

Royal Burgh of North Berwick Community Council

Minutes of the 441st Public Meeting held at 19:30 on Tuesday 05 March 2013 at St Andrew Blackadder Church, North Berwick

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

In attendance: ELC Cllrs D Berry, , Mr N Hall, local press, Ms P Earle, Mr J Arbuckle,
Mr S Wallace, Mr & Mrs Henderson

Absent: Cllr H Flanagan

Action

1 Apologies

Cllr E Danks, ELC Cllrs Day and Goodfellow, PC Dobbie

2 Minutes of the meeting held on 05 February 2013

Adoption of the minutes was proposed by Cllr Watson and seconded by Cllr Kellock.

3 Matters arising

3.1 *Public entertainment licence*

(3.2) The Secretary had been advised by East Lothian Council that the Licensing Sub-Committee had decided to approve the wording of the resolution. The Sub-Committee had taken account of NBCC's objection but had noted that the proposed wording had been amended and advertised on two occasions and were anxious to bring the matter to a final conclusion. The view was that the resolution would allow exemption in the kind of scenario raised and it would be simple for an organising body to produce a brief note confirming that fund raising for another charitable organisation was in furtherance of its aims for its own records. It was felt that the scope of the proposed exemptions was wide enough to cover such situations.

3.2 *Business name boards*

(3.3) Cllr Hall had written to ELC to object to the business advertising boards in Dirleton Avenue as, even although advertising was within legal limits, the increase in such boards could set a precedent. She had been advised that no action would be taken as the erection of such boards was permissible in that area.

3.3 *Dog fouling*

(3.4) The Chairman had met the dog warden, who had undertaken a full inspection three days later. No offenders had been apprehended. All dog owners had acted responsibly whilst wardens had been patrolling. It was noted that Dog Watch gave notices and phone numbers. The warden's number would be put into the next newsletter. **SS**

3.4 *Consultation on draft Strategic Police Plan*

(6) The Secretary confirmed that a short response to the Consultation, along the lines discussed at the previous meeting, had been submitted.

3.5 *Painting of Brodie Court*

(9.7) Cllr H Smith had raised the matter with the Environment Trust, who would make enquiries.

3.6 *East Road – crossing traffic*

(13.2) The Secretary reported that the reactive sign currently in Dirleton Avenue would be

moved to East Road in May/June as it had been agreed when the sign was acquired that it would be moved two or three times in a year. She would also enquire as to whether the town could have a second reactive sign and the cost thereof. It was agreed that former councillor, Mr R MacEwen would be asked if he would be prepared to analyse the data.

KS

[Cllr Hall entered the meeting]

4 North Berwick Colts – proposed sports pitch

4.1 Messrs John Arbuckle and Scott Wallace spoke as representatives of North Berwick Colts to clarify some questions which had arisen concerning the installation of a 3G pitch at the Recreation Park. They hoped to allay concerns as the Colts were very much part of the community. Mr Arbuckle described the background of the Colts, which consisted of 250 children aged 5-15 and 120 affiliated adults and was a North Berwick sports hub key member.

[ELC Cllr Berry entered the meeting]

4.2 The key aim was to develop a football and rugby facility with the same provision as other larger East Lothian towns. Increases in numbers resulted in perhaps five football games being played consecutively. There was a gap in the provision of football facilities because of unavailability and the condition of pitches. New housing developments would bring a lot of children into the area. The intention was to build a full-size all weather football or rugby pitch with the same surface as some premier league teams. It was hoped that the pitch would be in place by Spring 2014 with work starting in the next couple of months at the lower rugby pitch at Greenheads Road. Concerns which had been expressed were with regard to parking, lighting, appearance of the fence, and hours of use.

- **Parking:** there would not be much difference to current practice with no significant issues on Greenheads Road. The three main events which created parking difficulties at Greenheads Road were not relevant to the all-weather facility.
- **Lighting:** the current lights would be re-lamped and three new lamps would be installed. Concerns seemed to be based on the Astroturf at the High School but the new lights would not be the same. The meeting and members of the public were invited to view equivalent lighting at Haddington where there was very little diffused light. Cllr Hall requested a curfew of 22:00. As other pitches in area turned off lighting at 22:00, this was thought to be what would be applied for. Mr Henderson asked if adults could use the facilities after 22:00 and this was thought unlikely.
- **Fence:** the perimeter fence would be leaf green. It would be 4m high behind the goals and 3m elsewhere. The 2m wall behind the pitch which was in the application was because of the steep embankment. It had been revised to a reduced width and a height of 1m.
- **Noise:** noise would be monitored. The community club was being established to have more control e.g. to monitor parking in the correct place, where easiest access would be from the rugby club car park.

4.3 It was noted that during a site visit the previous week an attempt had been made to anticipate the concerns of the residents.

4.4 Alternatives had been considered extensively. The sports hub included the High School. However, if school pitches or the top of recreation park were used, it would remove one of current grass pitches. The pitch to be used doesn't drain well at

present, so using that site would improve it.

- 4.5 It was noted that Highland Games attendees would not be able to park there any longer.
- 4.6 New pitches were planned alongside the current High School pitches but no planning application had been made yet.
- 4.7 Although there were other sports in the sports hub as well as cricket, football and rugby, only football and rugby could use the pitches but others could use the storage facilities. Other pitches would be freed up for more use by other sports. The Hockey Club was supportive.
- 4.8 The facility was expected to be in full use evenings and weekends.
- 4.9 Mr Henderson objected to the proposed high fence in that location and was concerned about pipe band parking for the Highland Games.

5 Police report

- 5.1 136 calls had been made to the area including outlying villages, resulting in 12 recorded crimes, of which 7 had been solved, giving a solvency rate of 59%.

Reported crimes:

Fraud – 1 Assault – 1 Theft drive off (fuel) – 1 Theft – 2
Breach of antisocial behaviour order – 1 Theft shoplifting – 1
Theft of pedal cycle – 1 Misuse of controlled drugs - 2
Domestic assault – 1 Fire raising - 1

- 5.2 *101*

The new non-emergency number would replace all other non-emergency numbers from 21 February 2013, for reporting matters such as:

- car theft
- damage to property
- a minor traffic collision
- suspected drug use or dealing
- information about crime in their area

The number is available 24/7, 7 days a week and costs 15p per call.

- 5.3 COMMUNITY AND POLICE PARTNERSHIP (CAPP)

Priorities for the month were:

- *Youth activity* (see item 8.1 below) – Patrols to be carried out by police and warden. Visit to school to be made.
- *Dog fouling, children's play area, Dirleton* – action to be taken as necessary.
- *Speeding vehicles* – Offenders to be traced and dealt with appropriately.

The next CAPP meeting would be held at 19:30 on Wednesday 27 March at the Council Chambers.

- 5.4 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

6 Edington Hospital

- 6.1 The Chair and Cllrs Hall and Baker would attend a forthcoming meeting to discuss the questionnaires to be devised by the NHS. This would be reported at the next meeting. The Chair had been on Survey Monkey training course. The report of a local architect who had been asked to look at the site of the Edington and Health Centre had been encouraging as he felt that it would be possible to extend the building within the existing footprint to incorporate the necessary requirements to bring the building up to a fit for purpose condition.

7 Consultation on draft Statement of Principles – Gambling Act 2005

- 7.1 The deadline for a response to the consultation was 20 May. It was noted that NBCC had responded to the previous consultation on this subject. The item would be brought to the April meeting. **KS**

8 Planning matters

- 8.1 The following new applications were viewed and discussed and met with no objection:

Glenconner – erection of 1 house and associated works. Reapplication for access point in boundary

3 Abbots Close – alterations to house, erection of garden room and formation of hardstanding area

Site at Heugh Industrial Estate – erection of cabin and radio mast for a temporary period of 1 year (retrospective)

6 St Margaret's Road – erection of garage and workshop

Hamilton Lodge – formation of windows

1 Rhodes Holdings - extension to house, formation of dormer and recladding roofs

Former Gilsland Caravan Site – erection of sales cabin for a temporary period of 8 months

Benderloch – erection of 1 house, formation of pedestrian access and associated works

Flat 2, 2 Nungate – installation of secondary glazing

Tantallon Caravan Park – variation of Condition 5 of Planning Permission Ref P/1063/91

North Berwick Golf Club – development and change of use of area of open space to form a vehicledrop off and delivery point, erection of bollards and chain

Westerdunes House, Abbotsford Road – erection of wall -using new materials in line with existing wall as listed building.

The meeting discussed the following application:

8.2 *Corner Dirleton Avenue and Station Road* – erection of 1 house, formation of vehicular access and associated works. The meeting discussed access as it was understood that the Transportation Department wished to block the current access. A suggestion was made that they could have their own lights. It was felt that, because of the situation of the traffic lights, the suggested new access was no improvement on the existing one and therefore the existing one should be kept. **LH**

8.3 *Rocketeer*
It was noted that Mr S Stewart was appealing against ELC's decision to refuse planning permission for advertising signs at the Rocketeer. The case would be decided by the Scottish Government.

8.4 *ATM*
The Secretary reported she had been advised by Cllr Day that the cash machine in Quality Street was meant to mimic an original red phone box which it clearly did not and that enforcement action was being taken. The Post Office had apologised and it was to be replaced. It was agreed that a traditional appearance should be kept in the centre of the town, such as had been done with the street lights, in keeping with the 1790 'beehive' and other old buildings. It was felt that the town would benefit from a coherent colour scheme.

8.5 *Notice board*
The original quote for the proposed new community notice board had been for a large, metal board. In light of the above discussion, the meeting discussed design, size and access. The matter was to be considered further; an application would be made to the Common Good Fund.

9 Reports from groups and societies

9.1 *CAPP*
Cllr Bryson had attended the last meeting. A number of representatives from the Law residents group had complained about the behaviour of High School pupils, who had been loitering and possibly committing crimes. School staff seemed unable to take action. The police were investigating.

9.2 *Performing Arts Centre*
A successful public meeting, attended by around 70 people, had discussed the possibility of an Arts Centre. A huge amount of data had been received from responses and brainstorming and a report would shortly be circulated. The steering group had visited the Regal Centre in Bathgate and the Beacon Centre in Greenock. Both were impressive, one being a refurbished cinema and one a new build. Both were popular and multi-functional.

9.3 *Community Council cheque signatories*
Approval had been received finally from the bank for the change of cheque signatories. Cllrs Danks and Burton would be replaced by the Chair, Cllr Sinclair, the Treasurer, Cllr Scott and the Secretary, Cllr K Smith.

9.4 *Environment Trust*
The AGM would be held the following Thursday with a talk on "The North Berwick shores and their hidden granules – the plastics and other pollutants which are increasingly affecting our beaches".

9.5 *St Andrew's Old Kirk roof project*
Cllr Kellock reported that Cllr Day had called a meeting. The tender document was ready to go out.

10 Correspondence

10.1 There was none.

10.2 Cllr H Smith asked if there was a repository for documents. It was suggested that they could be kept in Dropbox or in the website for general view.

11 AOCB

11.1 *Changeworks*

A document had been received describing a scheme for switching and better use of power. Cllr H Smith would look over the document and report. **HS**

11.2 *Law car park*

ELC Cllr Berry was asked why the car park had been closed as builders were now parking in Wishart Avenue. Cllr Bryson was advised to complain to ELC.

11.3 *Performing Arts Centre*

It was agreed that Cllr Watson would be the official NBCC representative on the steering group.

11.4 *Raft race*

A question had arisen on the organisation of the Raft Race as a public event and whether it could be covered by NBCC insurance. The Chair would check the insurance policy. It was noted that the demise of the open air film was due to the fact that public liability insurance could not be carried for the event. RNLI oversaw the raft race but was not responsible for it. **JS**

12 Date of next meeting

19.30 on Tuesday 02 April 2013 in St Andrew Blackadder Church.