

## Royal Burgh of North Berwick Community Council

### Minutes of the 430<sup>th</sup> Public Meeting held at 19:30 on Tuesday 01 May 2012 at the Fire Station, North Berwick

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

**In attendance:** ELC Cllrs D Berry, Ms B Mackenzie, Mrs S Anthony, Mr T Day, Ms P Earle,  
local press

The Chair thanked Cllr Danks for chairing the last main meeting and the informal mid-month one. **Action**

Cllr Baker made the following statement on behalf of the North Berwick Trust:

*"Agreement has been reached with the farmer on the terms by which he will vacate Mains Farm. Those terms had also been agreed with Walker Group; however, the secured first ranking lender (East Lothian Council) insisted on a change in form for the document. The revised documents are now with the farmer for signature. Some of the partners of the farming partnership live furth of Scotland and therefore it may take a little while before the document is signed by all parties and consented to by the first ranking lender (East Lothian Council). Until that day, the North Berwick Trust is not able to enter into any discussions as to what should happen with the land."*

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

Cllrs R MacEwen, J Scott, PC Dobbie ELC Cllr Rankin

#### **2 Minutes of meeting held on 03 April 2012**

The minutes were proposed by Cllr Hall and seconded by Cllr Watson, with the following amendments:

Item: 8.1: "new Act" should read "amended legislation".

Item 10.1: "budget" should read "project"

Item 13.3: "Levercol" should read "Lans en Vercors".

#### **3 Matters Arising**

##### **3.1 Royal Burgh sign**

(3.1) Cllr Watson would pursue the matter this month.

##### **3.2 Parking byelaw**

(3.3) Cllr Watson had been asked if there was progress. The Secretary would pursue this matter further now that the local elections were over.

##### **3.3 Traffic lights at Law Road**

(4.8) An email had gone to the Transportation Department regarding the timing of the lights at Law Road, which remained extremely slow. It was noted that, although there had been a lot of disruption in Law Road due to the gas works, work had been progressed very fast over the schools' Easter holiday, thus minimising inconvenience.

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

(5.5) The Chairman would pose questions regarding the strategy instead of Cllr Danks, as **PB** previously indicated in the April minutes.

##### **3.5 Pavement repairs**

(7.6) Repair work had been resumed. It was hoped that these would be completed before summer.

- 3.6 *Licensing proposals*  
(8.1) Contact with ELC had been delayed until the newly-elected Council was in place. The Chair would discuss the matter with Cllr MacEwen and contact ELC. **PB**
- 3.7 *Christmas lights committee*  
(13.2) Cllr Sinclair would attend an East Lothian-wide meeting of community council representatives the day after the meeting.
- 3.8 *Delegated list*  
(12.3) The Secretary would request that the list be made public once the new planning committee was confirmed after the local elections. **KS**
- 3.9 *Licensing Board*  
(14.1) The Secretary had written to the Licensing Board with objections about the two applications. ELC had spoken with the applicant for the Old Coastguard Station, who had agreed to amend the operating plan to 11:00 to 20:00 each day. He had also agreed that the food outlet would not have recorded music as a planned activity.
- 3.10 The outcome of representations regarding 37 Quality Street was not yet known. It was noted that a local resident and business owner had objected to both applications.
- 4 Police report**
- 4.1 There had been 4 reported crimes in the past month, of which 2 had been solved to date, putting solvency at 50%. The breakdown of crimes was as follows:
- Theft housebreaking - 2                      Urinating in a public place - 1  
Misuse of Drugs Act, possession – 1
- 4.2 *Operation Ether*  
Mobile surgeries continued to be held around the area.
- 4.3 *Operation Eucalyptus*  
The public house toilets which were retested for controlled drugs had all tested positive.
- 4.4 *Operation Ethane*  
This initiative, designed to reduce vandalism and antisocial behaviour on buses, was ongoing. It was being run by ELCAT officers.
- 4.5 *Speed recording measures – Lochbridge Road*  
Following numerous complaints, speed recording measures had been affected in Lochbridge Road for 7 days. Speeds recorded had a mean of 26.8mph and an 85% percentile of 32.2mph; therefore, no speeding issue had been identified.
- 4.6 *Community and Police Partnership (CAPP)*  
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.
- 5 North Berwick Fairtrade Partnership**
- 5.1 Ms B Mackenzie spoke on behalf of the North Berwick fairtrade group. The North Berwick Fairtrade Town certificate was being held by the group, which would like to display it in a prominent position. Various suggestions were made, e.g. the Council Chambers, the museum when it opened, the Scottish Seabird Centre. Ms Mackenzie was informed that funding for a new town notice board was still being sought and there was no space in the current notice board for a permanent display.
- 5.2 The fairtrade group wished to put a fairtrade town notice at the entrance(s) to the town, as was done elsewhere in Scotland. It was noted that only two additional signs were allowed on town signs but it was thought it may be possible to install such a sign under the old Royal Burgh sign. The Community Council was asked if it could help fund the cost of the sign in addition to the group's fundraising for this

purpose. NBCC would discuss this at a later date but it supported in principle the proposal for a sign. Cllr Watson would look into the displaying of the sign.

**PB  
IW**

[Ms Mackenzie and Mrs Anthony left the meeting]

## **6 Chief Executive's visit**

6.1 A successful visit had taken place on 17 April. Cllr Sinclair had shown the Chief Executive around the town, accompanied by Cllrs Danks, Baker and MacEwen and meeting others en route. The route was described, with comments on current matters, North Berwick In Bloom achievements and a Q & A session. The Chief Executive had seemed to be impressed with NBCC's work and involvement in the community. NBCC had expressed disappointment for not having been consulted in the sewer discussions; the Chief Executive had stated that ELC would keep NBCC informed of future discussions.

6.2 The Chair thanked Cllr Sinclair and Danks for their organisation and to all who had taken part. She would write to the Chief Executive on behalf of NBCC to thank her for the useful visit.

**PB**

## **7 Edington Hospital Forum**

7.1 The Chair raised concerns about the absence of meetings since January. The March meeting had been cancelled because preparatory work had not been completed and there had been no meeting date set since then. The Chair would contact ELC to ask when the next meeting would take place.

## **8 St Andrew's Old Kirk roof project**

8.1 A meeting with Cllr MacIennan had been held at the end of March. Discussions had previously been held with the North Berwick Environment Trust about raising funds for a feasibility study. ELC had offered half the funds and the Environment Trust had put in an application to Awards For All. It was hoped funds would also come from the Common Good Fund to encourage other grant-giving bodies to consider applications for future stages of the project.

## **9 Community Councils Short Life Working Group**

9.1 NBCC had not been informed of the group's existence and therefore had not been able to offer comments. It was understood that no East Lothian community councils had taken part in the option to comment. Cllrs MacEwen and Goodfellow would ask how much feedback the working group had received and would continue to ask for reports on discussions. The meeting was very concerned to have been omitted from discussions on the possible future of community councils in Scotland.

**RM/JG**

## **10 Parking consultant's report**

10.1 It was understood that the report from consultations would be released after the local elections.

10.2 A resident from Station Court had written about parking in the access road to the station, having been informed by the Transportation Department that the matter was under consultation and would be referred to NBCC. Nothing had been received from Transportation on this matter so this would be followed up. The resident had suggested that shrubs could be removed to make room for parking spaces on the access road. It was noted that residents also use the station car park. The police would be asked to monitor the situation. It was noted that the matter had been discussed at CAPP meetings and Cllr Bryson would take the issue to the next meeting. It was noted that all East Lothian stations had a parking problem and it was suggested that ELC and Scotrail should discuss solutions, e.g. a Park & Ride, possibly at East Fortune. The meeting discussed station and parking options.

**KS**

**RB**

10.3 It was noted that cars were still being parked at the tennis courts, where the bollard had been removed. It was understood that ELC would replace the bollard and have the only key.

10.4 The Chair would contact the police to ask about proposed action on parking in Dunbar Road.

**PB**

- 11 Parking byelaw**  
There was nothing further to report at this stage.
- 12 Planning**
- 12.1 The following applications met with no objections:  
*2 Lamb Court* – erection of gate, handrail and formation of steps (retrospective)  
*11 Seacliff Cottages* – erection of conservatory  
*Tomtorium, Fenton Barns* – erection of building for class 4 and class 6 uses
- 12.2 *Consultation on planning reform*  
This consultation was considered to be critical and far reaching as the reform would change planning regulations. It was felt that the planning problems we were experiencing, such as the right to appeal against rejected applications and the delegated list, had stemmed from a rigorous enough approach not being taken the last time there was a consultation. It was therefore important that NBCC should investigate the proposed changes thoroughly. Cllr Goodfellow would summarise these and present them to a meeting for discussion before the deadline in mid-June.
- 12.3 *Wind turbine*  
It was noted that the application for a wind turbine at Dirleton Castle had been passed when a similar application for West Fenton had been turned down. It was noted that ELC Cllr Berry had made the point of there being cumulative impact and therefore West Fenton had been turned down. The inconsistency was noted but it was understood that it would be impossible to change the decision. It was again noted that permission had been given at Dirleton Castle because the application hadn't been pulled off the delegated list and that this could not be done retrospectively. These proceedings were felt to be unsatisfactory and NBCC would like assurance that it wouldn't happen again. **PB**
- 13 Reports from groups and societies**
- 13.1 *North Berwick In Bloom*  
*The Beechgrove Garden* would feature North Berwick's tulip festival the following week.
- 13.2 *Community Centre Management Committee*  
The committee was preparing for the Edington Hospital centenary together with the Youth Network Project.
- 14 Correspondence**
- 14.1 ELC had informed the Secretary that that its minutes and agendas would be circulated electronically in future.
- 14.2 Questionnaires from the East Lothian Community Care Forum were imminent.
- 14.3 An East Lothian Community Planning Partnership forum would be held on Wednesday 13 June from 18:00 to 21:00 at Knox Academy.
- 14.4 An air display business had written to North Berwick News seeking advice and suggestions on holding a weekly aerobatics display at the harbour. The Chair would offer support for displays providing they were held over the sea. **PB**
- 15 AOB**
- 15.1 The Coastal Command wreath-laying ceremony would be held the following Sunday. Cllrs Baker and Sinclair would attend. All other councillors would be welcome. **ALL**
- 15.2 Filming of *The Railwayman* at Tantallon Terrace would take place from 13 to 18 May.
- 15.3 Hodder Planning had given details of the development at Gilsland, having a southern exit to Grange Road (50 houses) and Newhouse (69 houses) having a northern exit to Glenorchy Road. Cllr Goodfellow would bring details to the mid-month meeting.

15.4 In the absence of ELC Cllr Rankin, who had retired from office, the Chair would write a letter of thanks to him on behalf of NBCC.

15.5 It was noted that no planning applications had been submitted for the sculptures at the Scottish Seabird Centre. Committee members should look at them in order to discuss the matter further. It was noted that half their costs had been met by ELC.

15.6 Lochbridge Road residents had been led to understand that people from outside North Berwick would be housed in the new affordable housing development and they felt that the waiting list from current residents should be addressed first. It was noted that this strategy had not been successful in the past. It was noted that a statement at a public meeting had announced that houses would go to preferred tenants and it had been understood that this would be from local need. The meeting discussed the need to address housing for local youngsters, who were not being housed in North Berwick. The matter would be pursued with new council. **PB**

**16 Date of next meeting**

16.1 **19.30 on Tuesday 12 June 2012 in the Fire Station**