

**Royal Burgh of North Berwick Community Council**

**Minutes of the 442<sup>nd</sup> Public Meeting held at 19:30 on  
Tuesday 02 April 2013 in St Andrew Blackadder Church, North Berwick**

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

**In attendance:** ELC Cllr D Berry, local press, PC C Banks, Ms P Earle, Mr M Falk, Mr E Wales

**Absent:** Cllr H Flanagan

**Action**

**1 Apologies**

ELC Cllrs Day and Goodfellow, PC Dobbie

**2 Minutes of the meeting held on 05 March 2013**

Subject to the heading for item 9.3 being changed to '*Cheque signatories*', adoption of the minutes was proposed by Cllr Scott and seconded by Cllr Baker.

**3 Matters arising**

3.1 *Painting of Brodie Court*

(3.5) There had not been an Environment Trust meeting since the last Community Council meeting so there was no report on progress. **HS**

3.2 *Location of fire station*

(8.1) Suggestions had been made by members of the public that the fire service should stay at the Heugh Industrial Estate with the Station Road site being used for additional parking. The Chairman explained that there had already been agreement to rebuild the facility on the same footprint as before. Cllr Berry informed the meeting that a suggestion had been made previously to relocate the police station to the former Russell's yard adjacent to the old fire station and he suggested that this would be an opportune time to consider this further.

3.3 *Changeworks*

(11.1) The deadline had passed by the time the paperwork had been received so no submission had been made.

**4 Police report**

4.1 In the absence of PC Dobbie, PC Banks reported that 113 calls had been made to the area including outlying villages, resulting in 13 recorded crimes, of which 9 had been solved, giving a solvency rate of 59%.

*Reported crimes:*

Assault – 2	Malicious mischief – 1	Breach of the peace – 1
Theft shoplifting – 3		Road traffic offences – 3
Theft from motor vehicle – 1		Domestic assault – 2

4.2 COMMUNITY AND POLICE PARTNERSHIP (CAPP)

*Priorities for the month were:*

- *Youth antisocial behaviour in Aberlady* – Patrols to be conducted.
- *Dog fouling, children's play area, Dirleton* – further enquiries to be conducted.

- *Parking of builders' vehicles on Tantallon Terrace* – It was reported that no penalties applied to vehicles parked in a suitable manner and not committing an offence but patrols would be conducted.

The police had much appreciated the help given by the Law Residents & Tenants Association in the work of CAPP.

The next CAPP meeting would be held at 19:30 on Wednesday 24 April at the Council Chambers. All members of the public were welcome.

4.3 It was reported that the vandalism problems at the Nisa store were being addressed by patrols and community wardens. Local councillors had inspected the area with local residents. It was noted that the main Edinburgh bus did not use the stop in question in Dundas Road.

4.4 If members of the public would like an enhanced surgery conducted in the area, please contact 893585, or email - [laura.dobbie@scotland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:laura.dobbie@scotland.pnn.police.uk), [colin.banks@scotland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:colin.banks@scotland.pnn.police.uk) or [lothianscotbordersnorthberwickcoastalcpt@scotland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:lothianscotbordersnorthberwickcoastalcpt@scotland.pnn.police.uk)

Please note that these are new email addresses due to the change to Police Scotland on 01 April 2013. The new website, [www.scotland.police.uk](http://www.scotland.police.uk) would still be accessible through the previous website. The dog warden's phone number was 01620 827310 and the email address was [dogwatch@eastlothian.gov.uk](mailto:dogwatch@eastlothian.gov.uk)

## **5 Edington Hospital**

5.1 The Chairman commented that talks had been held with the NHS and the format and content of the questionnaire had been agreed. The NHS had approved the introduction to the survey and would meet the cost of printing 2000 questionnaires and the setting up of Survey Monkey. The architect's report had suggested that better use could be made of the footprint of the hospital and health centre which would ensure the continued use of the current facility. Members were requested to distribute and collect the questionnaires.

A request had been made to distribute the questionnaires in Aberlady and Gullane also and it was agreed to put some in to the Gullane Health Centre.

## **6 Parking**

6.1 (taken before item 5)

Messrs Falk and Wales represented the residents of Tantallon Terrace. They commented that it had been a relief to residents that the parking appraisal had ruled out Tantallon Terrace and Coo's Green as a solution to the town's parking problems. Mr Falk noted that parking should contribute to the economy of the town and the report had stated that parking there would mainly be by beachgoers. It was of concern that the car park could be used by campervans overnight. The area was not a golf practice area but used for many activities and had grazing rights. Residents had noted that, despite the report's recommendations, NBCC had requested that overflow parking in Tantallon Terrace should be considered. They felt that the report had been well researched and enquired why NBCC had made the proposal. The Chairman stated that no action would be taken without consultation. Cllr Macnair commented that, at the consultation meeting at the end of last year, Coo's Green had been identified as a possible site for 'bucket and spade' parking and NBCC had asked therefore that consideration be given to this suggestion. It was noted that it was important to offer parking to prevent people moving on elsewhere in the county. In addition, local residents might like to park there. Mr Falk felt that the proposal would not be warranted. Residents' letters had been passed to ELC. The meeting discussed

whether the public consultation had been truly representative of the views of those present, collated and fully reported or whether it was 'blue sky thinking'. Mr Falk suggested that further investigation of any recommendations not in the report be undertaken. It was pointed out that there would soon be a new byelaw to prevent overnight parking of campervans in the area. The Secretary was chasing the Scottish Government for confirmation of its implementation. Cllr Berry noted that the study was just a component of a long-term parking problem. The gridlock problems on holidays were a continuing feature. The two main proposed sites, extensions to the Glebe and Recreation Park car parks would not solve the problem and were not a solution for the town centre. Cllr Berry felt that a solution lay in parking outside the town.

## **7 North Berwick High School Parent Council**

- 7.1 A request had been made from North Berwick High School Parent Council to permanently secure the land adjacent to the school for playing fields. It was noted that Walker Group had submitted an outline application which included the option to reserve the land adjacent to the school. At the time of the initial development discussions the school rolls had dropped and therefore ELC had not felt that the land should be reserved at that time. Cllr Baker noted that the land was still zoned for educational purposes in the outline planning application.

## **8 Consultation on draft Statement of Principles – Gambling Act 2005**

- 8.1 The draft statement would be considered by members and, if deemed necessary, a response would be submitted by the deadline of 20 May.

## **9 Planning matters**

- 9.1 A predetermination hearing of the Ferrygate Farm planning application in principle would be held on 09 April. Cllr Berry described the predetermination process and resultant consideration of the application by the full Council. Cllrs Sinclair and Hall would attend. **SS, LH**

- 9.2 A predetermination hearing on the application for alterations and extensions to Engine Cottage, Abbotsford Road would be held on 09 April. A decision would be made at the meeting. A site visit would be held at 09:30 on 08 April.

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

*9 Hamilton Road* – extension to house and formation of hardstanding area.

*26 Gilbert Ave* – extension to house. This was a resubmission as the extension next door needed to be demolished as it was preventing light entering the proposed extension.

*3 Abbotsford Park, Abbotsford Road* – alterations and extension to house and formation of hardstanding area.

*24 Westgate* – alterations to flat (retrospective).

*26 Victoria Road (The Rocketeer)* – glazed extension to building. It was agreed that this plan was preferable to the current awnings.

*North Berwick Rugby Football Club Recreation Park* – development and change of use of area of open space to form car parking area. Cllr Hall would write to support the plan. **LH**

*15 Fidra Road* - erection of fence (retrospective).

*6 St Margaret's Road* – erection of workshop and car port.

*18-26 High Street* – display of advertisements.

*Land adjacent to North Berwick Sports Centre* – display of advertisement by Cala.

*Inchdura Lodge* – variation of condition 2 of planning permission 12/00808/P to allow for the erection of a wall along the north boundary of the additional garden ground for the house of Inchdura Lodge.

9.4 The meeting also discussed the following application:

*Land at Mains Farm* – planning permission in principle for the residential development of 420 houses, community facilities, open space, employment uses and associated infrastructure. It was noted that the pre-application notice had not been received by NBCC so there had not been an opportunity to discuss the plan with the Walker Group as yet. It was suggested that these houses could be styled in a way to reflect the character of North Berwick properties.

9.5 Cllr Hall had repeatedly requested the removal and replacement of the ATM in Quality Street.

## **10 Street naming for Gilsland development**

10.1 NBCC had been asked to suggest a street name for the development. "Gilsland Park", "Gilsland Grange" and "Gilsland Crescent" were discussed. Gilsland Crescent would be put forward for consideration.

## **11 Community Council grants 2013/14**

11.1 Community Councils in East Lothian had been commended by ELC on the work being done in their local communities. The Cabinet had recently approved the allocation of Community Council Administration Grants and Local Priorities Scheme budgets for 2013/14. NBCC would receive an administration grant of £851 and local priorities funding of £9,070. Allocations for both funds were based on the size of the electorate in each area.

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

12.1 *CAPP and the Law Residents & Tenants Association*

Cllr Bryson commented that the groups were working well together and the appreciation of the police was well received.

12.2 *North Berwick Trust*

Cllr Baker reported that a subcommittee meeting would be held on 12 April.

12.3 *St Andrew's Old Kirk roof project*

Cllr Kellock would attend a meeting on 11 April to discuss tenders for this project.

12.4 *Coastal Communities Museum*

Cllr Watson reported that progress was continuing. It was hoped that the museum would be open for the Open Championship in July. Funding options were being considered.

12.5 *Youth Network*

Cllr Watson commented that the group still intended staging an event in the Lodge Grounds on 15 June including music and art entertainment. Cllr Macnair requested publicity material for the Gilsland caravan park office.

**IW**

12.6 *Performing Arts Centre*  
Cllr Watson reported that the group was drawing up a constitution in order to apply for feasibility study funding. Comments to date on their progress had been favourable.

12.7 *Raft Race insurance*  
It was stated that NBCC was not willing to take over the running of the Raft Race because of problems with insurance for the event. It was regretted that the event might not be able to continue due to the need for insurance. The meeting discussed the possibility of fundraising for the hire of Elcho Green and the cost of insurance. If the problem was not solved by mid-April, the event would probably be cancelled.

The ELC public liability insurer had offered to meet NBCC.

### **13 Correspondence**

13.1 *The Open Championship*  
A Traffic Management Information Evening would be held at 6.30 pm on 10 April in John Muir House to discuss the proposed traffic management arrangements for The Open. Cllrs Bryson and Baker would attend.

**RB, MB**

13.2 *Consultation on wind turbine development*  
The consultation period would run till 17 May. The matter would be discussed at the next meeting.

13.3 *Training session on consultation*  
ELCPP Network was running a training session on consultation at Penston House, Macmerry from 9.30 am till 4 pm on 10 April.

13.4 *Rent review – store 2, 45 Melbourne Place*  
The Secretary had received a rent review letter from ELC in respect of NBCC's store at 45, Melbourne Place. There seemed to be some confusion as to the address of the store as a valuation notice had been received for 43, Melbourne Place; the Secretary would seek clarification. Cllr Watson was to be contacted by ELC regarding access so that an inspection could be carried out prior to the rent being reviewed.

**KS  
IW**

13.5 *Bat boxes*  
A letter had been received from a resident who felt that the bat boxes in the Lodge presented a danger of infection to children. It was understood that ELC had erected them so the correspondence would be passed to their Landscape & Countryside Department.

13.6 *Contact Centre, Penston House visit*  
Members were reminded of the visit to the contact centre at Macmerry on 11 or 18 April, for which spaces were still available but, as several councillors had attended on a previous occasion, nobody would be going.

13.7 *Community transport inquiry*  
The Scottish Government was seeking views on how community transport systems could be improved. The deadline for written views was 19 April.

### **14 AOCB**

11.1 *Repainting town signs*  
Cllr Watson confirmed that the work would be done when the weather had improved.

11.2 *Notice board*

The Chairman reported that a new quote for a double-sided metal notice board 1x2metres had come in at £1555 + VAT and delivery. Details would be circulated to members; a planning application would be submitted after further discussion.

**15 Date of next meeting**

**19.30 on Tuesday 07 May 2013 in St Andrew Blackadder Church**