

Royal Burgh of North Berwick Community Council

Minutes of the 439th Public Meeting held at 19:30 on Tuesday 08 January 2013 at St Andrew Blackadder Church, North Berwick

Present: Cllr S Sinclair Chair
 Cllr K Smith Secretary
 Cllrs M Baker, 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, PC Dobbie, local press,
 Ms P Earle

Absent: Cllr J Scott

Action

- 1 **Apologies**
 There were no apologies.
- 2 **Minutes of the meeting held on 04 December 2012**
 Adoption of the minutes was proposed by Cllr Kellock and seconded by Cllr Bryson.
- 3 **Matters arising**
 - 3.1 *Parking byelaw*
(3.1) The required advertisement had appeared in the press the previous month and a final decision should be forthcoming shortly.
 - 3.2 *Public entertainment licensing*
(3.2) The Licensing Sub-committee had agreed that the proposed resolution be further revised, in particular to clarify the meaning of 'small scale' and 'not for profit'. The intention was to re-advertise the amended wording in January and report back to the Subcommittee thereafter.
 - 3.3 *Planning*
(11) The application for advertisements at 26 Victoria Road had been turned down.

 Items 11.3, 11.4, 11.5 were all pending.
 - 3.4 *Kirk ports church*
(12.4) It was hoped that a meeting would be held at the beginning of February to process this matter further.
 - 3.5 *Dental practice in Dirleton Avenue - notice board*
(11.9) Permission to erect a notice board was not necessary as the practice was a business and not a residence. ELC Cllr Goodfellow described the two levels of conservation area and relevant planning requirements.
- 4 **Police report**
 - 4.1 184 calls had been made to the area including outlying villages, resulting in 10 recorded crimes, of which 4 had been solved, giving a solvency rate of 40%. A number from the previous month had been solved.
 - 4.2 *Reported crimes in North Berwick town:*
 Vandalism to motor vehicle – 3 Housebreaking (business) – 1
 Housebreaking with intent - 1 Theft from a motor vehicle – 2
 Theft of motor vehicle – 1 Misuse of controlled drugs – 1
 Racially aggravated breach of the peace – 1

4.3 *Hogmanay*
The evening had passed without serious incident. Concerns had been raised regarding broken glass left on the High Street after the event.

4.4 COMMUNITY AND POLICE PARTNERSHIP (CAPP)
Priorities for the month were:

- *Dog fouling offences* – Patrols to be conducted to detect offences.
- *Parking issues at Nisa on Lochbridge Road and Glen Golf Club*
Details of offending vehicles to be passed to police and regular patrols to be conducted.
- *High School pupils – challenging behaviour at lunch times, careless road crossing procedures and litter*
Patrols of the area and High School to be informed.

The next CAPP meeting would be held at 19:30 on Wednesday 30 January at the Council Chambers.

4.5 If members of the public would like an enhanced surgery conducted in the area, please contact 893585, laura.dobbie@lbp.pnn.police.uk or colin/banks@lbp.pnn.police.uk

4.6 It was confirmed that school assemblies covered such issues as anti-social behaviour on Law Brae in 4.4 above. It was noted that pupils have a responsibility to themselves. ELC Cllrs Berry & Goodfellow would raise the matter at the Parent Council meeting the following week.

4.7 It was noted that often members of the public could not access the bus shelter on Law Road due to pupils crowding into it.

4.8 It was noted that builders were parking on the footpath at Coo's Green and that the grass was in a mess as a result. The police would not necessarily have been notified if permission had been given. The police would investigate the matter.

4.9 It was noted that elderly people were offending in dog fouling in the High Street and Forth Street as they were unable to bend down to pick up the mess. A community councillor enquired whether there was practical help available to them. Members of the public should contact the police if dogs were roaming uncontrolled. Dog and Community Wardens could issue fixed penalty notices. It was noted that other local groups working with dog wardens had benefitted. It was noted that this was a serious matter with health hazards involved. Members discussed the habit of leaving filled bags lying around, which seemed worse than leaving dog mess. Additional bins were available for erection if they were needed in areas currently without them. Dog fouling could be reported online at https://selfservice.eastlothian.gov.uk/Ef3_Live/template/dogwatch.html or by phone to 01620 824305.

5 Edington Hospital Forum

5.1 A meeting held on 10 December 2012 had been attended by Cllrs Baker and Hall. NBCC had been asked to make suggestions for the future of the hospital, which was currently not fit for purpose and would not pass inspection. A joint approach was needed from the various groups involved. A further meeting between the East and Mid Lothian partnership, ELC representatives, Friends of the Edington and NBCC representatives would be held on 22 January to discuss suggestions. It was noted that the options paper was incomplete and barely comprehensible. A realistic

option which would be acceptable to the community was essential. NBCC should consider what worked well at the current facility and include these points in its suggestions. All councillors were to read the options paper, think as broadly as possible and present questions for 22 January. A suggestion that the meeting on 22 January should be minuted was rejected as it was not normal practice to minute mid-month meetings. Appropriate notes would be taken.

6 The harbour

6.1 The Chair had written to East Lothian Council to thank them for their work in the aftermath of the recent storm. It was noted that the community had pulled together. ELC officials would meet with main harbour users to discuss the emergency works necessary and the way forward. This meeting would not discuss the Harbour Trust. A longer solution to sea defences needed to be discussed by the Harbour Trust in the future.

6.2 It was noted that ELC did not have dedicated staff to deal exclusively with the coastal area. In view of the increased frequency and severity of storm damage, it was suggested that ELC should perhaps consider this. The Secretary would write to ask if any thought had been given to such a post. **KS**

7 Scottish Government Community Councils Working Group

A consultation paper had been circulated. Cllr Flanagan would attend the AGM of the Association of East Lothian Community Councils the following week and report back. The Chair was also in discussion with ELC. **HF**

8 Planning matters

8.1 ELC Cllr Day tabled a plan for a proposal for a café at the east putting green which would include public toilets. It was noted that the title for houses on Beach Road went down to the water mark and therefore landowners would have to give permission for such a proposal. The proposed site was very close to the Elcho Green ramp and would be very vulnerable in a bad storm so it would be suggested that taking the place of the putting green starter's hut would be a better situation; this might also be more feasible from a planning viewpoint. It was noted that a desire to improve the putting green had also been expressed. The building would be leased back from ELC at a peppercorn rent.

8.2 The following applications met with no objection:

Cairnlodge, 4 Marly Rise – erection of house, garage and associated works. A half-built house was already in existence therefore the right to build had already been established.

Blackdykes, Tantallon – erection of 2 wind turbines. Cllr Hall described the size and visibility.

Quality Street - siting of bench and tree seat. A seat would be placed around the tree outside the Tourist Information office; it would be designed by the same blacksmith and to a similar design as the seat around the King's tree. The seating at the lighthouse would be replaced. It was noted that the 'fish' tree guard on the tree at the corner of Quality Street and Melbourne Place had been knocked down by a car and had been removed.

4 Westerdunes Court – erection of wall and bollard (retrospective).

Flat 2, Market Place – alterations to flat.

29A Fidra Road - replacement windows.

21 St Baldred's Crescent – extension to house.

Meadowside, Strathearn Road – alterations to house.

3 Netherlaw – extension to house.

8.3 **National Planning Framework consultation**

NBCC had submitted its contribution, which had reiterated the common view that the community did not want the town to increase in size.

9 Reports from groups and societies

9.1 *Youth Network*

Ms Lesley Kay was congratulated on obtaining £50,000 lottery funding, which represented two years' worth of funding, part of which would be used for the Lodge café. It was suggested that the Youth Network could contact the tourism programme at Queen Margaret University for advice, advertising and support.

10 Correspondence

10.1 A Christmas card with a message thanking NBCC for its hard work in 2012 had been received from MP, Fiona O'Donnell.

10.2 Correspondence had been received from a resident of Tantallon Terrace regarding the proposal for a temporary car park behind Tantallon Terrace. The resident had been unaware that consultants had been asked to review the proposal and had asked for detailed information. Residents felt that alternative options should be considered and that a car park should be a last resort. Members of the public had asked Cllr H Smith about it, also. It was noted that there had been information in the public domain, e.g. workshops. It was suggested that the car park should be seasonal and that traffic flow in Marine Parade should be looked at before construction. . ELC would need to apply for planning consent. The Chairman would reply to the email. **SS**

11 AOCB

11.1 *Repainting original North Berwick Burgh signs framework*

The cost of £136 per frame was approved for the three signs. The original damaged sign would also be repaired and re-instated.

11.2 It was noted that the area around the plinth at Jacob's Ladder car park was under water and needed to be filled in. Cllr Day would add this to his list of complaints.

12 Date of next meeting

19.30 on Tuesday 05 February 2013 in St Andrew Blackadder Church.