

## Royal Burgh of North Berwick Community Council

### Minutes of the 429<sup>th</sup> Public Meeting held at 19:30 on Tuesday 03 April 2012 at the Fire Station, North Berwick

**Present:** Cllr E Danks                      Acting Chair  
              Cllr K Smith                     Secretary  
              Cllrs R Bryson, J Goodfellow, L Hall, R MacEwen, W Macnair, J Scott,  
              S Sinclair, I Watson

**In attendance:** ELC Cllrs D Berry and N Rankin, PC Banks, PC Dobbie, Mr T Day,  
                          Mrs R Creyke, Ms P Earle, local press

The Chairman invited those present to contemplate the life of Jonny Mitchell, who had died recently, and offered condolences to his family. The meeting observed a minute's silence. **Action**

#### **1 Apologies for absence**

Cllrs M Baker, P Burton, Mr S Short.

#### **2 Minutes of meeting held on 06 March 2012**

The minutes were proposed by Cllr Watson and seconded by Cllr Bryson.

#### **3 Matters Arising**

##### *Royal Burgh sign*

(3.1) The item was discussed after the meeting closed.

##### *Coastal communities museum*

(3.2) See item 10 below.

##### *Parking byelaw*

(4.4) No reports of overnight parking had been received by the police. The Community Council's response to the Justice Directorate would now have to be considered; photos of the offending vehicles would be included.

#### **4 Police report**

4.1 There had been 12 reported crimes in the past month, of which 4 had been solved to date, putting solvency at 34%. The breakdown of crimes was as follows:

Theft housebreaking - 1	Theft other - 2
Assault – 2	Misuse of Drugs Act, possession – 1
Vandalism – 5	Domestic assault - 1

##### *Operation Ether*

4.2 The exercise continued, with mobile surgeries held jointly with ELC and the Antisocial Behaviour Team.

##### *Operation Eucalyptus*

4.3 Public house toilets had been swabbed for the misuse of drugs, in particular cocaine. Only three had passed the test. Those which failed were informed and given advice; repeat tests would be made at a later date.

##### *Operation Ethane*

4.4 This initiative was designed to reduce vandalism and antisocial behaviour on buses. It was being run by ELCAT officers.

##### *Campaign against uninsured and unlicensed drivers*

4.5 A three-day campaign had started on the day of the meeting.

##### *Community and Police Partnership (CAPP)*

4.6 The next CAPP meeting would be held on Wednesday 25 April at 19:30 in the police station. All were welcome at these public meetings.

##### *Reactive speed sign*

4.7 Some had been disappointed by the size of the sign. See item 7 below.

4.8 *Traffic lights at Law Road*

These lights were not as reactive as before and drivers had to wait for several minutes to proceed. Cllr Berry would talk to Transportation. It was noted that Scottish Gas Network was about to carry out a £324k upgrade of the gas mains in the area. It was understood that the work would start at the junction for two weeks and would continue in the area for 25 weeks. It was agreed that ELC had not had enough notice of these road works. It was noted that parking was still available in the Community Centre car park.

DB

- 4.9 Mrs Creyke, from Kingston, had attended a Gullane Community Council meeting and had come to the North Berwick meeting with the same request regarding speeding through Kingston from traffic which mainly emanated from North Berwick. Residents of Kingston were concerned about future increases in traffic due to new housing developments. They were anxious to re-educate drivers and would like Kingston to be considered in future deliberations. PC Dobbie encouraged Kingston residents, and all others, to report incidences of speeding, stating that the police would be happy to undertake speeding checks and other measures. It was noted that a 20mph limit would be more appropriate for Kingston. Traffic calming might be more likely to be put in place if there was proof of flaunting of traffic regulations. It was hoped that development plans could include the improvement of the junction at Kingston, although there were differing opinions on the measures which were incumbent on developers.

[PCs Banks and Dobbie left the meeting]

**5 Older People's Strategy launch**

- 5.1 The Chairman had written to the Head of Adult Social Care, Mr Leys, at ELC regarding the omission of an invitation to NBCC for this launch. The response informed the meeting that some groups had been omitted in error and an updated database of interested parties was being produced. It was noted that the document mentioned care homes in Musselburgh, Tranent and Dunbar but none in North Berwick. Mr Leys had stated that options were still being discussed and were at an early stage. There was a commitment to do a feasibility study. There was concern for the North Berwick Day Centre transport issue. Mr Leys had informed the Chairman that there was a transportation conference in March and ongoing discussions.

- 5.2 It was considered that the lack of communication to a local community council had been appalling and that the ELC communication strategy needed to be sorted asap.

- 5.3 Although Mr Leys had said that a 60-bed unit was still under discussion, it had previously been stated that "it was anticipated that [it] would be in the Dunbar area." If it was possible to consider action on the Abbey Home, this should be a firm commitment by ELC.

- 5.4 ELC Cllr Berry explained that ELC had no control over NHS communications and decisions although the council had tried to work in partnership with them. It had been thought that the 60-bed centres would be a joint undertaking but progress had been difficult. He noted that a private sector offer to build in Dunbar had resulted in the use of the word "anticipated". He hoped that cooperation with NHS would improve in the future to have a good outcome in North Berwick.

- 5.5 Cllr Goodfellow felt that the Community Council had put in large number of responses to the document, including comments on provision at the Abbey Home and the Edington Hospital. The follow-on document under discussion now omitted the Abbey Home completely when it should have been included. In addition, talks about 180 beds being provided by the local authority seemed to have changed into the likelihood that there would now only be for 120 beds plus one private 60-bed unit in Dunbar. ELC Cllr Berry said that this was not the case as it had not yet been decided what was happening in North Berwick. The question of what specific difficulties the partners might have with Abbey Home would be asked.

ED

## **6 Water sewer, West Beach**

- 6.1 The Chairman had written to the ELC Chief Executive to enquire about progress of the outstanding problem of the exposed pipe. She had been informed that several meetings had been held in 2011 and again on 24 January 2012, of which she had not been notified. ELC Cllr Berry reiterated that Scottish Water did not have a solution as they considered the pipe to be functional and the aesthetic solutions were not deemed suitable. Those solutions were again described. It was again noted that, in bad storms, property would be threatened. ELC Cllr Rankin had been present at the last meeting and noted that Scottish Water had offered to provide an extra beach cleaning facility, which had been considered an inadequate offer. It had been agreed, although there were no minutes of the meeting as yet, that Scottish Water would carry out an engineering investigation to ascertain the extent of damage to walls. If the damage was serious enough, they might consider looking at concreting a section between the wall and the pipe.
- 6.2 Cllr Macnair noted that NBCC had neither been kept informed nor included in discussions. A feasibility study should now be under way. Proper defences were needed as the pipe had changed the way the bay functioned. ELC had stated that there was no point in commissioning a study if a walkway would not go ahead, although a walkway had only been an initial suggestion. A study was therefore needed in order to consider options for solutions.
- 6.3 The matter had not been advanced in nine months, it was unclear who had attended meetings and NBCC had not been kept informed or made aware of the last meeting. Ms Leitch was to attend a meeting of NBCC in the near future and these comments would go on that agenda.

## **7 Transportation matters**

- 7.1 The Secretary had received a reply from Colin Baird of ELC Transportation to several matters:
- 7.2 Additional North Berwick in Bloom signs would be added to the signs at the entrances to the town.
- 7.3 A Road Network inspector was investigating the leftover Gas Board diversion signs..
- 7.4 The footpath on the north side of Dirleton Road had been identified for repairs and resurfacing during the forthcoming financial year. Care had to be taken with regard to the tree roots and areas would be selected for treatment with this in mind.
- 7.5 The reactive speed sign outside the Nether Abbey had been sited there because of the solar aspect of the sign and the required line of sight for drivers. There should be no overhanging trees or bushes impeding/obscuring the sign. Mr Baird was open to suggestions of other situations, as had been suggested by photographs sent by the NBCC Secretary. It was noted that forward visibility was needed for oncoming traffic. Mr Baird had been disappointed by the size of the sign, as had members of NBCC. The Secretary would ask for re-consideration of siting suggestions. It was noted that the sign did not always appear to be on at night, apparently because the radar had a wide beam and was therefore affected by other traffic. KS
- 7.6 ELC Cllr Berry had tried to bring the state of pavements to the attention of the Transportation Department and was pursuing them to finish the repairs as they had only been done in patches.

## **8 Licensing proposals**

- 8.1 Cllr MacEwen had researched the changes in the Civic Government Act which had just come into effect. These changes were bringing events which were not charging at the door within the ambit of entertainment licences. Councils could now require licences where no money changed hands on admission. ELC would think about exemptions to licensing requirements, e.g. charity events. It was noted that Perth & Kinross would review all aspects of all activities which required licences and which free events, if any, would need a licence and should be brought within the scope of the new Act. It was noted that there was a nine-month period within which the

decision could be challenged. This was thought to be a good model to follow and this would be suggested to ELC. It was suggested that the Secretary should contact Paul MacLennan, as Council Leader, because the relevant key official had recently left ELC. **KS**

## **9 Open Space Strategy document**

9.1 Comments on the strategy document had been circulated, e.g. an increase in cycle paths, improved signage, dealing with vandalism and antisocial behaviour, a fitness trail in the Lodge, coastal erosion. These comments were considered to be balanced and comprehensive and would be submitted.

## **10 Coastal museum**

10.1 Ms M O'Connor of ELC would assist the shadow committee in taking forward the budget. She had confirmed that progress would not be to the original timetable.

## **11 Chief Executive's visit**

11.1 The agenda would include a tour of the town, viewing areas of topical discussion and viewing a DVD. Details were discussed.

## **12 Planning**

12.1 The following applications met with no objections:

*2 Tantallon Terrace:* extension to house

*4 Lorne Square:* alterations to flat and erection of external stairs

*2 Westbay Road:* erection of summer house

*Edington Hospital:* erection of bin enclosure

*Ferrygate Farm:* erection of wind turbine

*12A Marine Parade:* formation of pedestrian access

*47 Glenorchy Road:* extension to house

*31 Lady Jane Gardens:* extension to house and heightening of fence

12.2 Gilsland

A meeting had been held with Cala personnel, at which the proposed development had been discussed.

12.3 Castlemains wind turbine

It was noted that the application for a turbine in the shadow of Dirleton Castle had not been called off the Scheme of Delegated List in time and accordingly permission had been granted, despite objections from three local community groups. ELC Cllr Berry had already made enquiries as to how this had happened and he explained that the timing of withdrawal from the delegated list can produce such a result. It was noted that the delegated list was not a public document and objectors could not know when objections would appear on it. A request would be made that the list be made public. **KS**

## **13 Reports from groups and societies**

13.1 An event entitled "It takes a community to raise a child", an exploration and celebration of raising a child in the community, had been organised by the Youth Network and Community Planning. Presentations had been made by various groups and followed by workshops and action points. It had been a successful meeting with representation from the wider coastal area. Results would follow and be presented by Cllr Watson at a future meeting. **IW**

13.2 Christmas Lights Committee

A review and planning meeting had been held. There were funds to carry over from last year. Cllr Sinclair would apply for grant funding, after which plans would be progressed. All East Lothian Christmas lights would be discussed by community council representatives at a meeting on 02 May. **SS**

13.3 Town Twinning Committee

Two towns were under consideration, being Forst in Spree-Neisse and La Roche Bernard in Brittany but the German town may have funding difficulties. An approach had been made by Levercol, near Grenoble, which would be considered. It was noted that there was not a great deal of support from the community for the Twinning Association. However, it was also noted that North Berwick Colts would

visit Forst shortly.

13.4 Management committees of community centres  
An event had been hosted by ELC and attended by representatives from the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations and the Scottish Government. The meeting learned of the Community Councils Short Life Working Group, which was of interest in strengthening the role of Community Councils in communities.

13.5 St Andrews Old Kirk  
A meeting had been held with ELC and the Environment Trust. ELC had given £5000 to assist the Environment Trust in obtaining funding for a feasibility study, which was required to progress the plan for repair.

#### **14 Correspondence**

14.1 An application for grant of a provisional licence for 37 Quality Street had been received by the Licensing Board on which the Community Council had been invited to comment. It was felt that 01:00 at weekends was late and the Secretary would express NBCC's reservations, suggesting a better alternative would be a licence to 23:00 every night, although it was understood 01:00 was the norm which was granted by the Licensing Board.

14.2 An application for the grant of a provisional licence for the Coastguard Station, 26 Victoria Road had been received by the Licensing Board. One councillor had had representations about these premises using recorded music. It was noted that noise would be subject to council restrictions. The Secretary would question the application for music. Licencing hours of 11:00 to 21:00 were considered acceptable.

14.3 There had been no comments on the consultation regarding the formation of one ward for the Community Council. This would therefore be presented to a meeting of ELC on 26 June for ratification.

14.4 A Celtic Festival would be held at Newbattle College on May 19. Flyers were tabled.

14.5 Leaflets about the town's Tulip Festival were tabled.

#### **15 AOB**

15.1 Congratulations were offered to Space on the opening of the soft play area and café. It was hoped that the spare spaces in the Co-op car park could be used by Space users.

15.2 The parking report would be discussed at the next meeting.

15.3 ELC Cllr Berry thanked the Environment Trust for the recent Glen clean-up, which had covered different areas to the recent Colts clean-up.

15.4 ELC Cllr Rankin was thanked for his work during his time as a councillor.

#### **16 Date of next meeting**

**19.30 on Tuesday 01 May 2012 in the Fire Station**