

## Royal Burgh of North Berwick Community Council

### Minutes of the 434<sup>th</sup> Public Meeting held at 19:30 on Tuesday 04 September 2012 at the Fire Station, North Berwick

**Present:** Cllr M Baker Vice-chairman  
Cllr K Smith Secretary  
Cllr E Danks Treasurer  
Cllrs R Bryson, L Hall, W Macnair, J Scott, I Watson

**In attendance:** PC Dobbie, Inspector Rodriguez, local press

*In the absence of the Chairman, Cllr Baker took the chair and welcomed those present, including Inspector Mackay's replacement, Inspector Rodriguez. In the absence of the Minute Secretary, Cllr Smith took the Minutes* **Action**

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

Cllrs P Burton, R MacEwen & S Sinclair, Community Warden G McGowan, ELC Cllr T Day (late), Ms P Earle

#### **2 Minutes of meeting held on 07 August 2012**

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

#### **3 Matters Arising**

##### 3.1 *Parking Byelaw*

(3.2) The Secretary had heard from the senior solicitor at the Council that the Justice Directorate of the Scottish Government was unconvinced that a byelaw was the appropriate way to deal with the problem and they had suggested that a Traffic Regulation Order would be a more appropriate mechanism for enforcing rules governing local authority car parks. The solicitor was awaiting comments from the Transportation Division regarding taking this course of action.

3.2 ELC Cllr Goodfellow commented that he had received an e-mail from an unhappy caravanner complaining about the proposed byelaw.

##### 3.3 *St Andrew Kirk Ports project meeting*

(3.4) ELC Cllr Day had called a meeting on 23 August. Although he had presented his apologies for this Community Council meeting he subsequently reported that the meeting had discussed the options for financing a feasibility study. To date funds of £7,000 had been identified, including £1,000 from the Community Council [see *item 6.2 below*] It had been decided to apply for £2,000 from the Common Good Fund. Once funds had been confirmed ELC would put together a tender document for the feasibility study and he hoped to be able to move forward from there.

##### 3.4 *West Bay sewer*

(3.4) Councillors had met with Bill Elliot of Scottish Water and were disappointed to learn that neither they nor ELC were prepared to seek a long term solution to the problem. Considering that the Community Council had done all that it could to highlight the problem over the last two years it was particularly disappointing that they had now been side-lined in any discussions.

##### 3.5 *East Lothian Yacht Club*

(3.5) It was confirmed that David Windmill, the new Chairman of the Scottish Seabird Centre, and Tom Brock, the Chief Executive, would meet community councillors informally to present their vision for the future.

3.6 Four councillors had attended the public meeting organised by the Harbour Trust Association held on 27 August, which they had found very good and informative.

3.7 *Community and Police Partnership*

(4.6) Inspector Rodriguez commented that 2 men had been charged in connection with the incident to which Cllr Bryson had referred. He stated that, at the change of shift in the middle of the night, due to lack of manpower, sometimes there was no police presence in North Berwick for a short period. Unfortunately, the incident had happened during that time.

3.8 *Wind turbines, Dirleton*

(6.1) The Chairman had written to the Chief Executive and a response was awaited.

3.9 *Planning*

(11.1) Cllr Hall pointed out that the last application in this item should read 35-37 Westgate and not Westgate Road as recorded.

3.10 *Environment Trust*

(12.3) The Chairman had written to Colin Baird, ELC, supporting any measures which were introduced to protect the safety of the public, whether on two or four wheels or on foot, in Dunbar Road.

**4 Police report**

4.1 Since the last Community Council meeting, there had been a total 157 calls to the area received by police. For the Ward area there had been a total of 15 recorded crimes of which 6 had been solved.

4.2 Solvency of crime was currently 40%. Enquiries were still on-going into the remaining unsolved crimes with positive leads from CCTV. This time last year the solvency rate was 34.8%. It should be noted that the figure from last year also represented crimes from the outlying coastal villages and was not specific to North Berwick.

4.3 The crimes reported in August can be expressed as follows:

Vandalism	8
Theft by shoplifting	1
Theft of pedal cycle	1
Theft	1
Assault	2
Threatening behaviour	1
Theft by housebreaking	1

**Local initiatives:**

4.4 Operation Euro had been underway with attention being placed on the security of local and coastal car parks. Officers and traffic wardens would be patrolling the relevant areas and advising persons about leaving valuables on display within their vehicles and the dangers of leaving such items on display while vehicles were unattended.

4.5 School talks were being planned with North Berwick High School and Primary Schools within the coastal area. Cycling would be raised as a pertinent issue and Community Wardens were working with the police in implementing better cycling skills within the schools.

The CAPP priorities agreed for the month had been set as:

<b>Priority</b>	<b>Actions to be Undertaken</b>	<b>Person responsible.</b>
A198, North Berwick to Gullane stretch – Motorcyclists racing and other road users speeding on this section of road.	Police/RPU/CAT Team to patrol and deal with any offences/crimes if detected.	Police.
Litter caused by school children from High Street towards High School via Law Road and Lodge Grounds.	Police and Community Wardens to monitor and deal with any offenders.	Police and Community Wardens.
Parking issues raised in Castle Hill and The Quadrant where vehicles are parking on the pavements and causing obstructions.	Police and Traffic Wardens to monitor and deal with offenders.	Police/Traffic Wardens.

- 4.6 The next meeting would be held on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2012 at 19:30 in the North Berwick Council Chambers. The meeting was public and all were welcome and encouraged to attend. The meeting would be advertised on the force web page and on the force Twitter site.
- 4.7 If members of the public wanted an enhanced surgery in the area, they should contact PC Colin Banks or PC Laura Dobbie on 893585, [laura.dobbie@lbp.pnn.police.uk](mailto:laura.dobbie@lbp.pnn.police.uk) or [colin.banks@lbp.pnn.police.uk](mailto:colin.banks@lbp.pnn.police.uk)
- 4.8 (a) Councillors asked if more signage regarding the drinking byelaw could be put at the train station and bus stops.  
 (b) It was confirmed that there was no prohibition against cycling in the Lodge grounds.  
 (c) Cllr Bryson pointed out that there was a lot of dog fouling on the Law which should be investigated by the police and/or dog warden.  
 (d) Cllr Bryson highlighted an incident involving young girls outside the swimming pool at midnight one night recently which had gone unnoticed by a patrol car which had passed by from Grange Road.

## **5 Chairman's Report**

The Secretary read the Chairman's end of term Report on the issues and projects which had been occupying the Community Council over the last four years. A verbatim copy of the Report is attached to these Minutes.

## **6 Local Priorities Fund**

- 6.1 The Treasurer pointed out that, after payment of the agreed sums for the newsletters, speed re-active sign, Friends of Edington centenary celebrations, Law race medals and Food Bank there was still a sizeable balance left.
- 6.2 It was agreed to contribute £1,000 to the St Andrew Kirk Port's Project feasibility study; reserve £3,000 for the new noticeboard with an application to the Common

Good Fund for the balance; reserve £500 for the war memorial garden; reserve £350 for the new Community Council website; contribute £3,000 towards the Christmas lights.

## **7 St Andrew Blackadder Church clock**

7.1 The Chairman had received an e-mail from the Minister of St Andrew Blackadder Church concerning a complaint made to the Church and ELC (who own the clock) about the half hourly clock chimes during the night. Although two councillors expressed some sympathy for the complainant the majority decided that, as the chimes had been part of North Berwick life for over a century, the *status quo* should be maintained.

7.2 ELC Cllr Goodfellow was asked to convey that decision to ELC.

## **8 Setting up of East Lothian Bus Group**

8.1 A first meeting to discuss the establishment of a Local Bus Group by ELC would be held in John Muir House on Tuesday 27 November at 10.00 am chaired by ELC Cllr Michael Veitch, Transport spokesman.

8.2 There was a brief discussion on the need for better signage for buses at the station, the effectiveness of the shuttle bus from the station to the Museum of Flight via the Scottish Seabird Centre and the lack of information on public transport at the tourist information centre.

## **9 North Berwick Parking Consultation**

9.1 It was agreed that further discussion on this should be deferred to the new Community Council.

9.2 ELC Cllr Goodfellow commented that the intention was to start short term work before The Open. Peter Forsyth of the ELC Transportation Department would be happy to come to an informal meeting to discuss the preferred options.

## **10 Planning**

### **10.1 Nungate Road**

The Chairman and 3 councillors, ELC Cllr Goodfellow and about 15 residents had had a site meeting on 24 August with Peter Forsyth of the ELC Transportation Department and other Council officials and Derek Lawson from Cala to consider the impact of the Cala lorries turning into Glenorchy Road from Nungate Road. Mr Forsyth had suggested shortening the line of parked traffic outside the telephone exchange by one space and no parking at the right angle turn into Glenorchy Road. It was pointed out that the traffic island at the junction with Marmion Road would be an obstruction for lorries turning into Nungate Road and would have to be removed temporarily.

10.2 The following applications met with no objections:

*West Strathearn, 13B York Road – design changes to scheme of development*  
*28 St Andrew Street – repainting of building & walls, rendering & painting of part of rear elevation, new door & steps*  
*Marine Lodge, 21a Westgate – extension to flat & erection of gate*  
*Mossgiel, 9 Fidra Road – replacement door & side screen*  
*15 Marly Green – installation of solar panels (retrospective)*  
*11 St Andrew Street – part rendering of wall of extension as changes to scheme of development*  
*Rhodes Holdings – prior notice of erection of agricultural building*  
*7 Victoria Road – alterations, extension to building, erection of fencing, formation of decked area*

9 Dundas Avenue – installation of air source heat pump  
37-39 Quality Street – alterations to building, installation of air conditioning units & flue (retrospective)  
1 Abbey Court – erection of conservatory  
37 Melbourne Place – erection of satellite dish

10.3 The following applications met with comment:

42 St Baldred's Road – erection of 1 house with associated works – object on the ground of infill **LH**

North Berwick Harbour – siting of storage container for temporary period of 5 years – suggest artwork on the side of it to cheer it up **LH**

4A Dirleton Avenue – installation of vent – seek clarification as there were no drawings **LH**

Craigview, 18C Westgate – replacement window & erection of balcony – seek clarification as there were no drawings. **LH**

## **11 Reports from groups and societies**

11.1 *Christmas lights sub-committee*

A meeting had been planned for 13 September.

11.2 *Community Centre*

The Centre's LED projector was being borrowed to present the planning applications. The Community Council had been asked for an annual donation to the Music Therapy Project for the use of the projector. It was agreed to give a one-off donation of £50 this year and to consider purchasing our own next year.

## **12 Correspondence**

12.1 *Fringe by the Sea*

An e-mail had been received by a resident in the harbour area expressing concern at the level of disturbance caused to residents in the area resulting from the 2 am late licence granted for the period of the Fringe by the Sea. It was agreed to investigate the matter further before writing to the Fringe organiser with our concerns.

12.2 *RELBUS*

An e-mail had been received from Mrs Jacquie Bell, a RELBUS committee member asking for a donation towards the cost of administration and publicity for RELBUS which had been set up to engage with ELC, service users and service operators to pressure for bus services that are accessible, affordable and reliable. It was agreed that this should be deferred to the new Community Council.

12.3 *Tellmesotland Knowledge Hub Group*

As no-one seemed to know what this was about ELC Cllr Goodfellow undertook to investigate further. **JG**

## **13 AOB**

13.1 Cllr Macnair intimated that there was to be a residents' meeting regarding speeding on the Kingston to Fenton Barns Road shortly.

## **14 Date of next meeting**

**19.30 on Tuesday 02 October 2012 in the Fire Station**