

## Royal Burgh of North Berwick Community Council

### Minutes of the 415<sup>th</sup> Public Meeting held at 19:30 on Tuesday 1 February 2011 at the Fire Station, North Berwick

**Present:** Cllr P Burton Chairman  
Cllr K Smith Secretary  
Cllr E Danks Treasurer  
Cllr M Baker Vice-Chairman  
Cllrs Cllr R Bryson, J Goodfellow, L Hall, R MacEwen, W Macnair, J Scott, S Sinclair, I Watson

**In attendance:** ELC Cllr D Berry (from item 9.3), ELC Cllr N Rankin, PC Dobbie, PC Tait, Ms P Earle, local press

- 1 Apologies for absence** **Action**  
There were no apologies for absence.
- 2 Minutes of meeting held on 4 January 2011**  
The minutes were approved; proposed by Cllr Scott, seconded by Cllr Danks. It was noted in item 9.3 that the name of the area is Spree-Neisse, 'Kreis' being German for 'District'.
- 3 Matters Arising**
- 3.1 *Twinning Association*  
(9.2) The meeting planned for 31 January would now be held on 14 February. The Chairman would attend. **PB**
- 3.2 *Yacht Club*  
(4.10) PC Tait had not yet been able to contact the Yacht Club to discuss diversionary activities for young people.
- 3.3 *Visit East Lothian*  
(9.1) The meeting on 12 January had been well attended and a board of directors had been elected. The date of the next meeting was to be advised.
- 3.4 *Brian Taylor's Big Debate*  
(7) The Chairman was thanked for obtaining tickets to the event and the High School was congratulated on the performance of its pupils. The broadcast appeared to be very good.
- 3.5 *'In Bloom' town signs*  
(9.5) The meeting was pleased to note that the new signs had been erected at entrances to the town.
- 4 Police report and weather-related topics**
- 4.1 The Community Council regretted that PC Tait was moving away from the town. He was thanked for the good work he had brought to North Berwick and also for attending this last meeting whilst on leave. PC Dobbie was welcomed back to the position of Community Police representative. The Chairman had expressed her concerns to Inspector Mackay as constant changeovers in officers led to a lack of stability.
- 4.2 9 crimes had been committed, with 55% solvency:  
1 x drunk driving 1 x theft  
1 x resisting arrest 3 x vandalism  
1 x drunk and incapable in a public place  
2 x reports concerning the Young Person's Act
- 4.3 There had been no shoplifting for 5-6 months and the Shopwatch scheme had contributed to this improvement.

- 4.4 *Police surgery*  
A public consultation session would take place at the Sports Centre on Saturday 26 February at 11:00.
- 4.5 *Community and Police Partnership (CAPP)*  
The provisional arrangement for the next meeting was 19:30 on Monday 21 February. All CAPP meetings would now be held in the police station.
- 4.6 *Road safety talks*  
Road safety presentations continued at schools.
- 4.7 *School crossings*  
School crossing patrols and school staff were concerned about the example set by parents in running across roads, which children copied. The police had been to the areas concerned in high visibility uniform to try to deter this practice.
- 4.8 *Pubwatch*  
Publicans were able to ask police to deliver a letter to customers who had been temporarily banned from all pubs.
- 4.9 *Neighbourhood Watch*  
Momentum on starting up the scheme was increasing.
- 4.10 *Activities for young people*  
Plans for diversionary activities were being increased county-wide.
- 4.11 *Speeding*  
It had been noted at the CAPP meeting that speeding was a problem in Lochbridge Road. PC Dobbie was setting up hand-held radar.
- 4.12 *Dog fouling* LD  
PC Dobbie was setting up a scheme with the Dog Warden to monitor the problem. She was asked to concentrate particularly on the rugby pitch and children's play areas.
- 4.13 PC Tait thanked the Community Council for their assistance with the work he had undertaken in his time attached to the town.
- 4.14 PC Tait was asked to elaborate on solvency rates as some were self-generated, e.g. breach of the peace. The meeting was informed that crimes such as vandalism could take some time to solve and then were all solved at once. LD
- 4.15 A complaint had been made to a councillor about the High School ski trip buses blocking Grange Road. The police were asked to enquire whether these, and any other school trip buses, could arrive/depart from a different location.  
  
PC Tait was thanked for his work and he and PC Dobbie left the meeting.
- 5 Christmas lights**
- 5.1 The sub-committee had met and a meeting with the Business Association would be arranged for a date in February to discuss a way forward. Councillors had been advised that it would not be worthwhile to form a charity. Some elements of the costs had been listed and relevant information, including a report on last year's lights, would be printed in the newsletter. JS
- 6 Older People's Strategy**
- 6.1 The majority of the Community Council had been present at the meeting with Mr Murray Leys, Head of Adult Social Care and Mr David Small, General Manager of East and Midlothian Community Health Partnerships. Questions had been prepared and answered before the meeting and replies had been candid. Cllr MacEwen suggested that the Q&As be circulated with the minutes. The Chairman agreed to discuss this with Mr Leys. It was evident that the strategy previously consulted upon would need to be revised, as would the budget. Messrs Leys and PB

Small would consult again with the Community Council. Mr Small would pursue the setting up of a committee to discuss the future of the Edington Hospital and it was appreciated that he had already contacted the hospital to set up a meeting. The Chairman would remind Mr Leys that he had agreed to send a copy of his presentation.

PB

- 6.2 The Treasurer would forward to the Chairman an itemised list of additional funds which had been allocated by Scottish Government. It was noted that a feasibility study for The Abbey Home was to be undertaken.

ED

## **7 North Berwick coastal ward museum**

- 7.1 A positive and helpful meeting had been held between the steering group and ELC Councillor Currie. A budget could not yet be anticipated but there seemed to be no cause for concern. Some issues, e.g. ownership of artefacts, would be taken to ELC. The suggested name would be Coastal Communities Museum at North Berwick. Planning had been delayed because staff had been absent due to bad weather. Any further progress would be contingent on budget.

## **8 Exposed sewer pipe, West Beach**

- 8.1 Concern at the deteriorating condition of the pipe was increasing with no resolution of the problem in sight. The Chairman and Cllr Macnair had raised the issue at a recent 'Resorting to the Coast' Conference organised by the Economic Development Department. ELC and Scottish Water had not been able to agree on responsibility and the eyesore could have serious consequences on tourism. A meeting had been convened by Council Leader Cllr Paul McLennan on 24 February at which NBCC, ELC representatives and Scottish Water would be represented to discuss the problem and find a way forward.

- 8.2 It was noted that ELC Chief Executive Alan Blackie had previously stated that ELC would not spend money on the pipe. It was understood that MSP Iain Gray had talked to Scottish Water about the ponding problem between the pipe and walls. It was noted that some councillors had heard a report that the ponding problem would be sorted before the summer tourist season. It was noted that the dunes at St Andrews had been reinstated within six weeks of last year's Spring storms, with the financial assistance of a golfing group.

- 8.3 None of the list of priorities since the storms of 2010 seemed to have been addressed. Temporary fencing had broken. There was a potential problem at Elcho Green if there were storms this Spring. A report back from the meeting would be made at the next meeting.

## **9 Planning**

### *2 Forth Street Lane*

It was hoped that a later conversion to residential property would not be sought. Parking was limited for a takeaway and there were other empty premises available in the High Street. Some councillors were concerned about disturbance to older residents in the sheltered housing. An objection would be made on the grounds of inappropriate development within the area, particularly given the availability of other commercial premises.

JG

### *Amisford, Strathearn Road*

The application was considered. The design was considered to be good and the building set well back from the road. No objections would be made but Cllr Goodfellow would check that the finish would be stone.

JG

[ELC Cllr Berry entered the meeting]

### *3 Quadrant*

The application was considered and no objections would be made.

### *23 Green Apron Park*

The application was considered and no objections would be made.

- 9.5 *Paris Steele, 35 Westgate*  
The application was considered and no objections would be made.
- 9.6 *Walled Garden, Ormsdene, Dirleton Avenue*  
The difference in character, the irregularity in the line of houses and the filling of the plot, leaving a small garden, were of concern in comparison to the character of other houses in a conservation area. An objection would be made on the grounds of mass and a check would be made on the finish of the building. **JG**
- 9.7 *Elanora, Dirleton Road*  
Permission had been granted to fence off half the plot and build a garage.
- 9.8 A request was made to ask ELC to put a time limit on property advertisements and for planning not to be made retrospectively. **JG**
- 10 Reports from groups and societies**
- 10.1 *Lochbridge and Glenburn Residents' Association*  
A group was being formed and a meeting would be held at 19:30 on 3 March at the Sports Centre.
- 10.2 *CAPP*  
It was noted that Cllrs Watson and Bryson had been the only two residents at the last CAPP meeting.
- 10.3 *Visit East Lothian*  
See item 3.3 above.
- 10.4 *Access funding meeting*  
Cllr Scott had attended a meeting on the subject run by Lloyds TSB and Viridor. Unfortunately the relevant presentation had not been given so no information was available. Cllr Scott would attend the next meeting. **JS**
- 10.5 *Communities in Bloom*  
North Berwick in Bloom had registered with the scheme on behalf of the town and a fundraising/publicity campaign would be mounted.
- 10.6 *Lodge restaurant*  
The Youth Café was hoping to develop this as a community project.
- 10.7 *Rural East Lothian Bus Users*  
ELC Cllr Berry had just come from a meeting of this group in Dunbar. He had asked for North Berwick and other towns to be included in their deliberations. Various documents were tabled.
- 10.8 *New bus timetables*  
Traveline had informed an enquirer that new information had not been available on their website because it had not been forthcoming from ELC. ELC Cllr Berry felt that it was the responsibility of FirstBus to make this information available to online services.
- 11 Correspondence**
- 11.1 *Raft Race*  
The event would take place at 13:30 on Saturday 16 July. It was agreed to support the purchase of trophies and children's prizes with a donation of £150.
- 11.2 *Local ELC area office*  
The 'Beehive' would be closed on Tuesdays and Thursdays but staff would be present in the library. The schedule would be reviewed after June 2011. A registration service would be available on Mondays from 09:30-13:00 and 14:00-16:30. Concern was expressed over the limitations in this local service. It might be problematic with regard to cremations and religious observations.

- 11.3 *Community Council membership*  
A member of the public had expressed an interest in joining and the Secretary had given him relevant information.
- 11.4 *Community planning*  
No notification or correspondence had been received.
- 11.5 *Community Council areas*  
It was agreed that the two Ward areas, at present represented by 11 councillors **KS** from one and 1 councillor from the other, should be amalgamated.
- 12 Any other business**
- 12.1 *Fringe By The Sea*  
The Chairman had been approached for possible help with funding. It was not felt appropriate for the Community Council to support the event in this way as it was a commercial venture. The Community Council would, however, be happy to help with publicity as it was supportive of the event.
- 12.2 *Transition North Berwick questionnaire*  
Some households had not received the questionnaire.
- 13 Date of Next Meeting**  
19:30 on **Tuesday 1 March 2011** in the **Fire Station**.