

Royal Burgh of North Berwick Community Council

Minutes of the 427th Public Meeting held at 19:30 on Tuesday 07 February 2012 at the Fire Station, North Berwick

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

In attendance: ELC Cllrs Berry, June Douglas Hamilton, Mrs W Shaw, Mr R Gurr,
PC Macleod, Ms P Earle, local press

The Chairman welcomed guests from Friends of the coastal museum group, June Douglas Hamilton and Mrs W Shaw, Mr R Gurr, SNP candidate and PC Macleod **Action**

1 Apologies for absence

Cllrs M Baker, Cllr W Macnair, PC Dobbie.

2 Minutes of meeting held on 10 January 2012

The Minutes were proposed by Cllr Danks and seconded by Cllr Watson. It was noted that, at item 13.3, the lights in Quality Street had been white and not blue.

3 Matters Arising

3.1 *Community Environmental Fund*

(9.1) The application for funds for a notice board from the Civic Pride Fund had been turned down so an application had been submitted to the Community Environmental Fund.

3.2 *Royal burgh sign*

(13.1) The sign had been found in the field to the right of the track to the Law. It had been damaged and was in the Community Council lock-up awaiting repair. Cllr Watson would obtain an estimate for costs. **IW**

4 Police report

4.1 In the absence of PC Dobbie, who was ill, and PC Banks, who was on annual leave, PC Macleod presented the police report.

4.2 There had been 20 reported crimes in the past month, of which 6 had been solved, putting solvency at 30%. The breakdown of crimes was as follows:

4.3 Theft shoplifting - 6 Assault - 4 Theft other - 3
Vandalism - 3 Theft pedal cycle - 1

4.4 *Local initiatives*

Operation Ether had held mobile police surgeries in outlying towns and villages in conjunction with an ALC antisocial behaviour team liaison officer.

4.5 A pilot programme would be undertaken in the area whereby community beat officers would be available on mobile library routes offering crime prevention advice and dealing with general enquiries from the public.

4.6 *Community and Police Partnership*

The next meeting would be held on 29 February at 19:30. The three priorities in February were parking at the tennis courts, drivers failing to give way at the Kirk Ports mini roundabout and parking in Dunbar Road, predominantly during rugby and football matches.

4.7 *Christmas lights switch on*

In the CAPP report it had been stated that the police had been present to police the road, which had been shut off and had blocked in cars. The Chairman felt that signage had not been adequate as the only sign had been blown over. The owners of the three cars which were blocked in had been unhappy about the situation, although it was noted that their time limits had expired. It was noted that, when

cars started to move, the street had still been full of children. It was noted that the Business Association had to be consulted about blocking off parking with cones.

4.8 *Parking off-road in the housing estate*

ELC Cllr Berry had spoken to PC Dobbie about cars which churned up grass by parking off-road. Cllr Bryson had also received complaints. PC Macleod noted the details and would pass them to PC Dobbie.

4.9 It was noted that Sgt Gordon Simpson had left and been replaced by Sgt Scott Nicolson.

4.10 *Police counters*

Discussion held at the original meeting to discuss possible changes had resulted in a counter closure having been implemented, which indicated that decisions had been made, although it had been understood that consultation was still ongoing with regard to a possible change in opening hours in North Berwick. ELC Cllr Berry had understood that there would not be closure of the North Berwick counter. It was noted that counters were manned by civilians and that there was sometimes nobody present in North Berwick although the building was open.

5 Finance

5.1 *Reactive speed sign*

ELC had been asked to set aside in the local priorities budget for the current year £2,500 for the speed reactive sign, £350 for a new Community Council website, and £1,500 for a third newsletter. It was agreed to offer £500 for the Edington Hospital centenary. Consideration had been given to producing badges but rejected as they would cost in excess of £1500.

5.2 ELC Cllr MacKinnon had been aware that an application for LEADER funding had been made. He had felt that funds might be forthcoming as an underspend from the Community Safety Forum had been identified and it had been agreed that £1,000 could be used from this fund towards the speed reactive sign. The Chairman was grateful to ELC Cllr MacKinnon for his assistance.

5.3 Mr Baird at ELC had made enquiries about first and future locations of the speed sign. It was hoped to have it working by March. The meeting discussed preferred locations. Reversal of the sign was also discussed as there was a problem with cars speeding up exiting the town.

5.4 *Website*

A skeleton website should be available by the middle of February, when a designer would present it to a meeting of NBCC. The Environment Trust had requested to be included in the same site. Cllr Goodfellow would ask the designer and discuss a plan with the Secretary of the Environment Trust regarding their own domain name. It was agreed that a web portal would be the preferable plan.

JG

5.5 *Edington centenary*

Badges had been discussed but had not been universally popular, with a feeling that ideas for merchandise needed to appeal to a wide age range. The meeting discussed whether NBCC would support one or more items and it was agreed to contribute £500 to be used in whatever way the Friends of the Edington saw fit. Cllr Bryson proposed this move and Cllr Scott seconded.

5.6 The Friends of the Edington would hold events on 09 June and it had therefore been agreed not to run the Community Festival planned for the same day. Those activities would be dovetailed into the Edington events, possibly in The Lodge as planned. The Elcho Green, St Andrew Blackadder Church and other church halls had all been booked. A 10-day exhibition was also planned. June Douglas Hamilton would liaise with Cllr Watson.

6 Coastal communities museum

6.1 Cllr Burton was the NBCC representative on the shadow committee. This committee had recently had meetings with ELC as there had been concerns about timescale and tenders. June Douglas Hamilton was concerned that a schedule of

works with specific dates for the various stages was not yet available as this was needed to enable the Shadow Management Committee to plan ahead. ELC Cllr Berry understood that approval to go out to tender had been held up by one of the Council's departments but was now being progressed; there had been various issues to resolve during discussions of the work but there were no fundamental problems; he apologised for the delay in tenders being invited. The sign at the museum stated that it would open in late 2012 and this now looked in doubt. There was concern that the embargo on Councillors signing contracts during an election period might also lead to delays but Councillor Berry assured the community councillors that approval was in place that would allow ELC officials to proceed with the contract despite this period of 'purdah'. ELC Cllr Berry was investigating whether the planned opening date had slipped from the end 2012. It was noted that there was now a representative from Gullane & Aberlady, and one from the Museum of Flight, on the Shadow Committee.

7 Edington Hospital Forum

7.1 Cllrs Burton and MacEwen represented NBCC in the group, which had met on 03 January. A revision of the contents of the review paper presented at that meeting had been requested. The meeting again agreed that the quality of care was more important than meeting a checklist of physical facilities. The next meeting would be in March, when the revised review paper would be presented. Equality of provision had also been included in the paper but it had been made clear that equality could not necessarily be provided throughout a rural area and its provision should not become a device to justify removing facilities such as the Edington that were already in place.

7.2

7.3 There had been no word of progress on a community hospital for eight months. It was noted that Haddington was not easily accessed from the coastal area, should it be chosen for a community hospital.

The Chairman had enquired of the Planning Department when the bins and fencing outside the hospital would be removed, since NHS's retrospective planning application for this site had been refused.

8 Old St Andrew's Kirk, Kirk Ports

8.1 Cllrs Burton had represented NBCC at a meeting on 26 January, when it had been confirmed that the Environment Trust would be involved. A meeting would be held with the Treasurer and Secretary of the Environment Trust and the ELC Funding Officer the following day. The first task was to apply for funding for a feasibility study.

9 Future North Berwick housing development and its impact on education

9.1 Following the visit from two office bearers of the High School Parent Council at the last meeting, the Chairman had written to the Director of Education about the possible impact of future development on the High School. Mr Ledingham had advised the Chairman that the head teachers and representatives of parent councils of both schools were to attend a meeting to discuss the matter and that the Chairman and one other representative of NBCC would be invited to attend a meeting with Mr Ledingham in the future. Mr Ledingham had noted that the number of children per household was low. It was believed that the High School could accommodate the new houses at Lochbridge but not a further 400 on the North Berwick Trust land. It was noted that there had been concern about numbers and the effect on the quality of education at the planning meeting in the community centre the previous day. A repetition of maximum capacity in the schools should be avoided. It was noted that the nursery was turning down children as it was full.

[June Douglas Hamilton and Mrs Shaw left the meeting]

10 Toilet facilities

10.1 The Chairman had set out the Community Council's concerns and received a reply from ELC Cllr Rankin, who was trying to ascertain why the planning permission for facilities at Castle Hill had not been followed through. There was still financial provision in the ELC budget to use facilities at the Glen Golf Club; however, club members knew nothing of these plans. ELC Cllr Berry said he believed it would not

be possible to use the golf club so the Castle Hill plan would again be discussed.

ELC Cllr Rankin had not thought that facilities at the putting green hut had been viable.

ELC Cllr Rankin would take up discussions again with fellow councillors regarding facilities at the station as objections from local residents had been eight years ago. Although the meeting would like provision at the station as well as at the east end of town it was accepted that the one with existing planning permission, i.e. Castle Hill, should take priority and the station would be discussed in due course. The meeting discussed existing plumbing at the station.

11 Planning

11.1 The following applications met with no objections:

Cake – to extend the opening hours on Saturdays from 09:00 to 23:00.

Bella Italia – display of advertisements.

Bunneys – part change of premises to café.

4 Marly Rise – erection of 1 house, garage and associated works.

28 St Andrew Street – erection of wall.

23 Lord President Road – erection of conservatory.

6 West Bay Road - It was assumed that ELC would check on the window as this was a conservation area.

11.2 *Newmains*

Permission was sought for 3 x 22m turbines to be installed. It was reiterated that NBCC was not in favour of turbines in the coastal area. It was noted that drawings depicting images of turbines in their landscape setting would help in such deliberations. A site visit was planned for Brownrigg. Some refusals for planning permission had been appealed and these had also been turned down. The meeting discussed government incentives and general appearance and the views of the turbines in question. An objection would be submitted as the majority of the meeting were against the installation as it was too near the coastal strip and environmentally unfriendly.

11.3 *Castlemains Farm, Dirleton*

Dirleton, Gullane & Aberlady Community Council had circulated the planning application for turbines to their members for discussion so NBCC had intended to hold off discussions until they had made a decision. However, a response was now needed. The previous application had been for lower turbines. The reapplication was for bigger turbines as the smaller models had seized up. An objection would be submitted due to them being on the coastal strip, causing distraction to motorists and their proximity to Dirleton Castle. Cllr Goodfellow asked members to look at the report on objections to the previous application.

ALL

11.4 An objection had been put in regarding the 4 Cromwell Road application the previous month.

11.5 The application for a conversion at Newmains Farm would be passed to Dunpender Community Council.

11.6 *Zitto*

Further enquiries would be made as to whether the proposed door canopy would act as a smoking canopy.

11.7 *Local Development Plan*

A Local Development Plan meeting had been held the previous evening. There had been a presumption by some of the public that the Ferrygate development would go

ahead but others had objected, although there had not been a statement to that effect as a general opinion. It was noted that the community's opinion would be included in any community planning. It was noted that the retail strategy was under review and should be published in 2012.

11.8 *Gilsland exhibition*

This would now be held on 01 March from 12.00 to 15.00 and on 02 March from 12.00 to 19.00 in the Scout Hall, which again was considered not to be the most suitable place.

11.9 *Idle Rocks*

There had been no communication since the previous Minutes so no action would be taken.

12 Reports from groups and societies

12.1 Cllr Goodfellow would attend a meeting of the Association of Community Councils on 08 February and would convey the opinion of NBCC that, having reached capacity under the present plan, there should be no further development.

12.2 The Community Centre management Committee had met and had a full programme.

12.3 The Youth Café only had funding until the end of 2012. Further funds were being sought but many were being discontinued. The group was trying to raise awareness. Discussions were being held with the Friends of Lodge regarding the café in the Lodge grounds, which would open in summer. It was noted that the same group operated a café in the Community Centre in winter.

12.4 The CAPP meeting had reported CCTV was having an effect.

13 Correspondence

13.1 E-news from the Community Planning partnership had been distributed.

13.2 East Lothian Licencing Forum had asked for a representative. Councillors should let the Secretary know if they were interested. **ALL**

13.3 A Statutory Notice had been published in the press by ELC regarding amalgamating the two North Berwick Community Council wards into one before the next Community Council elections.

14 AOB

There was none.

15 Date of next meeting

19.30 on Tuesday 06 March 2012 in the Fire Station