

**Royal Burgh of North Berwick Community Council**

**Minutes of the 444<sup>th</sup> Public Meeting held at 19:30 on  
Tuesday 04 June 2013 at St Andrew Blackadder Church, North Berwick**

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

**In attendance:** ELC Cllr T Day, local press, PC L Dobbie, PC C Banks, ELC Cllr J  
                          Goodfellow (late)

**Action**

**1            Apologies**

ELC Cllr J Goodfellow, Cllr R Bryson (attending Harbour stakeholders meeting)

**2            Minutes of the meeting held on 07 May 2013**

Adoption of the minutes was proposed by Cllr Scott and seconded by Cllr Kellock

**3            Matters arising**

3.1            *Painting of Brodie Court*

(3.1)            It was noted that the appearance of the building was vastly improved.

3.2            *Repainting town signs*

(3.4)            It was reported that the signs had now been repainted and the original Royal Burgh sign had been repaired and returned. It was agreed that Jonnies Painting & Decorating Services bill of £408 for painting the signs and Milne & McNicoll's bill of £111.57 for repairing the sign should be paid from local priority funds.

3.3            *Insurance matters meeting*

(3.6)            It was confirmed that a representative of ELC would attend a meeting to discuss insurance matters with the Community Council on 18<sup>th</sup> June.

3.4            *Illegal parking in Kingston*

(4.5)            PC Banks confirmed that resolving the problem of the illegal parking outside Humble Pie in Kingston was on-going.

3.5            *Parking byelaw*

(6.2)            ELC Cllr Day reported that he had met with Peter Forsyth of Transportation and spoken to the Council solicitor. He confirmed that the matter was now progressing. It was anticipated that the Traffic Regulation Order would take up to 18 months to go through the system but this could be reduced to 6 to 9 months if another process was followed. It was hoped that it would be in place for next year.

3.6            *Community notice board*

(10.1)            It was reported that a quote of £400 for the erection of the notice board had been received and the advertisement planning application had been submitted.

3.7            *St Andrew's Old Kirk roof project*

(14.1)            It was reported that the meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> May had considered the tenders received for a feasibility study into the repair and future use of the building and a preferred bidder had been selected. At a meeting the previous week the preferred bidder had

attended and had gone through their proposals in detail. They were ready for immediate action and a survey of the building had started. The aim was to retain a picturesque ruin but the roof on the tower would have to be reinstated to protect the integrity of the building.

#### 4 Police report

##### 4.1 **Crime:**

Since the last community council meeting, there have been total 136 calls received by the police. This had resulted in a total of 14-recorded crimes for North Berwick. 6 crimes have been solved at this time.

Solvency of crime in relation to these 14 crimes was currently 43%. Enquiries were still ongoing into the remaining unsolved crimes and a number of the crimes previously reported in the May community council report had since been solved. The solvency rate from this time last year was 40% for all recorded crimes. Please note that any statistics recorded on the Police Scotland web page also includes crime recorded from the outlying villages, as does the solvency rate provided for this time last year.

The crimes reported in May can be expressed as follows:

Theft shoplifting	4
Assault	2 (2 solved)
Theft	4 (1 solved)
Vandalism	2 (1 solved)
Misuse of Drugs Act, Possession of herbal cannabis	1 (1 solved)
Threatening and aggressive behaviour	1 (1 solved)

##### 4.2 **Local initiatives:**

Police email addresses have changed due to the change to Police Scotland on 01/04/2013. PC Dobbie's contact is now [laura.dobbie@scotland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:laura.dobbie@scotland.pnn.police.uk) and the group e-mail address is [LothianScotBordersNorthBerwickCoastalCPT@Scotland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:LothianScotBordersNorthBerwickCoastalCPT@Scotland.pnn.police.uk).

4.3 The CAPP priorities agreed for April had been set as:

Priority	Actions to be Undertaken	Person responsible.
Parking at Marine Parade & Quadrant - Persons parking on SYL and inappropriate parking causing weekend congestion	Police and traffic wardens to monitor and deal with as appropriate	Police and Traffic Wardens

Speeding at the mid-section of the A198 – through Gullane where Crossing Patrol was	Police to Conduct Pro-Laser Checks	Police
Issues detected with early deliveries to Nisa Foodstores, Lochbridge Road, North Berwick	Patrols to be conducted and await delivery companies adhering to request of shopkeeper.	Police and Cllr Berry

**Any other matters:**

- 4.4
- The next CAPP meeting is due to be held on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2013 at 1930 hours within North Berwick Council Chambers. The meeting is public and all are welcome and encouraged to attend. The meeting has been advertised on the force web page and on the force Twitter site.
- 4.5
- If an enhanced surgery was required please contact Colin Banks or Laura Dobbie on 893585, 101, [laura.dobbie@scotland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:laura.dobbie@scotland.pnn.police.uk) or [colin.banks@scotland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:colin.banks@scotland.pnn.police.uk)
- 4.6
- The traffic warden had been told to book illegal parking in Marine Parade and the Quadrant. Further SYLs would require a Traffic Regulation Order.
- 4.7
- PC Dobbie agreed to comment on the effect of the changes on becoming Police Scotland at a future meeting but explained that there had been minimal effect on policing services locally.

**5 Edington Hospital/forum**

- 5.1
- The Chairman reported that the number of completed surveys received was now over 700. The results were to be sent to David Small who was now Director of the East Lothian Health & Social Care Partnership
- 5.2
- East Lothian Health Network was hosting a meeting on the integration of health and social care on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> June from 14.00 to 17.00 in the Saltire Room, John Muir House to explore the topic of public involvement in the future health and social care structure. Cllr Danks asked if the community councillors attending could put forward the Day Centre’s point of view as no-one from the Day Centre could attend.
- 5.3
- The Chairman pointed out that Sandy Ford, who had produced drawings of the proposed extensions/alterations to the existing building to comply with NHS requirements, was out of pocket to the extent of £360. The Friends of the Edington were prepared to meet half of his costs; it was agreed that the Community Council would meet the remaining half [proposed by Cllr Macnair & seconded by Cllr Scott].
- 5.4
- Mr Ford had been invited to attend a meeting with health officials on 25<sup>th</sup> June to discuss his plans.

## **6 Parking**

- 6.1 The Chairman reported that Peter Forsyth had confirmed that he intended undertaking a further consultation exercise in the autumn to establish support for the three car parks; preliminary designs would be produced for this purpose. The consultation would run for 4-6 weeks after which he would analyse the returns and advise local members. If the intention was to proceed, planning permission would be sought and an environment impact assessment would be required which would allow further representations to be made. The purchase of land, design and construction works would be planned in 2014/15.
- 6.2 The Chairman and Cllr Danks had met with two of the Friends of Coos Green who were unhappy that their side of the argument did not appear to be being listened to. They had now accepted that no further action would be taken without further consultation.
- 6.3 It was noted that the upgrading work at the Recreation Park car park was well underway.

## **7 Mains Farm Development (Walker Group) update**

- 7.1 A report from North Berwick Trust was tabled and is attached to these Minutes.

## **8 Ferrygate (Miller Homes) update**

- 8.1 A member of the public had requested that the Community Council arrange a public meeting in the event of an appeal being made to the Scottish Government. The appeal would require to be made within 3 months of the refusal of the planning application by East Lothian Council. It was understood they were awaiting the outcome of another appeal in the county before deciding whether to appeal.

## **9 Planning Matters**

- 9.1 The following new applications were viewed and discussed and met with no objection:
- *126 High Street – display of advertisements*
  - *22 Victoria Road – erection of trellis and gate*
  - *53 Westgate – variation of planning permission 08/00246/FUL to extend time period by a further 3 years*
  - *Summerhouse, Westerdunes Park – installation of stabilising brackets on top of balustrade coping (retrospective)*
  - *The Grange, Grange Road – alterations to building and formation of hardstanding area*
  - *4 Rhodes Holdings – erection of garage, formation of vehicular access and hardstanding area (retrospective)*

## **10 National Planning Framework report**

10.1 The Chairman and Cllrs Danks, Hall and Kellock had attended the drop-in session at the Gyle Centre on 30<sup>th</sup> May. It was agreed that we should concentrate on contributing to the Local Plan.

## **11 North Berwick Trust report**

11.1 This had been dealt with under item 7.

## **12 Putting Competitions – Calder & Crawford Cups**

12.1 The Secretary had suggested holding these competitions during the Tennis Championships again. The East Links putting green had been booked for 23<sup>rd</sup> July for the qualifying rounds and the 25<sup>th</sup> July for the finals. The event would be publicised as widely as possible in the hope of attracting more competitors. Help from fellow councillors would be required on the days.

## **13 Minute Secretary**

13.1 The Chairman reported that Penny Earle had resigned as Minute Secretary. She had written to her thanking her for her service to the Community Council over a number of years.

13.2 Someone had expressed an interest in taking on the role but would not be able to start for 3 months. The Secretary agreed to take the Minutes in the meantime.

## **14 Reports from Groups & Societies**

### *Festival in the Lodge*

14.1 Arrangements for this event from noon till 5.30 pm on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> June were well in hand. There was a musical theme this year.

Cllr H Smith suggested that this would be an ideal opportunity to raise the Community Council's public profile. It was agreed that we should have a stall and that Cllr Smith would take on the task of organising it.

### *Coastal Communities Museum*

14.2 It was reported that there would be a meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> June to hand over the building to the Trust. The Trust was grateful to the Stella Moffat Trust for the grant towards the cost of funding two special display cases.

### *Association of East Lothian Community Councils*

14.3 Members were reminded that the AGM would take place on 12<sup>th</sup> June in the Council Chambers, Haddington and that it would take the form of a facilitated knowledge sharing and feedback session with an opportunity for sharing good practice. The Chairman and Cllr Flanagan would attend the meeting.

### *Environment Trust*

14.4 It was reported that there was a move for the Trust to become a better forum for the built environment and streetscape. A meeting was to be arranged with various groups to discuss further.

## **15 Correspondence**

### *Raft Race*

15.1 Peter Hammond had confirmed that the Race would be taking place on 24<sup>th</sup> August and would be the last Race organised by him. He was hopeful of finding someone to

take over from him. He had thanked the Community Council for their support over the years. It was agreed that we should again donate £150 towards the prizes.

15.2 *Community Resilience*

Sandy Baptie, ELC Emergency Planning & Risk Manager, had offered assistance in developing the Community Council's resilience plans, dependent on risks such as severe weather. It was agreed that he should be invited to a future meeting.

15.3 *ELTRP Annual Conference*

There would be a conference on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> June in the Main Hall, Town House, Haddington focussing on the impact of recent Welfare Reforms.

15.4 *Public exercise station*

A suggestion had been made by a personal trainer in the town for the creation of a public exercise station similar to the ones found in the primary school. It was agreed that we could not drive forward such an activity but would support it.

15.5 *Law Race*

The Race would be taking place on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> August starting at 7.30 pm and the Community Council had been asked to present the medals as in previous years. A request for a contribution towards the cost of the medals had also been made. It was agreed to contribute £200.

15.6 *RAGES*

It was agreed to pay the annual membership subscription of £10

15.7 *Bonhams Valuation & Appraisal Day*

An invitation had been received from Loretto School to attend a Valuation & Appraisal Day by Bonhams on Sunday, 14<sup>th</sup> July at Pinkie House, Musselburgh.

**16 Any other competent business**

16.1 *Grass verge cutting*

The Secretary commented that for several weeks the Council had not cut the grass verges in St Baldred's Road because the crocuses had not died back with the result that they had become overgrown and did not create a good impression. Some residents, however, had cut the verges outside their houses. The Council had very recently cut the verges which were now covered in grass cuttings. It was noted that there was a similar problem in Lime Grove and Wishart Avenue. It was suggested that a catcher could be attached to the mower which would resolve the problem. ELC Cllr Goodfellow undertook to investigate.

16.2 *North Berwick in Bloom (NBIB)*

Cllr Macnair proposed a vote of thanks to NBIB for their recent success at the Scottish Royal Horticultural Show, winning a gold medal for their pallet and helping the Primary School with their pallet which had also won a gold medal.

16.3 *Sir Garth Morrison*

The Chairman had sent a letter of condolence to Lady Morrison.

16.4 *Christmas lights*

It was suggested that a meeting be held in the near future to discuss this year's plans. St Andrew Blackadder had agreed to lights being attached to the church building.

16.5 *Rubbish bins*

Complaints had been received about the overflowing bins in the harbour area. It was

suggested that the Council should consider emptying the bins in the evening which might help to resolve the problem.

16.6 *Newsletter*

The deadline for contributions to the next edition of the Newsletter was 21<sup>st</sup> June.

16.7 *Britain in Bloom – Champion of Champions*

Judging would take place in the week beginning 29<sup>th</sup> July.

**17 Date of next meeting**

**19.30 on Tuesday 02 July 2013 in St Andrew Blackadder Church**