**Royal Burgh of North Berwick Community Council**

**Minutes of the 491st Public Meeting held at 19.30 on Tuesday 4th April 2017**

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

**Present:** Cllr Hilary Smith, Chairman

Cllr Kathryn Smith, Secretary

Cllrs L Kay, J Lockhart, W Macnair, O Owen, S Northrop, T Todd & I Watson

**In attendance:** Peter Hamilton,ELC Cllrs J Goodfellow & D Berry, local press, 3 members of the public.

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

**2**  **Apologies:** Cllrs L Cowie, G Moodie, & C Mackenzie and PC’s D Gray & I Paterson

**3 Minutes of the Meeting held on 7th March 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:*** The Chairman confirmed that Planning Aid would hold a training session on 17th May (tbc) in the Old Council Chambers.

4.2 ***6a1 Home Energy Scotland:*** The public meeting on 23rd March had been well attended.

4.3 ***6b Scottish Seabird Centre:*** Those who had attended the presentation on 3rd April on the new National Marine Centre had found it both interesting and informative. Further public sessions would be held over the coming weeks. The Chairman commented that the Seabird Centre would be looking for support from the Community Council in their funding application.

4.4 ***7.2 Planning Matters:*** ELC Cllr Berry commented that planning permission had been granted for the development at Blindwells. He anticipated traffic difficulties at the Blindwells roundabout in the future.

4.5 ***8.2 Planning Consultation:*** The Chairman confirmed that the Community Council’s response had been submitted.

4.6 ***9.2 Licensing Application for Variation:*** The Secretary reported that the application relating to the Grange, 35 High Street had been withdrawn.

4.7 ***10.1 Community Asset Transfer:*** Cllr Kay commented that a letter had been approved and sent to East Lothian Council.

4.8 ***13 Correspondence - Dr Clare Cavers:*** The Chairman had received a further communication from Dr Cavers highlighting Resource Efficient Scotland, the Scottish Government programme delivered by Zero Waste Scotland, which helps businesses and other organisations to reduce costs by reducing energy, water and raw materials use and managing waste efficiently. It was hoped that the Community Council would support an event they were planning to hold in North Berwick.

**5 Police Report:**

5.1 In the absence of PCs Gray and Paterson the Secretary read out the Police Report, 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 issues surrounding road safety reported this month.

***2. Antisocial Behaviour***

* On 13/03/17 there was a noise complaint regarding DIY noises in the evening coming from a house in Old Abbey Road. Advice given to contact East Lothian Council.
* On 16/03/17 there was a noise complaint regarding screaming and shouting heard from a property in Westgate. Police attended. Family party, a few family members have been involved in an argument. No issues, no concerns.
* On 17/03/17 there was a complaint regarding youths shouting and screaming near to Co-op, High Street. CCTV checked, no youths caught on camera. No further calls.
* On 17/03/17 there was a report of a male being drunk and aggressive to people in the Golfers Rest, High Street. Male also had access to a vehicle. Male entered a vehicle and drove wrong way down one way system in Church Road, stopping at Quality Street. Police attended, male arrested, charged and vehicle seized.
* On 18/03/17 there was a report of a noisy party in Brodie Avenue. Police attended. Unwanted drunk male removed from the property.
* On 19/03/17 there was a report of persons outside The Auld Hoose pub being loud and causing annoyance. No sets were free due to higher priority calls.

***3. Housebreaking***

* On 15/03/17 there was a report of an attempt to break into a garage in Lime Grove. No entry gained and no property stolen. Enquiries still ongoing.

***4. Parking***

* Parking continues to be monitored by the parking attendants and they are aware of the increase in parking issues around holiday periods.

***5. CAPP***

* The agreed priorities for the month were drug misuse around Craigleith Avenue, Lochbridge Road & Gilbert Avenue; dangerous parking over the Easter weekend, and speeding motorcycles on the A198.
* The date of the next CAPP meeting is on Wednesday 26th April 2017, 1930 hours, Council Chambers North Berwick.

**6 Planning Matters:**

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

**23 St Baldred’s Road:** Extension to house.

**Rockville Farm Dovecot:** (LBC) Alterations to building.

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**The Marine Hotel & Spa, 18 Cromwell Road:** (LBC) Alterations, extensions to building and formation of outdoor hydro pool.

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**Upper Kaimend, 17a Hamilton Road:** Planning in principle for erection of one house.

**Inchcroft, South Gait:** Extensions to house and erection of garage.

**NBRFC, Recreation Park, Dunbar Road:** Alterations to building and formation of hard standing.

**Courtyard Cottage, 2 Redside Farm Steadings:** Installation of solar panels. Concern was expressed as to ELC’s policy on solar panels on listed buildings.

**8 Redside Farm Steadings:** Installation of oil storage tank (retro).

**16 Abbey Court:** Extension to house.

**Flat 1, 12 Dirleton Avenue:** Alteration, extension to flat, formation of hard standing area, steps, erection of wall, fencing & gate.

**Site at Tantallon Road/Heugh Road:** Variation of condition 3 of planning permission 16/00296/P to limit the use of the business units to uses within Classes 2 and 4.

6.2 The following new application was viewed, discussed and commented on as follows –

**NBGC: Erection of clock totem structure (retro).** The Secretary commented that the clock had been donated by 2 overseas members but, although the Committee had thought it was a good idea, the donors had arranged for its erection without final approval of the Club. The Joint Greens Committee would be reconsidering the issue. In the meantime it was agreed that, as the design and nature of the structure, including the advertisement on it, was inappropriate in this highly sensitive environmental area of the town and the visual aspect of the structure was detrimental, an objection would be made.

**7 NBCC - Governance**

7.1 The Chairman thanked Cllr Moodie (in his absence) for preparing the Policies & Procedures document which had been circulated previously.

7.2 The Chairman proposed that the document be accepted and this was agreed.

**8 Communications Group:**

8.1Cllr Mackenzie had circulated a brief update before the meeting which can be summarised as follows.

8.2 *Newsletter* - It had been discovered that there was one delivery left under the Royal Mail contract. As it would have been costly to break the contract it had been agreed that the delivery should be rescheduled and this would now take place in the first week in June. The newsletter would contain information about who we are, what we do, useful contact numbers etc.

8.3 *Intern* – An update was needed from NBHS.

8.4 *Website* **–** The calendar function was now up and running but required populating.

8.5 *Community Consultation* – It had been agreed that methods of community consultation, which could be used in the event of things such as contentious planning applications, should be explored to enable a picture of pros and cons to be built up to give an as informed view as possible.

**9 (a) Treasurer:**

9a.1 Cllr Northrop reminded members that she had taken on the role of Treasurer on an interim basis. She was pleased to report that Cllr Lockhart, who had a background in finance, had agreed to take on the position and this was unanimously agreed.

**(b) Budget 2017/18:**

9b.1 The Secretary confirmed that the Local Priorities budget for the coming year had been set at £8,380. Requests for funds had been received from the North Berwick Yacht Club and Fringe by the Sea. It was agreed to defer further discussion on the budget for the current year till next month’s meeting.

**10 24 hour Defibrillators:**

10.1 Cllr Todd had made further enquiries about the acquisition and the location of additional defibrillators in the town. The total cost for each unit would be £1,638. If erected on an external wall planning permission would be required. There was no doubt that using a defibrillator increases a person's chance of survival so a decision would have to be made as to how many would be required and how they would be funded. He thought the Quality Street toilet was an obvious location for one. Maintenance of the units would also have to be considered. He would continue to drive forward the plans for this initiative.

**11 Street names – Heugh Road Development:**

11.1 The Secretary had been asked by ELC to submit names for the Heugh Road development. Because of the proximity of the development to the site of the old Ben Sayers factory and Ben Sayers Park she thought it appropriate to name the streets after some of the ‘golfing pioneers’ from the town. John Hobens, Fred McLeod, Willie Anderson, Jack White, Dorothy Campbell and Daniel Kenny had been suggested and circulated previously. The Chairman suggested birds’ names as an alternative. She asked that suggested names should be sent to the Secretary to hold in a names bank.

**12 Reports from Groups & Societies:**

12.1 **St Andrew’s Old Kirk Project:** The Secretary read out a letter from the Interim Chairof the Working Group. The leaflet about the 3 North Berwick Churches named after St Andrew was now available and would be distributed to various outlets. The Community Council was asked about accessible storage space for the leaflets but no decision was taken. The Group had begun preparing interpretation panels for installation at the entrance to the graveyard and the medieval bell at the St Andrew Street entrance to St Andrew Blackadder. They also planned to put additional panels in the Old Porch on Anchor Green and the High Street entrance to the Church.

12.2 **Joint Laws Advisory Group:** Cllr Macnairreported that the Group had met on 23rd March. He had mentioned the issue of erosion caused by the ponies creating new paths, which had been raised at the previous month’s Community Council meeting by a member of the public, but his concerns had fallen on deaf ears. He emphasised that any concerns from the public should be reported to the Countryside Ranger.

It had been decided that the Group site meeting in September would be a good time to look at the various pressures on the Law. It had been decided to limit the number of competitors in the Law Race to 300. He pointed out that the WW1 lookout post was one of only a few remaining in Scotland and needed to be preserved. Trying to locate local structural engineers was proving difficult but some funding was available. It had been suggested that the space could be used for interpretation panels. He had also raised concerns for raising water levels at the Law marsh which could be detrimental to housing in Glenburn Road, the water levels being controlled by a culvert immediately to the rear of the properties.

12.3 **Christmas Lights:** Cllr Macnair commented that he would be arranging a meeting of the new committee shortly.

**13 Correspondence:**

The following communications had been received –

* A letter from NBRFC requesting support for the next stage in the development of their Clubhouse – agreed.
* An e-mail from NBYC with details of events for the year which include supporting the RYA ‘Push the Boat Out’ initiative offering everyone the opportunity to get on the water on 19th and 20th May – a free come and try taster session; the annual regatta on the weekend of 3rd and 4th June; and the Laser 2000 National Championships from 4th to 11th August.
* An e-mail from Scott Glynn regarding his ‘Walk with Scott’ on 13th May to raise money to buy dementia friendly memory pods.
* A TTRO regarding the closure of the A198 Longniddry to Aberlady from 3rd to 7th April.
* A reminder e-mail about the Edinburgh Airport Airspace Change Programme (circulated).

**14 Any other competent business:**

14.1 Alison Clark of Sustaining North Berwick encouraged the Community Council to respond to the Scottish Government’s consultation on fracking, the deadline being the end of May. Although no new licences had been granted in Scotland since the moratorium on unconventional oil and gas started in 2015 and East Lothian was not currently in the area licensed for fracking, it was likely to be offered for licence in the future. There would be a Drop-in to find out more on 22nd April from 2.30 - 4.30 pm in the Hope Rooms.

14.2 The Community Council had been challenged to enter a team in the Trades Cup 2017 boat race on 30th April starting at the Harbour at 2.00 pm. Cllrs Lockhart, Todd & Northrop had volunteered and were looking for a 4th member for the team. ELC Cllr Berry volunteered. They would be raising money for Beach Wheelchairs.

14.3 The Chairman had been in touch with the Sports Hub about dugouts at the 3G pitches and was hopeful of progress.

14.4 The Secretary reported that the bench organised by the Community Council to commemorate the Queen’s 90th Birthday was now in place outside the Hope Rooms.

14.5 The Secretary had received a complaint about the litter and debris on the embankment entering the station which did not create a good impression for visitors. It was agreed to write to Scotrail Customer Relations

14.6 Complaints had been received about the redirection of traffic resulting from the closure of Clifford Road and in particular the heavy vehicles being diverted along the High Street. A resident spoke about the near miss she had had on the pavement outside Greggs. There had also been complaints at the positioning of the redirection signs on the pavements which was causing problems for pedestrians and more vulnerable residents and visitors. The Chairman agreed to write to the Transportation Department.

**15 Date of Next Meeting:**

The next meeting of the Community Council will be held at the Fire Station, Station Road, North Berwick on Tuesday 2nd May 2017 at 7.30 pm.