

Royal Burgh of North Berwick Community Council

Minutes of the 426th Public Meeting held at 19:30 on Tuesday 10 January 2012 at the Fire Station, North Berwick

Present: Cllr P Burton Chairman
Cllr K Smith Secretary
Cllr E Danks Treasurer
Cllrs J Goodfellow, L Hall, R MacEwen, W Macnair, S Sinclair, I Watson

In attendance: ELC Cllrs Berry & Rankin, Ms P Earle, Mrs C Maher, Mr J Knight, local press

The Chairman wished all present a happy new year.

Action

1 Apologies for absence

Cllrs M Baker, R Bryson, J Scott, PC Dobbie, Mr S Short

2 Minutes of meeting held on 06 December 2011

The Minutes were proposed by Cllr Hall and seconded by Cllr Watson.

3 Matters Arising

3.1 *Smaller wind turbines*

(3.4) At the ELC Planning Committee that day, two applications relating to 40m wind turbines near Whittinghame had been unanimously turned down.

3.2 *Christmas lights*

(3.2) It was noted that there had been nothing but praise for the Christmas lights.

3.3 *Adverse weather equipment*

(15.1) The equipment, which was being stored within the rugby club, had been included in the NBCC public liability insurance policy. A locked grit bin was now in position on the rugby ground car park. The meeting discussed the distribution of grit.

3.4 *Community and Police Partnership (CAPP)*

(13.2) The High Street had been closed on the night of the last meeting due to bad weather therefore Cllr Watson had not been able to attend.

4 Police report

4.1 In the absence of PC Dobbie the Secretary presented her report.

4.2 There had been 11 reported crimes in the past month, of which 4 had been solved, putting solvency at 36%. The breakdown of crimes was as follows:

Fraud – 2 (1 solved)	Breach of the peace – 1
Vandalism - 3	Theft other – 2
	Theft shoplifting – 3 (3 solved)

4.3 *Local initiatives*

Operation Ether had organised mobile police surgeries, in conjunction with an ELC Antisocial Behaviour Team liaison officer, in outlying towns and villages. The same initiative would be held in villages surrounding North Berwick on 10 May.

4.4 There had been little to keep Operation Equinox, conducted as a winter anti-violence, alcohol abuse and antisocial behaviour project, busy in North Berwick, which had been pleasing.

4.5 A plain-clothed patrol of businesses had been undertaken to reduce shoplifting during the festive period.

4.6 Local licensed premises holders had received a pre-Christmas visit for reassurance.

4.7 A number of officers, including the inspector, had brought in the New Year in North Berwick. Attendees had been in good spirits and receptive to advice. Young people had been a credit to the town.

4.8 ELC Cllr Berry noted that the New Year street party had had a fun atmosphere and agreed that it was a credit to the young people of North Berwick.

4.9 The annual festive drink driving campaign had been extended to 16 January and had had positive results throughout the area.

4.10 *CAPP*

The next meeting would be held on Wednesday 25 January at 19:30 in the North Berwick Police Station. All members of the public would be welcome.

4.11 *Enhanced surgery*

If members of the public would like an enhanced surgery to be held, please contact 893585, laura.dobbie@lbp.pnn.police.uk or colin.banks@lbp.pnn.police.uk

5 Police consultation

5.1 Cllr Watson had attended the meeting in Haddington on 12 December. No decision to close counters had been taken and the police were now looking at provision in Prestonpans, which seemed most affected by the plans. It was possible that North Berwick's counter hours may be considered for a change, in which case there would be further consultation before a decision was made. It was noted that Lothian and Borders Police was looking to relocate the North Berwick police station.

6 East Lothian Licensing Forum

6.1 The Secretary read out a description of the forum, its objectives and governance. NBCC was invited to send a representative. The letter would be circulated and a representative sought. **KS**

7 Edington Hospital Forum

7.1 A meeting which had again looked at data had been held on 12 December. It had been clear that the Edington Hospital might not meet the Care Commission's requirements but it was felt that its quality of care surmounted such requirements, e.g. one toilet per room. It was considered that outcomes were as important as facilities. The next meeting would be held on 23 January.

8 Old St Andrew's Kirk, Kirk Ports

8.1 The Chairman had told ELC Cllr MacLennan that the Environment Trust would assist with a programme of fundraising. A meeting was being arranged with the ELC Funding Officer and a meeting with various interested parties would be held on 26 January.

9 Community Environmental Fund

9.1 The deadline for applications for the next round of funding for individual projects not exceeding £3,000 was 3 February.

9.2 *Reactive speed sign*

Information on reactive speed signs had been circulated. It had been confirmed that this project did not qualify to be considered under the Community Environmental Fund Enquiries were being made about other possible sources of funding although the Treasurer confirmed that there would be sufficient in Local Priorities to cover the cost if needs be. A quote had been received for £2,400-2,700 for a solar powered sign. It was agreed that it would be advantageous to include data logging, which would cost a further £275. It was agreed to proceed.

9.3 *NBCC website*

This item would be carried over to the February meeting.

9.4 It was agreed to submit an application for £1000 for LEADER funding for the reactive speed sign and to apply to the Community Environmental Fund for support to erect a notice board if Civic Pride funding was not forthcoming for that project.

10 Planning

10.1 It was noted that permission for the coastguard station to be used as a seasonal takeaway had been granted that day.

- 10.2 *Ferrygate development proposals - public consultation*
Several members had visited the recent exhibition. There had been strong feelings against the proposals from members of the public in North Berwick and Dirleton with no favourable opinions heard. The plan was felt to be premature, as the area was not zoned for development. It was noted that there was a preference in the town to develop to the south rather than the east/west. It was noted that the City Region Plan, (formerly the Structure Plan), did not include such a requirement. ELC Cllr Berry said that progress would depend on the final local plan. NBCC would write to say that it felt that there was no further requirement beyond present proposals. **PB**
- 10.3 It was noted that NBCC and the neighbours of Ferrygate Farm had not been individually notified of the proposal of application notice and that the dates of the exhibition had been incorrect in the local press. The meeting discussed the pitfalls of private firm notifications and the summarising of consultations. The meeting discussed planning procedures in general. NBCC would express its dissatisfaction to Holder Planning on how the consultation had been conducted. **PB**
- 10.4 *Gilsland exhibition*
A Proposal of Application Notice had been received in respect of the proposed Gilsland development with a public exhibition on 16 February at 12:00-15:00 and 17 February at 12:00 to 19:00 in the Scout Hall. It was noted that the Scout Hall was not the ideal venue for such exhibitions as it was not central and did not attract passers-by, nor was it accessible for disabled people and had no parking facilities. Cllr Macnair did not take part in the discussion, as he was the landowner of part of the Gilsland site and had come to an agreement with the developer.
- 10.5 *Grange Road development*
Mrs C Maher & Mr J Knight represented the High School Parent Teacher Council. They expressed the view that the number of pupils attending the school could potentially be well beyond the 15 pupils per 100 houses stipulated by the Council and that the developers should make a substantial contribution to the expansion of the High School. At the time when the High School had responded to the consultation document, the projection of 15 pupils per 100 houses had been unknown. It was noted that the proposed development at Ferrygate could also add to the problem. ELC Cllr Berry explained that an immediate demand would be necessary to request a developer's contribution. He agreed that 0.15 children per house is a low calculation and he would discuss the statistics with the Education Department. He was, however, doubtful that the full development would proceed in the near future. 25 pupils per 100 houses seemed more likely and Cllr Berry would proceed on that basis. ELC Cllr Rankin strongly suggested that sports facilities be protected for the future as well as classroom sizes. It was noted that NBCC had disagreed with these statistics in the framework document. It was noted that the High School did not have a playground at present, so there was pressure on land as it was. It was noted that such statistics were calculated on same basis throughout the county although it was understood that families move into North Berwick specifically for schooling. It was also noted that East Lothian had a population increase, which was against the national trend. The meeting discussed statistics of house building since 2008. ELC Cllr Berry suggested that the next version of the local plan should consider building projections. It was noted that available sites were still built on immediately in North Berwick, making it unique. Cllr Goodfellow asked that ELC be asked to explain how the calculation of 15 pupils per 100 houses had been made and that the response be included in communications with ELC. It was noted that Scottish transport guidance was not necessarily sensitive to local issues. ELC Cllr Berry considered that it was hard to say whether all considerations had been adequate. NBCC would write to the Director of Education supporting the concerns of the High School, copying in the local councillors, who had agreed to assist in taking the discussions forward. **PB**
- 10.6 *Other applications*
Planning applications for the following properties were discussed, with no resulting action:

9 Westgate Court – alterations to flat
Balgone Barns Farm – erection of agricultural building
Garden ground to the rear of 61, 63 & 65 Dirleton Ave – erection of one house with integral garage
7 Market Place – repainting of building (retrospective) & display of advertisement (part retrospective)
Mayview, Canty Bay – formation of dormer with balcony & handrail
37 Trainers Brae – extension to house
Dental Centre, 1 Dirleton Ave – formation of hardstanding (retrospective)
31 Lady Jane Gardens – extension to house & erection of fence. It was noted that this was a two storey extension which would be unique in the street.

JG

10.7 *Idle Rocks, 2 Marine Parade – installation of roof windows, roof vents, formation of hardstanding & decking, erection of wall & gate (part retrospective)*
Members would offer comments on the application before the middle of January.

10.8 *4 Cromwell Road – extension to house, erection of carport & sheds*
Cllr Goodfellow would enquire about what building materials would be used.

11 Reports from groups and societies

11.1 There were none.

12 Correspondence

12.1 Appreciation had been given for the Christmas lights.

12.2 A comment had been received that the building next to Stop and Shop lowered the appearance of the High Street.

12.3 WRVS was asking for volunteers to help with good neighbours and transport schemes. The request would be included in the next newsletter.

PB

12.4 Nobody was available to attend the Forth Estuary Forum annual conference on 19 January in Rosyth.

12.5 Christmas cards had been received from East Lothian Special Needs Playschemes, Star Youth Club and Iain Gray, MSP.

13 AOB

13.1 The original royal burgh sign at the entrance to the town on the road to Kingston had been removed. Enquiries would be made and a replacement discussed if necessary.

KS

13.2 A Neighbourhood Watch Scheme at the east end of St Baldred's Road and Lady Jane Gardens was being formed and members had submitted a request for financial support for signage. It was noted that there were several such schemes throughout the town and residents had funded them themselves, so the request was not granted.

13.3 Cllr Watson was commended again on the Christmas lights, particularly the blue lights in Quality Street.

PB

13.4 An article would be printed in the next newsletter regarding vegetation growing over walls and blocking pavement. It was noted that, if owners did not act on requests to trim such vegetation, ELC would cut it and charge the owner.

14 Date of next meeting

19.30 on Tuesday 07 February 2012 in the Fire Station