

Royal Burgh of North Berwick Community Council

Minutes of the 425th Public Meeting held at 19:30 on Tuesday 06 December 2011 at the Fire Station, North Berwick

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

In attendance: ELC Cllr Rankin, PC Dobbie, Ms P Earle, local press

Action

1 Apologies for absence

Cllrs R Bryson, J Goodfellow, S Sinclair, Mr S Short

2 Minutes of meeting held on 01 November 2011

The Chairman pointed out that item 6.1 *Coastal Museum* required amendment. She would let the Minute Secretary have the revised wording. Subject to this revision the Minutes were approved, being proposed by Cllr Scott and seconded by Cllr Danks.

3 Matters Arising

3.1 *Police report*

(4.6) Unfortunately, CCTV cameras had not captured the egg throwing incident on the High Street, which may have been connected to a similar one in Dunbar. Investigations were continuing.

3.2 *Christmas lights*

(9.1) There had been a lot of feedback praising the lights and a letter had been received thanking all those who had worked towards the splendid display.

3.3 *Vulnerable members of the community*

(10.2) Having suggested a hotline for people who felt at risk, ELC had discussed the matter with the Chairman and would give it consideration in the future.

3.4 *Smaller wind turbines consultation*

(13.1) A Report would be submitted to the ELC Cabinet the following week.

3.5 *ELC Employee Award*

A member of the ground care staff who did a lot of work in North Berwick, Andrew Hogarth, had been awarded employee of the year at ELC. The Community Council, North Berwick in Bloom and the Friends of the Lodge had written to congratulate him. It was hoped that he would be interviewed for a future newsletter.

4 Police report

4.1 There had been 17 reported crimes in the past month of which 4 had been solved, putting solvency at 23.5%. The low solvency had arisen from 10 reported frauds due to skimming problem at Tesco. It was noted that one PC had been tasked to deal with all those incidents.

The breakdown of crimes was as follows:

Domestic assault – 1 (solved)	Fraud - 10	
Vandalism 2	Theft other – 1 (solved)	Theft shoplifting – 1 (1 solved)
Attempted theft housebreaking – 1		
Racial breach of the peace – 1 (1 solved)		

4.2 The meeting discussed the fraud by skimming the cash machine at Tesco and PC Dobbie was asked if the mechanism could have been recognised. She commented that this would have been difficult and that there were many ways of doing this but a roadshow was being set up to advise the public.

- 4.3 There would be a Lothian and Borders Police roadshow vehicle at the Festival in the Lodge next summer.
- 4.4 It was noted that Operation Opulent was an operation which targeted information on scrap metal thefts.
- 4.5 The police had been proud to be present at the Armistice parade.
- 4.6 The police were assisting in initiatives and future plans at the schools.
- 4.7 The next meeting of the Community and Police Partnership (CAPP) would be held on Wednesday 21 December. An email had been sent to remind councillors of the three priorities of CAPP meetings. A concern had been raised about the traffic sequencing at Clifford Road while work was being carried out. The police had discussed the problem of traffic congestion arising from confusion with Scottish Gas and would be making more attempts to solve the problem. Feedback was awaited from ELC Cllr Berry regarding the vehicles parking near the tennis courts; it had not yet been established whether they were parked on a footpath or an access road and the distinction was needed in order to take appropriate action. Three cyclists had been stopped for misusing the one-way system in Forth St and the High Street and one of them had been charged with dangerous cycling. This problem was being robustly monitored and Abbey Road would be added. PC Dobbie thanked the meeting for advertising CAPP in the most recent newsletter.
- 4.8 PC Dobbie was thanked for her help with the switch-on of the Christmas lights.

5 Police consultation

- 5.1 A consultation was being held on the police counter service and a meeting would be held at Haddington Police Station on Monday 12 December at 19:00. PC Dobbie confirmed that the station would not be closed but changes to later opening hours were planned. At present, opening hours were 08:00 to 16:00, Monday to Friday. Cllr Watson would attend the meeting.

[PC Dobbie left the meeting]

6 East Lothian Council Consultation Engagement Strategy

- 6.1 A response, which had been agreed by NBCC, had been submitted to ELC. In their acknowledgement ELC had commented that they had found the Community Council's comments extremely useful and that a register of all comments and the resulting plans would be circulated to consultees in due course. One of the Community Council's suggestions had been that controls should be put in place to coordinate consultations, possibly through the Chief Executive's office.

Cllr MacEwen was thanked for his input.

7 Edington Hospital Forum

- 7.1 Cllrs MacEwen and Burton had attended a recent meeting as representatives of NBCC. Cllr Goodfellow would replace either of them at future meetings if necessary. 'VOICE' software had been discussed at length and some previous questions and answers had been recapped. The next meeting would be held on 12 December and a public meeting would be held in the future. It was hoped that proposals would soon be discussed.
- 7.2 It was noted that the recent changes to physiotherapy services would now be reversed.

8 Coastal Museum Shadow Management Committee

- 8.1 A useful meeting had been held on 22 November between the working group and the shadow committee. An application for funding had been submitted by the shadow committee and office bearers had been elected. The next meeting would be held the following week.

9 North Berwick parking and transport

9.1 A response had been circulated by Cllr Goodfellow but individual comments could be submitted direct to ELC if councillors wished to offer different opinions. Cllr Danks felt that she could not agree with the Community Council's comments on charging and the timing of the parking allowance on the High Street due to her background in retail in the town. Cllr Smith felt that the reduced free parking time in the High Street was unreasonable and could not agree with that paragraph in the response either. The meeting discussed the feasibility of the proposals even if there was alternative parking to the High Street. It was noted that the problems were due to being a seaside resort and attempts were to be made to have more parking turnover rather than long stay parking in the High Street, giving more access to the shops. Cllrs Watson and Baker supported Cllr Danks and therefore a vote was taken, with the majority of the meeting against charging after a certain period in High Street, although set times should be rigorously policed. Cllr Goodfellow would be asked to submit a rider to the previous response to the effect that this aspect of the response had not been unanimous.

PB

9.2 It was suggested that the response should be made more widely available so it would be displayed in the library and on the website if possible. Further discussions would be held after the consultants reported to ELC.

KS

10 Old St Andrew's Kirk, Kirk Ports

10.1 ELC Cllr McLennan had asked for a response from NBCC and the Environment Trust to the previous costings meeting. The Chairman had met with members of the Environment Trust, who were keen to embark on an additional fundraising programme to help put the church into a maintainable state. The Chairman had passed this view to ELC Cllr McLennan. It was anticipated that a substantial grant would be forthcoming on application from Historic Scotland. Nevertheless, even if successful, this would still fall short of the target figure and more funding would require to be sought. The Chairman had asked Cllr McLennan if funding for the restoration work could feature in ELC's 2012/13 budget discussions. She had also suggested that ELC would be asked for guidance on other possible funders for this type of work. ELC Cllr Rankin enquired who would coordinate the fundraising, as he would ask ELC to liaise with that person.

11 Parking byelaw

11.1 The draft byelaw had been prepared and would go to the ELC Cabinet for approval on 13 December. ELC was still investigating Cllr Watson's query as to whether the Dunbar Road carpark was designated as a bus and HGV park. It had been agreed, however, that buses and HGVs would be exempted from the byelaw. Cllr MacEwen had asked some questions and the byelaw had been amended to his satisfaction. A Report was now on the ELC website and the questions above would be answered in due course by ELC.

12 Planning

12.1 13 York Road

It was agreed that this was a subdivision of the house.

12.2 There were no other applications in need of discussion.

12.3 *Ferrygate development proposals public exhibition*

An exhibition would be held in the Scout Hut, St Baldred's Road on Thursday 08 December from 12:00 to 15:00 and Friday 09 December from 12:00 to 19:00. It was noted that an amended Proposal of Application Notice had been submitted.

12.4 *1 Tantallon Road development proposals*

The proposal for housing and business use had been discussed previously and comments had been submitted. These were mainly that NBCC was not averse to the business proposal but the housing proposals did not have its support as the housing would be surrounded by businesses and land for industrial use would be further depleted. A Report incorporating these comments would be presented to the ELC Cabinet on 13 December.

13 Reports from groups and societies

13.1 *Tourism forum*

It was noted that two meetings of the forum had been cancelled.

13.2 *CAPP*

Attendance at the last CAPP meeting had been poor.

13.3 *North Berwick in Bloom*

The AGM would be held in the Hope Rooms at 19:30 the following evening.

13.4 *Friends of the Lodge*

The group would sing carols under the chestnut tree in the Lodge at 18:00 on Friday 16 December.

14 Correspondence

14.1 *Feasibility study into Amisfield Stable Block, Haddington*

The document had been sent to NBCC but it was not thought relevant to its work.

14.2 *Yacht Club*

The Yacht Club had thanked NBCC for its generous donation to the firework display and thanked Cllr Watson for his support.

14.3 *Coastal Ward local priorities survey*

The document had been circulated and would be discussed at a later meeting.

14.4 *ELC rent proposals - tenants and residents panel*

Drop in sessions would be held on 04 December from 14:00 to 16:00 at Bridge Street, Musselburgh. A 'meet the manager' session would be held in the Brunton Hall on same day.

14.5 *Provost's Christmas reception*

Two invitations had been received to the Provost's Christmas reception on Wednesday 14 December. Nobody would be able to attend.

15 AOB

15.1 Cllr Danks pointed out that NBCC's insurers needed to be informed of any adverse weather equipment being held on behalf of the community. No suitable storage place had been identified yet. Alternatives were discussed and the Secretary would ask if the rugby pavilion could be used. It was understood that forms were available from ELC for individuals to request grit bins.

KS

16 Date of next meeting

19.30 on Tuesday 10 January 2012 in the Fire Station