chairman of the Harbour Trust Association, gave an informative and interesting talk on the background to the formation of the HTA, what it had achieved, and its plans for the future.

6.2 She explained that amongst its aims were the advancement of heritage and culture through increased awareness of and greater access to a wide range of activities and events to showcase the harbour and its history and, for the benefit of the public, to repair, maintain, conserve and improve the harbour and its facilities in an efficient and economic manner.

**7 Planning Matters:**

7.1 The following new applications had been viewed beforehand and no objections had been raised -

**1 Invereil House:** Alterations to building.

**1 Warrender Court:** Extension to house.

**22 Fidra Road:** Replacement windows.

**5 Quality Street:** Installation of roof windows

**10b Marine Parade:** Extension to flat, formation of pedestrian access, hard standing area, erection of summerhouse and gate.

**9 Forth Street:** Replacement windows.

**Flat 18 Fidra Road (Hyndford House):** Alterations to garden flat.

**5 Ibris Place:** Erection of garage.

**Gin Head Tantallon:** Renewal of planning permission 12/00845/P.

**Site at Tantallon Road/Heugh Road:** Modification of clauses 1 & 5 of planning obligation entered into pursuant to planning permission 14/00868/P for erection of 41 flats, business units (class 4) and associated works.

7.2 The following new applications were viewed, discussed and commented on as follows –

**13 Melbourne Road:** Formation of vehicular access and hard standing area. Concern was expressed about the surface finish and drainage provision.

**82 High Street:** Alterations and part change of use of shop (class1) use to financial professional and other services (class2) use. Concern was expressed at the loss of retail space.

**Tantallon Road:** Approval of matters specified in conditions of planning permission in principle 15/00670/PPM for erection of 109 houses, 16 flats, formation of allotment areas and associated works. Concern was expressed at poor design and layout, situation of allotments, vehicular access, route of cycle path and whether footpaths would be lit.

7.3 **Blenheim House Hotel:** ELC Cllr Berry reported that planning permission had been granted for the conversion of the hotel into 4 flats that morning. Some councillors expressed disappointment but it was pointed out that there had been more letters of support than objection.

7.4 **32 Marmion Road:** ELC Cllr Goodfellow commented that as the proposed development was not visible from the road there were no grounds for objection.

7.5 **McCarthy & Stone Development:** There was a discussion with the new developer of the associated business units regarding their proposed use as a business centre with class 2 and class 4 uses.

**8 Planning Consultation:**

8.1 It was felt that the document was too technical and opened up more questions than answers.

8.2 It was agreed that further detailed discussion would be required to formulate the Community Council’s response.

8.3 Cllr Watson raised the issue of whether there was a sufficient water supply to serve all the new developments in the town. The Chairman agreed to write to Scottish Water. The ELC Councillors pointed out that SEPA and Scottish Water are consulted on every new development.

**9 Communications Group Report:**

9.1 Cllr Mackenzie referred to the Report which had been circulated prior to the meeting and which she summarised as follows – an update on the newsletter and other communication channels, progress with regard to the appointment of a social media intern, and the next High Street event which was proposed for Saturday 18th March from 10.30 am till 12.30 pm.

9.2 Cllr Mackenzie added that the general consensus was that the newsletter in its current format was not value for money as the information went out of date quickly, did not cover actual Community Council activities and the cost of production and distribution was over half the Community Council’s annual budget.

9.3 It had been proposed that a Community Council brochure/welcome pack containing useful information about the Community Council and the town facilities etc be produced once every electoral term and delivered to all within the Community Council boundary with a regular Community Council bulletin produced monthly, containing updates on Community Council activities, town events etc and sent out electronically with printed copies available at community hubs.

9.4 A frank discussion took place with points being made that the information in a four yearly brochure would also go out of date, that the newsletter was for the community, and not everyone had electronic access.

9.5 It was agreed that councillors should do a pros/cons list for the proposals put forward with a view to reaching a decision on the best way forward.

**10 NBCC - Governance:**

10.1 Cllr Moodie referred to the Report which had been circulated prior to the meeting and which covered the objectives of the Community Council, its effectiveness in meeting these objectives, and its accountability.

10.2 Cllr Moodie added that perhaps a new major element within this was that the Community Council should create and keep updated a ‘Town Plan’.

10.3 It was agreed that councillors should have the opportunity to have a full, free-ranging and uninhibited discussion on the proposals and that this should take place at an informal meeting on 22nd March.

**11 Community Development Trust – Lime Grove**

11.1 Cllr Kay commented that she was delighted that around 160 people had attended the public meeting on 26th January when the process for a community asset transfer had been discussed. There had been unanimous support for the proposed transfer. The ‘community conversation’ which followed had produced an interesting range of ideas for the use of the Lime Grove site.

**12 Emergency Responses**

12.1 Due to time constraints the Chairman asked that this item be deferred to the next meeting.

12.2 Cllr Watson commented that, apart from a delay in informing residents, SGN had been very good at dealing with the recent gas emergency in the Lime Grove/Rhodes Park/Ben Sayers Park area and in particular had looked after vulnerable people. Reconnection of supplies had been completed within 24 hours.

**13 24 hour Defibrillators**

13.1 It had been noted on social media that no public access to defibrillators was available after 10.30 pm. ELC Cllr Goodfellow commented that North Berwick was unique in this respect and that an application should be made for two 24 hour defibrillators for the town.

**14 Casual vacancy:**

14.1 The Chairman confirmed that 5 applications had been received. The deadline for applications was 10th February. Thereafter, there would be a meeting of all candidates and the existing Community Council on 21st February in the Old Council Chambers when the successful applicant would be selected.

**15 Reports from Groups & Societies:**

**St Andrew’s Old Kirk Project:** Cllr Owen reported that there was money available to produce a leaflet and interpretative board but as the group did not have a logo she asked if the Community Council logo could be used. After discussion it was agreed that it could be used for the leaflet in the meantime but that there should be further discussion for its general use.

**16 Correspondence:**

The following communications had been received –

* A Facebook post asking if the east bay beach could be dog-free from June to September
* An e-mail from Edinburgh Airport with a second consultation from 30th January till 30th April on their Air Change Programme [circulated]
* An e-mail from Edinburgh Airport Noise Management Board [circulated]
* An e-mail regarding Community Council website newsletter and feedback survey [circulated]
* An e-mail from a Forth Street resident about dog mess near the Auld Hoose. She had been referred to the dog warden and the matter had been dealt with.
* An e-mail from Prestonpans CC about a public meeting with Scotrail in Prestonpans Town Hall on 1st March from 7.00-9.00 pm to discuss rail services in East Lothian [circulated]

**17 Any other competent business:**

Cllr Todd enquired if it was possible to obtain a bye law to keep dogs under control on the High Street as most of the dog fouling seemed to be from dogs not under control. The Secretary would investigate further.

**18 Date of Next Meeting:**

The next meeting of the Community Council will be held at the Fire Station, Station Road, North Berwick on Tuesday 7th March 2017 at 7.30 pm.