

## Royal Burgh of North Berwick Community Council

### Minutes of the 438<sup>th</sup> Public Meeting held at 19:30 on Tuesday 04 December 2012 at St Andrew Blackadder Church, North Berwick

**Present:** Cllr S Sinclair                      Chair  
              Cllr K Smith                         Secretary  
              Cllr J Scott                              Treasurer  
              Cllrs R Bryson, E Danks, H Flanagan, L Hall, D Kellock, W Macnair, H Smith,  
              I Watson

**In attendance:** ELC Cllrs D Berry, T Day & J Goodfellow, local press, Ms P Earle

The meeting could not take place in the fire station due to a fire the previous day. The Chair had received a communication from the fire officer which described the safety measures which had been put in place and reported that an investigation would be undertaken. The building would be out of commission for the foreseeable future. The North Berwick appliance/s would be housed at the ELC depot at the Heugh Industrial Estate. A temporary replacement service, which had been put in place in the previous two days, was described.

**Action**

#### 1            **Apologies**

Cllr M Baker and PC Dobbie.

#### 2            **Minutes of the meeting held on 06 November 2012**

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

#### 3            **Matters arising**

##### 3.1            *Parking byelaw*

(3.1)            The Secretary reported that as a traffic regulation order had been considered to be unworkable by ELC, the Scottish Government had agreed to proceed by way of a local byelaw. A 4-week consultation period was now in place. The byelaw would be confirmed in January if no objections were received.

##### 3.2            *Public entertainment licensing*

(3.2)            The Secretary had written expressing NBCC's concerns, as per the previously circulated letter drafted by former councillor, Mr MacEwen. The matter would be considered in December.

##### 3.3            *Consultation on National Planning Framework*

(6.2)            See item 11 below.

#### 4            **Police report**

4.1            133 calls had been made to the area including outlying villages, resulting in 14 recorded crimes, of which 6 had been solved, giving a solvency rate of 43%.

##### 4.2            *Reported crimes:*

Vandalism – 3                      Housebreaking – 1                      Assault - 2  
Attempt housebreaking business – 1                      Theft – 3  
Attempt theft opening lock fast places – 1  
Attempted robbery – 1                      Breach of the peace – 1  
Culpable and reckless conduct - 1

##### 4.3            *Driving initiative*

A four-week campaign targeting driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs would start on 03 December. The public were encouraged to report suspected offenders to the police or Crimestoppers (0800 555 111).

- 4.4 *School talks*  
Guidance in schools on personal safety and cyber bullying continued.
- 4.5 *Schools 'BikeAbility' programme*  
Local police officers were to undertake training to address issues of safe and considerate cycling.
- 4.6 COMMUNITY AND POLICE PARTNERSHIP (CAPP)  
*Priorities for the month were:*
- 4.7
- *Space skate park – exiting the building and cycling without lights in the dark*  
Police to visit the centre and advise.
  - *Crime prevention - theft*  
Police to prepare media release/leaflet drop.
  - *Driving and phone usage*  
Police to focus on use of phones whilst driving.
- 4.8 The next CAPP meeting would be held at 19:30 on Wednesday 02 January.
- 4.9 If members of the public would like an enhanced surgery conducted in the area, please contact 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)
- 4.10 ELC Cllr Berry emphasised the importance of paying attention to lock fast premises, not leaving items viewable in cars, not leaving bicycles in front of houses etc. The public needed to be mindful of preventative measures.
- 4.11 It was noted that there had been an increase in housebreaking in the area. The town was considered to be an easy target.
- 4.12 There was a considerable number of street lights out in the High Street. ELC Cllr Berry had reported this.
- 4.13 It was noted that adults should be targeted about safe and considerate cycling as well as school pupils. A number of adults, sometimes those in charge of children, continued to cycle the wrong way along the High Street and on pavements. This was a bad example to young people. It was noted that paper deliverers cycled without lights; the police had contacted the newsagents and would do so again.
- 5 East Lothian Bus Group**
- 5.1 Cllrs Bryson & Sinclair had attended the meeting on 27 November with the ELC Transport Spokesman at which various other groups and bus groups had been represented. There had been general agreement that more information was needed at bus stops. Real time information would become available in mid-2013 at the earliest. It was noted that many users did not have the latest technical options to source information. A charter was considered necessary. It was noted that shelters were vandalised, resulting in no timetables and no light in shelters. It had been suggested that small buses should run to doctors' surgeries. The public should contact Traveline for suggestions. It was suggested that Transition North Berwick could pull together information on volunteer groups and timetables, as had Sustaining Dunbar, which had obtained funding for this exercise.
- 6 North Berwick Parking Consultation**
- 6.1 Cllr H Smith was thanked for her paper with her further thoughts on the subject.

The Chair had written to the Transport Department with feedback suggesting a trial of the provision of long-stay parking at the recreation ground, overflow parking at Tantallon Terrace and a time restriction on parking at The Glebe car park.

- 6.2 Cllr Hall had copies of the plan of a proposed provisional car park at the rugby ground which could be viewed on request.

## **7 Christmas lights**

7.1 The switch-on on 24 November had gone well. It had been well attended and the Rotary had collected £346. The sub-committee would discuss a strategy to avoid congestion at the church due to people collecting hot chocolate next year. The Chair thanked all helpers and particularly Cllr Watson and his crew for the electrical work. Favourable reports had been received, particularly about the lights in Quality Street.

7.2 A comment had been received regarding a double decker bus which had only just passed under the lights on the High Street. It was reported that the lights were at the regulation height so a bus was within safety limits.

7.3 The choir had been well received and thanks were offered to it. It was noted that donations were still being received.

## **8 Edington Hospital Forum**

8.1 A meeting would be held on 10 December. Cllrs Baker & Hall would attend.

## **9 Coastal Communities Museum**

9.1 Cllr H Smith had attended the meeting on 22 November. Discussion had taken place about the opening exhibition and the curatorship of the museum in the long term. It was hoped that the opening exhibition would be held in summer 2013. It was understood that the 'Beehive' would be in use until April 2013 and ELC would move into the museum building thereafter. The next meeting would be held in January.

## **10 Minute Secretary's remuneration**

A proposal to raise this from £30 to £35 per meeting was proposed by Cllr Scott and seconded by Cllr Bryson.

## **11 Planning matters**

11.1 *Gilsland* - The Cala application had been passed by a fairly large majority. It was anticipated that building would start in January and the first house would be finished by October. It was noted that the decision had been difficult to make.

The following applications met with no objection:

*8 Tantallon Terr* - painting of gable end of house (retrospective).

*6 Tantallon Terr* - painting walls of house (retrospective).

*Larchbank, Abbotsford Road* - demolition of house; erection of house and associated works. The meeting discussed light pollution and the regulations governing the distance to neighbouring buildings. The plan was discussed.

*15 Cromwell Road* - new access and parking arrangements as changes to the scheme of development, the subject of planning permission 10/00867/P.

*35 Dirleton Ave* - extension to house and repositioning of sheds.

29A Fidra Road – replacement windows.

6 St Margaret's Road – extension to house.

11.2 The following applications met with objection or comment:

11.3 *Glenconner, 28 Dirleton Ave* – erection of 1 house and associated works. An objection would be lodged on the same grounds as planning permission was refused previously. **LH**

11.4 *Engine Cottage, Abbotsford Road* – alterations and extension to building, formation of hardstanding areas, steps, railings and part demolition of wall; alterations and extension to house, erection of carport with store and associated works. The meeting discussed the possible felling of trees, the size of the extension and the listed building status. Cllr Hall would ask for further information and illustrations. **LH**

11.5 *4 Marmion Road* – erection of fencing, trellises, pergolas, gate, raised beds, formation of steps and hardstanding areas (part retrospective). It was noted that the Enforcement Officer had stated that the fences had to be lowered and posts adjusted. It was noted that hedges of a similar height were not the subject of objection.

11.6 *26 Victoria Road* – display of advertisements (retrospective). An application for 13 moveable advertisements had been made. The meeting discussed the plethora of signage in the town and, in particular, the harbour area. The meeting was informed that previous requests to have uniformity in signage had not been progressed. It was suggested that temporary permission be requested (e.g. one year) and that both the content and appearance of the signs should be considered.

#### 11.7 **National Planning Framework consultation**

No view would be offered by NBCC. Individuals should respond as such.

11.8 ELC Cllr Berry suggested that councillors may wish to comment on the city region plan's lack of settlement statement. If the public did not wish more housing, a comment on the size of the settlement would help future arguments against further developments being allocated. The Framework was where such arguments should be made and not the Local Plan. A sub-committee comprising Cllrs Sinclair, Kellock, Watson and H Smith would discuss the matter. **SS, DK, IW, HS**

11.9 It was noted that the new dentist's sign in Dirleton Avenue did not seem to have had planning permission. Whether permission should have been sought was being investigated as the sign was considered inappropriate for the area. **LH**

## 12 **Reports from groups and societies**

### 12.1 *Friends of the Lodge*

The group would sing carols at the Lodge entrance on 14 December at 18:30.

### 12.2 *Youth Network*

The group was proposing a community festival, including a music event, on 15 June 2013.

### 12.3 *Environment Trust*

The last meeting had had a small attendance. It had discussed funding for the renovation of the Kirk Ports church. It had requested information on who hosted the NBCC website and asked whether they could use this site also. The meeting stated that a link to their own site would be acceptable but the NBCC site could not host such groups.

12.4 *Kirk Ports church*  
Cllr Kellock had contacted ELC Cllr Day about progress on the plan for renovation. A meeting would be called in the new year.

12.5 *North Berwick in Bloom*  
The AGM would be held on 11 December at 19:00 in the Council Chambers

### **13 Correspondence**

13.1 *Association of East Lothian Community Councils (AELCC)*  
The AGM of AELCC would be held on 16 January 2013 at 19.30 in Haddington Town House. Cllr Flanagan would attend on behalf of NBCC. **HF**

13.2 *Scottish Government Community Councils Working Group*  
A report and recommendations had been circulated with a deadline for response of 18 January 2013. The matter would be discussed at the next meeting. **SS**

13.3 *Town twinning*  
Ms C Davies, the Dialogue Youth Coordinator at the Community Centre in Musselburgh, had informed NBCC that there was interest from Le Plessis Trevisé, France, in twinning with North Berwick. It was understood that the local twinning group was no longer operating. NBCC would support a twinning arrangement but it was not within the remit of a Community Council to progress such matters. An enquiry to measure interest in the project would be inserted in the press and on the website. Cllr Watson would liaise with Ms Davies. **KS  
IW**

13.4 *Training sessions*  
The Secretary had forwarded details for accessing information which had been received at the recent training sessions for new community councillors.

13.5 *Rent proposals*  
East Lothian Tenants & Residents Panel was consulting on ELC's rent proposals and a consultation would be held on 10 December from 18:00-20:00 in Conference Room 2 in the Brunton Hall, Musselburgh.

13.6 *Changeworks*  
Information on how to refer people to the energy advice service had been received.

13.7 *Right to Roam Legislation*  
A request by an East Linton resident to support a campaign for responsible access for ramblers, cyclists and horse riders had been received. Interested parties could ask him for a CD but as it was considered that there was no problem in the North Berwick area regarding the right to responsible access, no further action would be taken by NBCC.

### **14 AOCB**

14.1 An enquiry had been made about grazing on the Law. There was no knowledge of any proposals. Cllr Macnair explained that it was a difficult area to manage, with problems regarding losing animals, the difficulty in fencing, governing rules and the limited suitability for most breeds. Heritage Lottery funding had been secured and ELC was working out a plan. Mr Priddle would talk to a future meeting.

14.2 ELC Cllr Berry noted that no objections had been received since the commencement of building the development at the back of Lochbridge Road. It seemed that access through the trees was working.

14.3 There was an intention to have the footpath linked to the Law as part of the John

Muir Way.

- 14.4 The Law Residents' Association was concerned about safety on Lochbridge Road. NBCC would consider at a future meeting where it stood on the suggestion of a 20mph restriction.
- 14.5 In a report on a proposal for a theatre/ arts centre in the town, Cllr Watson had been erroneously reported as representing NBCC. Cllr Watson would liaise with NBCC on the matter but was not a representative. A performing arts group, currently consisting of Fringe By The Sea, NB Movies, the Community Centre and members of the old Operatic Society, was hoping to promote an arts venue in the town. Investigations for a purpose-built venue and a survey were being undertaken. A public meeting was to be held in February if the survey indicated there was support for the project. Feedback so far had been good and the survey could be completed at [www.northberwickartsbythesea.com](http://www.northberwickartsbythesea.com) The meeting discussed the feasibility of some of suggestions which had been made.
- 14.6 North Berwick Colts had requested NBCC's support for the proposed 3G pitch. It was noted that neighbours would like to be consulted. As this was in the Community Plan, there was no reason not to bring the project forward. There was an application for matched funding to SportsScotland.
- 14.7 Upon enquiry, it was confirmed that the paper previously tabled by Cllr Watson on a vision for North Berwick would be discussed at a future meeting. A local group was interested in producing a play plan for the town, which could be developed in liaison with the vision for NB.
- 14.8 The meeting was grateful to North Berwick Fry, who had offered their premises for meetings. As the current venue had worked well for this first meeting since the fire in the fire station, meetings would continue in St Andrew Blackadder Church.
- 14.9 The Chair wished all present a Happy Christmas.

**15 Date of next meeting**  
**19.30 on Tuesday 08 January 2013 in St Andrew Blackadder Church.**