

Royal Burgh of North Berwick Community Council

Minutes of the 431st Public Meeting held at 19:30 on Tuesday 12 June 2012 at the Fire Station, North Berwick

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

In attendance: ELC Cllrs D Berry, J Goodfellow, PC Banks, PC Dobbie, Ms P Earle,
 local press

Chair welcomed those present, including visitors from the North Berwick Youth Project.

Action

1 Apologies for absence

Cllr K Smith, ELC Cllr T Day.

2 Minutes of meeting held on 01 May 2012

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

3 Matters Arising

3.1 Upon being asked when the next announcement from the North Berwick Trust might be expected, Cllr Baker stated that this was imminent.

3.2 *Traffic lights at Law Road*

(3.3) It was noted that the previous Scottish Gas road works had damaged the loops. The lights were now on the vehicle-actuated programme rather than the fixed timer programme and the problem had therefore been resolved. It was, however, noted that a filter for traffic turning south from Clifford Road into Law Road was still needed and that previous emails regarding this, around a year previously, had not been acted on. The Secretary would write to ELC again about the filter.

KS

3.3 *Wind turbine, Dirleton Castle*

(12.3) The Chairman had written to the officer responsible at ELC for an explanation on how the decision had been reached. She had received an acknowledgement and would receive a reply within 20 days.

3.4 The Secretary had asked for the delegated list to be made public.

3.5 *Licensing Board*

(3.9) *37-39 Quality Street*

A premises licence had been granted for this property but the applicant had agreed to withdraw his application for televised sports and live music and had reduced the terminal hours on Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings from 1a.m. to midnight.

3.6 *The Lobster Shack*

An application for the grant of a premises licence had been submitted. As this was for a permanent licence for the period from April to October inclusive to replace the occasional licence granted the previous year, and as there had been no problems with it, the Secretary had written confirming that the Community Council had no objection to the application.

3.7 *Pavement repairs*

(3.5) Residents had been told that ELC was not responsible for the pavement in St Baldred's Crescent. Cllr Hall had advised the residents of ELC contacts.

3.8 Repairs in the High Street were making a huge difference but some dropped kerbs had not been reinstated, making difficulties for buggies and wheelchairs. ELC Cllrs Goodfellow and Berry would make enquiries although it was felt that some of the work may not yet have been finished.

DB/JG

3.9 *Parking at Station Court*
(10.2) The Secretary had written to ELC about the reported parking problems. No response had yet been received.

3.10 *Fairtrade signs*
(5.2) Cllr Watson had spoken to a sign designer to arrange a site visit to discuss the signs.

3.11 *Chief Executive's visit*
(6.1) The Chairman asked the ELC councillors present when the Chief Executive might update NBCC on the ongoing discussions regarding the sewer pipe. The ELC councillors would ask for an update.

3.12 *Parking at tennis courts*
(10.3) It was noted that the bollard was back in position.

3.13 *Parking byelaw*
(3.2) The Secretary had written to ELC and would circulate a copy of their reply. **KS**

4 Police report

4.1 There had been 16 recorded crimes in the past month, of which 4 had been solved to date, putting solvency at 25%. Some crimes were interlinked. The breakdown of crimes was as follows:

Theft housebreaking - 3	Breach of bail conditions - 1
Vandalism – 3	Theft - 4
Theft shoplifting-4	Assault - 1

4.2 *Operation Ether*
Mobile surgeries, held jointly with ELC, continued to be held around the area.

4.3 *Mobile library initiative*
The initiative, which provided those living in remote areas with access to the policy, had been successfully conducted on 25 May.

4.4 *Community and Police Partnership (CAPP)*
Actions agreed at the last meeting included:

4.5 Handheld radar checks would be conducted in Kingston following ELC Cllr Day's receipt of concerns.

4.6 There continued to be parking issues at the Recreation Park. Visits would be undertaken there and Greenheads Road when mini tournaments took place. It was noted that additional lines on the road must be requested through ELC. A patrol would be undertaken to highlight the issues. ELC Cllr Berry was discussing further strategies to dissuade parking, e.g. landscaping. ELC Cllr Berry was asked to make enquiries about a pedestrian crossing, although he stated again that there had not been agreement about positioning one when the matter was last discussed about five years ago as there were five crossing places. PC Dobbie would inform the Chairman when the visit of ELC and traffic wardens would take place so that a representative of NBCC could attend. **DB**
LD

4.7 Parking had been reported on the footpaths and quadrangle area at Gilbert Ave. It was necessary for the public to report incidents at the time in order for the policy to see the vehicle and deal with it; images could only result in a warning being issued.

4.8 The next CAPP meeting would be held on Wednesday 27 June at 19:30

4.9 *Parking on pavements*
It was noted that parking on the pavement in Dirleton Ave was increasing, especially by workmen's vehicles, resulting in pedestrians needing to walk into the road. This should be reported for immediate police action.

5 Lodge café

- 5.1 Lesley Kay, the Youth Project Director and Lauren Cowie, the main staff member running the café, introduced a presentation. The café would open again on 30 June, being renamed as "The Café in The Lodge". The intended use was for the whole community and it was hoped that it would bring people into the Lodge. There would be indoor seating. Locally sourced and fairtrade ingredients would be used as much as possible. Some produce from the Youth Project's plot at the Law Garden would also be used. Involvement from other community groups was hoped for. The Project would continue running the café in community centre on Friday afternoons. Opening hours of the Lodge café would be 11:00 to 15:00 and longer if the weather was good. The mission statement was read out and the history described. The Project was working towards the Young People's Saltire Awards and all staff had been interviewed and trained; research and development had been investigated and youth leaders had responsibility for training and running. Young people described why they had got involved. Volunteers, including those who could only pop in occasionally, were needed. Training methods were described. It was hoped that advertising would be wider this year with the aid of a consultancy agency and flyers through letterboxes throughout the town. On request from Cllr Macnair, posters would be sent to Gilsland. Sample menus were tabled.

**Youth
Project**

[The Youth Project delegates left the meeting.]

6 Scottish Seabird Centre (SSC) car park

- 6.1 Mr Charlie Marshall & Mr Neil Rankin were representing SSC. Cllr. Bryson had received a copy of an agreement between ELC and SSC drawn up in 2009 and had understood that SSC were currently arranging for contractors to manage the SSC car park. There was apprehension in the town about people being asked for payment for parking in the aviary car park and it was noted that the notice was contradictory. Mr Rankin explained that there had been misinformation about the origins of the car park and he described its history in relation to the millennium commission funding. ELC had not been able to contribute money but had agreed to provide a car park as an 'in kind' contribution to the business plan. Places were to have been completed in two tranches. SSC made the car park generally available in the low season. After car park had been completed, ELC had charged SSC rent. Mr Rankin noted that the receipts went towards the running of SSC and subsidised rail tickets. He also noted that SSC personnel who were there to meet and greet visitors and direct them to the SSC and town were being verbally abused and for that reason the SSC had decided to put parking into the hands of an outside company
- 6.2 Mr Marshall felt that the tirades of abuse had been unnecessary and enquiries could have been made to SSC. He confirmed that the facts laid down by Mr Rankin were correct. He had no knowledge of an agreement that the land was to be used for the people of North Berwick. Until a document to that effect appeared, the agreement between SSC and ELC empowered SSC to use the land as described. Any charges levied for the aviary car park were regretted and incorrect and Mr Rankin would write to anybody who had had this experience personally. It was suggested that signage should be considered. Mr Marshall would make sure that company staff was correctly informed about the aviary car park. ELC Cllr Berry had understood that the car park had always been intended to be completed in two halves, with the first half being for SSC. The compromise was to extend and provide a public half. ELC Cllr Berry had only learned of the document of agreement in past fortnight. Although he had no disagreement with the arrangement, having now seen the document, he resented not having been kept informed.
- 6.3 The meeting was informed that the length of the arrangement was 10 years from 2009. It had been used to get discount on entry to SSC but there was a change in the nature of the car park as it was now for anybody's use, thus generating income for SSC. It was noted that the car parking charge had been reduced accordingly as there was no longer a reduction in SSC ticket price on production of a parking ticket. Cllr Danks noted that the original number of spaces for SSC had been 36. It was agreed that it might be helpful if documentation could be found to answer the questions being asked as there seemed to be a communication problem with the

general public. Clear signage giving hours and fees would be in place shortly. It was noted that residents found parking difficult and Cllr Macnair asked if a concession could be made for them. It was noted that Mr Rankin had suggested that a financial solution for residents be discussed during the works at School Road but nothing had happened. However, it was noted that parking restrictions were to be relaxed during summer restrictions, although it was accepted that there would still be a parking problem. ELC Cllr Goodfellow noted that charges only applied during certain times. These would be displayed.

[Messrs Rankin and Marshall left the meeting.]

7 Letters to ELC officials

7.1 The Chairman noted the lack of reply from ELC to correspondence e.g. an older people's strategy letter and a licensing for charities arrangements letter, both written in May. ELC councillors would make enquiries. **DB/JG**

8 Edington Hospital Forum

8.1 The lack of meeting since January was causing concern. The ELC councillors would make enquiries. **DB/JG**

8.2 It was noted that there had been NHS representation at the recent Edington centenary events and that conferences were being held about liaison with government and East Lothian Health Partnership. Cllr Danks would attend the latter meeting on behalf of NBCC. **ED**

9 St Andrew's Old Kirk roof project

9.1 The matter seemed to have stalled as it was unknown who was leading the project since the local elections. Former ELC Leader, Cllr P MacLennan, had previously been convening meetings. ELC Cllr Goodfellow to enquire. The Chairman would send the last email to councillors again. **JG
PB**

10 Parking consultation report

10.1 ELC Cllr Goodfellow reported that was now at final publication stage and had been passed out to ELC councillors. It was requested that the report was made available to NBCC asap after finalisation. It was hoped that it would be available for the next NBCC meeting.

11 Funding

11.1 *North Berwick Fairtrade signs*
The matter would be discussed when costs were known. It was noted that planning permission may be needed if it was not possible to attach signs to the existing ones. Various positions on existing signs were discussed. **ALL**

11.2 *Raft race*
It was agreed to donate £150 towards prizes. The Chairman would inform the organising committee of this decision. **PB**

12 Wind turbine, Castlemains Farm, Dirleton

See item 3.3 above.

13 Putting competition

13.1 The competition would take place on 24 and 26 July at the East Links putting green. Cllr Watson would erect signs. Volunteers were required. **IW
ALL**

14 Planning

14.1 The following applications met with no objections:
2/1 Nungate Road – replacement door.
4 Westerdunes – internal alterations.
Gilsland Caravan Park – erection of office/reception building.
37-39 Quality St – repainting of shop front (retrospective).
Lobster shack, The Harbour – erection of canopy.
Lobster hatchery – change of use of part of harbour story building to hatchery.
Braeside Cottage – erection of fence (retrospective)

- 14.2 *8 Cromwell Road*
A request had been made for the application to come off the delegated list. ELC Cllr Berry did not understand the concerns and therefore did not intend to remove from delegated list. ELC Cllr Goodfellow would ask to see all the objections and the planners report when it appeared on the delegated list and would then decide whether to ask for it to be removed. **JG**
- 14.3 *36 St Andrew Street*
The white shed currently interfered with residents' privacy and a new application had been submitted to increase the size of the shed. The design and building style was considered to be contrary to the Local Plan and did not fit into a conservation area. ELC Cllr Goodfellow explained that taking off the delegated list meant disagreeing with planning decision, even if it had been refused, therefore no request to take it off would be appropriate at present. NBCC would object to the application and ask for this objection to be considered should the application appear on the delegated list. **LH**
- 14.4 *SSC sculpture and formation of archway*
The illustrations of the application were tabled. NBCC would submit an objection as the artwork was not felt to be an enhancement to the area, which already had sufficient art in a small area and which took away from the ambience of the building; the materials to be used were not considered aesthetically pleasing. It was suggested that allocated spots for statues be given to SSC, e.g. 5 spots, and that sculptures be rotated every few years.
- 14.5 *Gilsland/Newhouse Farm*
NBCC had asked for an extension to the deadline as it had had no chance to discuss the matter. There was awareness that the community was very concerned about traffic, especially including construction traffic. It was noted that Cala would be willing to send a representative to speak to a meeting. It was noted that it would be impossible for ELC to alter Newhouse Road, which would have an increase in commuter and school traffic. The developer would not need to make an education contribution as there had been a recent drop in school rolls. It was noted that a contribution had been asked for the Lochbridge Road development. The three local councillors would continue to make enquiries about the child/house ratio.
- 14.6 NBCC would express its concern about: traffic, especially with respect to the Kingston Road too narrow; the volume and timing of construction traffic, particularly around school start/finish times; education allocation. The letter from a Kingston resident was passed to Cllr Hall.
- 14.7 It was further noted that the Glenorchy Road/Nungate Road junction would have increased traffic. The Ware Road bridge would also be congested.
- 14.8 *Coastguard Station café*
It was noted that the application for retrospective permission for the unauthorised works carried out at the coastguard station by the applicant had not yet been registered.
- 14.9 *Strings café*
Cllr MacEwan had spoken to the managers about removing notices from trees as these were not permitted for commercial outlets and only suitable for voluntary organisations.
- 14.10 *Wind turbines*
It was noted that the Planning Committee had turned down a couple of small wind turbines applications.

15 Reports from groups and societies

15.1 *Christmas lights*

The committee was planning the way ahead and would report at the July meeting.

JS

15.2 *Community Centre Management Committee*

The AGM would be held the following evening.

15.3 *Community Planning celebration event*

An event would be held the following evening.

15.4 *Law Residents Group open meeting*

There had been a good attendance at the recent meeting. It had been noted that four trees were to be removed for the Lochbridge Road development. Suggestions for street names had been invited.

15.5 *North Berwick In Bloom*

Gold awards had been won at the Royal Highland Show for the group, Law Primary School and North Berwick Floral Art. It was noted that local gardeners had won awards at the Chelsea Flower Show. Judging for Britain in Bloom would be on 07 August.

15.6 *Friends of the Lodge*

The AGM would be held on 27 June.

15.7 *Garden maintenance*

Following the approval of an ELC Cabinet paper on conditions of rental to council tenants, there would be much stricter enforcement of garden upkeep.

16 Correspondence

16.1 A letter had been received from ELC advising of a joint awareness seminar being held on 20 June for community councils and various tenants and residents' groups. The seminar would raise awareness of the roles and remits and how communities could work together.

16.2 *Speed reactive sign*

ELC had reiterated that, considering sunlight criteria and visibility to drivers, the sign was in the best position. ELC would be happy to discuss the matter further with councillors. The Chairman would request a site meeting. It was hoped that the data had now been collected and the meeting would be interested in first results.

PB

17 AOB

17.1 *Street naming*

A letter from ELC had asked for suggestions for names for the development at Lochbridge Road for 28 houses & 14 flats, although the final decision would be made by ELCI. Suggestions included Moffat, Russell and Kerr and the Chairman would send these to ELC. It was suggested that a list of such names be drawn up in anticipation of the other new developments.

PB

17.3 *Edington*

The Chairman praised the first class centenary celebration day which had been held the previous Saturday. She had written to congratulate the organisers. The contribution of the Rotary Club was noted.

17.4 *Meadowmill Sports Centre event*

It was regretted that Law Primary had not participated in a recent county-wide event which had included 1000 children.

17.5 *Consultation procedures*

ELC had recently consulted on consultation procedures and had indicated their willingness to adopt the suggestions put forward by the Community Council. Despite this, nothing had been received from ELC to indicate the conclusions drawn

from the consultation. This was just one example of where an exchange of correspondence with ELC had been left without the Community Council knowing what action was being taken. ELC Cllr Goodfellow offered to make enquiries about this particular consultation. **JG**

17.6 *Policy and Performance Review Panel*

It was noted that ELC Cllr Berry chaired the panel, which was open to suggestions about what it could investigate. Cllr MacEwen suggested that an area where ELC could take action was the way in which it dealt with correspondence. ELC sent out letters that were often dated days prior to posting, while emails usually went unacknowledged. This not only left correspondents wondering whether correspondence had been received or not but also affected the public's perception of ELC performance. It was suggested that all email correspondence should be automatically acknowledged and indication given of when a substantive reply could be expected. Cllr Berry noted that individuals' response times differed and suggested that those who don't comply with standards should be highlighted. The meeting felt that the better course was for ELC to introduce procedures, such as email acknowledgement, that should be followed in every case.

18 **Date of next meeting**
19.30 on Tuesday 03 July 2012 in the Fire Station