

# Royal Burgh of North Berwick Community Council

## Minutes of the 428<sup>th</sup> Public Meeting held at 19:30 on Tuesday 06 March 2012 at the Fire Station, North Berwick

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

**In attendance:** Mr T Day, PC Banks, PC Dobbie, Ms P Earle, local press

The Chairman welcomed the police officers and Tim Day, Conservative candidate for North Berwick Coastal at the local elections. **Action**

### 1 Apologies for absence

ELC Cllr Rankin.

### 2 Minutes of meeting held on 07 February 2012

The minutes were proposed by Cllr MacEwen and seconded by Cllr Hall.

### 3 Matters Arising

#### 3.1 *Royal Burgh sign*

(3.2) Quotes for repair of the sign had not yet been obtained. Cllr Watson would make enquiries the following week. **IW**

#### 3.2 *Coastal communities museum*

(6.1) No follow-up discussion was possible due to the absence of local councillors at the meeting. It was feared that a 2012 opening may not be possible.

#### 3.3 *Edington bins*

(7.3) A complaint had been received from a St Baldred's Road resident. It was understood that ELC might be willing to wait until a new place for the bins had been organised. It was the opinion of the meeting that they should be removed as soon as possible as planning permission had been refused. The Chairman would write to ELC with this view. **PB**

#### 3.4 *Toilets*

(10.1) The Chairman had hoped to get an update on discussions but no councillors were present to consult.

#### 3.5 *Castlemains Farm wind turbines*

(11.3) It was understood that the application for the group of three turbines had been passed but the application for a single one was still under consideration. Cllr Goodfellow would check on the situation. **JG**

### 4 Police report

4.1 There had been 8 reported crimes in the past month, of which 4 had been solved, putting solvency at 50%. The breakdown of crimes was as follows:

Theft shoplifting - 1	Theft other - 3
Culpable and reckless conduct - 1	Breach of the Peace - 1
Immigration Act - 1	Assault - 1

4.2 The minutes of the last Community and Police Partnership meeting had been circulated.

#### 4.3 *Parking in Dunbar Road*

Parking had been heavy the previous weekend, giving rise to difficulties for local residents to exit their streets. The police would try to assist by liaising with the Rugby Club and, if necessary, put temporary restrictions in place. This would also assist Public Service Vehicles, e.g. buses. ELC and traffic wardens would inspect the area vis a vis line markings at a future date.

#### 4.4 *Parking byelaw*

The proposed byelaw had gone to the Scottish Government Justice Directorate, who had asked for clarification of why the byelaw was required and if the use of management rules had been considered. The police undertook to contact the Antisocial Behaviour team to check whether incidences had been reported to submit a report to be enclosed with the Community Council's reply. The meeting discussed the complaints which had been received and why management rules would be unsuitable for the particular circumstances of the situation .

[PCs Banks and Dobbie left the meeting]

### **5 Local Development Plan**

5.1 Cllr Goodfellow thanked Cllrs Hall, Macnair and Watson for their deliberations. The draft response had been drawn up and circulated, with the main objection being that the town's resources had reached capacity and further development would put a great strain on education, medical facilities and parking. The response also considered park and ride facilities and suggested that brownfield sites should be used for further developments. The response was approved.

5.2 It was hoped that the 2011 census would give more accurate figures on the ratio of the schoolchild population in housing developments so that these could be considered more carefully, as recently requested by the representatives from the Law Primary School Council. The meeting discussed the optimum size of the schools.

### **6 Older People's Strategy launch**

6.1 Cllrs Danks and Goodfellow had attended the launch. Cllr Danks described the speeches by ELC representatives and NHS. The strategy had been accepted. It was noted that the Edington Hospital would continue to be sustained and supported. The Abbey Home had not been mentioned in the strategy but it was understood that a survey would be undertaken in the future. A 60-bed facility would be built in Tranent and another in Musselburgh, followed by one in Dunbar. There was concern regarding the lack of mention of the Abbey Home, particularly if 60-bed units were to be built in three other towns, and the Chairman would contact ELC regarding this. **PB**

6.2 It was noted that the document had been prepared without follow-up from meetings which had been held to discuss the matter. It was also noted that Community Councils had not been informed of the launch meeting and the Chairman would ask ELC the reason for this. The meeting discussed other matters about which it felt it should have been notified. **PB**

### **7 Water sewer, West Beach**

7.1 The last meeting had been held the previous July, at which Scottish Water had committed to produce a scoping document but this had not yet been produced. The Chairman would ask ELC, who had chaired the meeting, to make enquiries. The MSP would also be approached on the matter. The Chief Executive would be invited to a future NBCC meeting. **PB**

### **8 Planning**

8.1 The following applications met with no objections:

*2 Viewforth* – formation of hardstanding area, erection of seating area, railings and trellis

*Links Lodge, Links Road* – alterations and extensions to house

*West Pines, Strathearn Road* – erection of fence

*9 High Street* – formation of raised deck, handrails, steps and home office pod

*2 Dundas Ave* – extension to house

*43 Old Abbey Road – extension to house*

*Harmony House, Harmony Place, Forth Street – installation of solar panels*

*Tantallon Caravan Park – siting of staff caravan to be occupied on a 12 months of the year basis*

8.2 *Site adjacent to Lochbridge Road - formation of construction access road*  
The Community Council had objected to the plan to remove trees to allow access to the site as it would take many years for the gap to be filled. The proposed access would also affect part of the John Muir Way.

8.3 *Gilsland development exhibition*  
The Chairman and other councillors had visited the exhibition. Cllr Macnair reported that comments would be invited from the Community Council and all comments would be publicly distributed. It was confirmed that affordable housing would be part of the site.

## **9 Reports from groups and societies**

9.1 *Business Association AGM*  
Cllr Goodfellow reported that the Association had been well attended and was thriving with the appointment of a new chairman.

9.2 *North Berwick In Bloom*  
A tulip festival was imminent, with many bulbs having been planted. A tulip tea would be held on 31 March. A fundraising quiz was being launched, with a prize of two return rail tickets to any destination in Scotland. There was praise for the Rotary Club and North Berwick In Bloom for the display of crocuses in the town. An Easter egg hunt would be held on Friday 6 April. It was noted that a new dog waste bin had been welcome in Lodge and more were requested, e.g. near the allotments.

9.3 *Environment Trust*  
The AGM would be held on Thursday 08 March.

9.4 *Friends of the North Berwick Museum*  
The AGM would be held on 14 March.

## **10 Correspondence**

10.1 The Secretary had received a letter regarding dog fouling which had suggested a more central distribution area for bags than the library.

10.2 *Living Streets meeting*  
A recent meeting had discussed suggestions of projects in the town, e.g. pedestrianisation in the High Street and safe routes for children to walk to school. Community Planning would report back.

10.3 *Civic Pride Fund*  
The Secretary had spoken to ELC Cllr Rankin about funding for the notice board from the Common Good Fund and, as he had advised writing formally requesting funding, another application for this would not be submitted to the Civic Pride Fund. Suggestions for Civic Pride Fund applications were invited for a deadline of 31 March. The criteria were described. Councillors should submit ideas to the Secretary. **ALL**

10.4 *Draft East Lothian Open Space Strategy*  
The consultation document had been received and was described. The closing date was 08 April, which did not give enough time for feedback. Cllr Sinclair would peruse the document.

10.5 *ASBO leaflets*  
New leaflets were tabled.

10.6 *Scottish Association of Community Councils*  
A conference would be held in Dunblane.

**11 AOB**

11.1 *Parking*

14-20 car parking spaces would be lost when work on the museum started. There were also parking implications when the library moved temporarily to Space. It was noted that it was no longer possible to reclaim car parking when buying a ticket for the Scottish Seabird Centre (SSC). The Chairman would speak to Mr Brock at the SSC. **PB**

11.2 *Gas board signs*

Signs put in place during recent work in Clifford Road had not been removed. The Highways Department would be contacted. It was understood that further work was to be undertaken in the same area. **KS**

11.3 *Fringe By The Sea*

Mr J Shaw had made a request for financial support for the event as Cllr MacLennan had suggested NBCC may be able to help. It was felt that, although the event brought people into town, it would set a precedent with regard to similar events and, therefore, that NBCC was not in a position to support the event financially.

**12 Date of next meeting**

**19.30 on Tuesday 03 April 2012 in the Fire Station**