

Royal Burgh of North Berwick Community Council

**Minutes of the 445th Public Meeting held at 19:30 on
Tuesday 02 July 2013 at St Andrew Blackadder Church, North Berwick**

Present: Cllr E Danks In the Chair (in the absence of the Chairman)
Cllr J Scott Treasurer
Cllr K Smith Secretary
Cllrs M Baker, R Bryson, L Hall, H Smith, I Watson

In attendance: ELC Cllr T Day, local press, PC Laura Dobbie, PC James McLeod (ELC ASB officer), Ms Sarah Russell, Matthew Atton

1 Apologies

Cllrs S Sinclair, D Kellock, W Macnair, H Flanagan (late), ELC Cllr J Goodfellow,

2 Minutes of the meeting held on 02 April 2013

After amendments to items 3.5 and 6.2, the adoption of the Minutes was proposed by Cllr Scott and seconded by Cllr Hall.

3 Matters arising

3.1 *Painting of Brodie Court*

(3.1) It was noted that the painting had been finished.

3.2 *Association of East Lothian Community Councils*

(14.3) Cllr Flanagan would be asked to report on the AGM held on 12th June at the next meeting.

3.3 *Christmas lights*

(16.4) Cllr Scott confirmed that there would be a meeting on 4th July to discuss this year's plans.

4 Police report

4.1 **Crime:**

Since the last Community Council meeting, there had been a total of 149 calls received by the police. This had resulted in a total of 9 recorded crimes for North Berwick, of which 1 had been solved at this time.

Solvency in relation to these 9 crimes was currently 11%. Enquiries were still on-going into the remaining unsolved crimes. A number of the crimes reported at the June Community Council meeting had since been solved. The solvency rate from this time last year was 20% for all recorded crimes. Any statistics recorded on the Police Scotland web page also included crime recorded from the outlying villages, and did not focus solely on the town of North Berwick.

The crimes reported in June could be expressed as follows:

Theft shoplifting	1
-------------------	---

Assault and robbery	1 (solved)
Theft	1
Theft drive off (fuel theft at pump)	1
Vandalism	2
Theft from insecure Motor Vehicles	2
Fraud	1

4.2 **Local initiatives:**

The main focus of attention at the moment was Operation Eagle, the police initiative revolving around The Open at Muirfield.

Road safety campaigns continued throughout summer and would continue to be a focus around the area in the build-up to The Open and during The Open.

People were reminded of the importance of providing information to the police. Where there was a lack of evidence in a case or a lack of witnesses, the smallest piece of information could be the key to solving a crime. Often people were concerned about remaining anonymous and felt they could not face being a witness at court for a number of reasons.

The independent charity CRIMESTOPPERS offered a completely anonymous approach to providing information to the police whilst keeping information secure.

Rewards were also supplied where information led to the charge or arrest of persons. Around 22 people were arrested a day in the UK as a result of information passed to police via Crimestoppers.

The telephone number 0800555111 and web link have been provided in the police report for reproduction and have been circulated in the CAPP minutes.

<http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org/how-we-help>

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

Priority	Actions to be Undertaken	Person responsible.
Residents report feeling fearful and concerned after recent events in Gilbert Avenue, North Berwick.	Police to conduct reassurance patrols in the area. Further work to be done at TRA meetings including providing anonymous information on CRIMESTOPPERS.	Police

Dog fouling reported to be unusually high in Aberlady and Gullane.	Patrols and the issuing of tickets where offences were observed taking place. Further information can be provided anonymously to CRIMESTOPPERS.	Community Wardens and Police.
Concerns raised over speeding vehicles at Ware Road, Dirleton.	Cllr Day to confirm that Ware Road was a 30mph area then police to patrol and issue penalties where offences were detected.	Police.

Date and time of next CAPP meeting was 19:30 at North Berwick Council Chambers on Wednesday 31st July 2013.

4.4 **Any other matters:**

- There had been a spate of telephone calls, allegedly from RBS, in the town recently resulting in one case of fraud being investigated. It was emphasised that banks never ask for personal details over the phone.
- Nominated neighbour packs continue to be available at North Berwick Police Station for those who prefer not to speak with cold callers on their doorstep.
- The Community Council had received a letter from the local police commander regarding a review of traffic warden provision and public service opening hours at police stations. It was agreed that our concerns should be conveyed to her.
- If an enhanced surgery was required please contact Laura Dobbie or Colin Banks on 893585, 101, laura.dobbie@scotland.pnn.police.uk or colin.banks@scotland.pnn.police.uk

5 Feedback on Festival in the Lodge

5.1 As agreed at the last meeting, the Community Council had had a stall at the Festival on 15th June. From the comments left in "the visitors' book", it was clear that many people had no idea what role the Community Council actually played in the local community. The Chairman had responded to those who had left e-mail addresses.

5.2 It was suggested that a forum of interested community groups, similar to the Youth Network, perhaps with a common website, be set up to share ideas, feedback comments and plan forward-looking strategies for the town. This would also provide an opportunity for the Community Council to establish contacts with other groups and organisations in the town which could be maintained for future mailings.

5.3 It was agreed that this would be an opportune time to revive Cllr Watson's Report

on the town.

6 Integration of health and social work

6.1 The Chairman and Cllr Hall had attended the meeting in Haddington on 12th June.

6.2 Cllr Hall was now a member of the East Lothian Public Partnership Forum.

6.3 Plans for a new integrated adult health and social care partnership for East Lothian were at an advanced stage. A new shadow board, to be chaired by Mike Ash, was being established and would include EL councillors. David Small had been appointed Joint Accountable Officer for Health and Social Care in East Lothian, taking up his responsibilities on 1st August and working closely with the shadow board and the East Lothian Community Health Partnership to manage the transition.

6.4 In due course, the shadow board would take over the management and budget for health and social care services in East Lothian. ELCHP would continue to manage services until then. It was important to note that changes to management structures would have a positive effect on delivering the care provided to service users within East Lothian.

6.5 This reform had four main objectives:

1. That health and social care services were firmly integrated around the needs of individuals, their carers and other family members;
2. That they were characterised by strong and consistent clinical and care professional leadership;
3. That the providers of services were held to account jointly and effectively for improved delivery; and
4. That services were underpinned by flexible, sustainable financial mechanisms that gave priority to the needs of the people they served rather than the organisations through which they were delivered.

6.6 There was concern that the new board did not have a scrutinising board but it was understood that there was a role for external scrutiny once the board had been elected.

7 Insurance update

7.1 The Community Council had had a useful and informative meeting with the ELC insurance representative. Although the Community Council had been covered by Zurich Insurance for some time their annual premium was £225 compared to £180 for the same cover from the ELC insurers. It was agreed to switch to ELC when the policy was due for renewal.

8 Planning Matters

8.1 *Ferrygate* – official confirmation had been received that the Miller Group was appealing to the Scottish Government against East Lothian Council's decision to refuse their planning application for 140 houses at Ferrygate. There was some doubt as to the timescale for submission of further representations and objections. *[It was subsequently confirmed that 19th July was the deadline]*. It was agreed that, as immediate action had to be taken to demonstrate community opposition to the proposal, a petition and public meeting should be organised. It was confirmed that the Council's planning officials would be responding to the appeal.

8.2 Following further discussion, it was agreed that developers should be encouraged to look at areas where smaller, affordable houses could be built to the west of the county.

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

- *Purves Cottage, 18 Station Road* – widening of vehicular access and erection of gates and gate pier;
- *11a Fidra Road* – alterations to house;
- *Flat 1 & 3, 10 West Bay Road* – alterations to flats and outbuildings;
- *26 Victoria Road* – display of advertisements (retrospective);
- *3 Netherlaw* – extension to house;
- *1 Rhodes Cottages* – extension to house;
- *14 Westgate (Blenheim House Hotel)* - alterations and extensions to building, erection of garage and walls, formation of terraces and hardstanding areas and erection of gates.

Mr Atton was invited to outline the new owners' proposals for the Blenheim, namely, to create an upmarket boutique style facility with high quality luxury bedrooms with ensuite bathrooms, open to all, but aimed in particular at the Scandinavian/American golf market. It was agreed that the hotel was in a poor state of repair as a result of low turnover in recent years and that any plan to improve the provision of good quality overnight accommodation in the town was to be welcomed.

9 Putting Competitions – Calder & Crawford Cups

9.1 As previously confirmed, the qualifying for the Calder and Crawford Cups would take place on Tuesday, 23rd July at the East Links putting green, commencing at 11 o'clock with the finals taking place on Thursday, 25th July - the Crawford Cup from 11 o'clock and the Calder Cup from 6 o'clock. Cllr Watson had prepared a new poster which would be put up throughout the town during the following week; he would also put up the sign at the putting green. A rota for help on both days would be circulated.

10 Coastal Communities Museum

10.1 Cllr Watson reported that the handover to the Trustees had taken place that day. There was still a lot of work to be done before the official opening by Sir Hew Hamilton-Dalrymple on Friday 12th July and the opening to the general public on Saturday 13th July.

11 Reports from Groups & Societies

11.1 There were no reports.

12 Correspondence

12.1 *Repainting town signs*

The Secretary had received a reminder from Jonnie Craigie for the outstanding bill for £408 for painting the town signs; it was agreed that this should now be paid.

12.2 *Application for variation of premises licence at the Glen Golf Club*

The Secretary had received from the Licensing Board notice of an application for variation to the premises licence in respect of the Glen Golf Club. Concern was expressed about the variations to the open licence and off sales consumption

provision requested. As it was not clear from the application what these meant, the Secretary undertook to clarify the position with the Licensing Board and then circulate members with details as the deadline for objections was 8th July.

12.3 *Consultation Hub*

An update on the Consultation Hub had been circulated by e-mail.

12.4 *Common Good Fund*

An interesting ELC Report on the Common Good Funds in East Lothian had been circulated by e-mail.

13 Any other competent business

13.1 *Pigeons*

Complaints had been received about the number of pigeons in the town.

13.2 *Newsletter*

A bill for £600 from the Royal Mail for delivery of the newsletter had been received. It was agreed to pay the bill as it had to be paid before delivery.

13.3 *Bus Regulation (Scotland) Bill*

The Community Council had been invited to comment on a consultation paper by Iain Gray, MSP on his proposal for a Bill to provide transport authorities with greater powers to set service levels for local bus services, including a power to group profitable routes with non-profitable routes before being put out to tender with operators. It was agreed that Cllrs Danks, Baker and Bryson would look at the paper with a view to commenting by the deadline of 30th August.

13.4 *Quality Street lights*

A request had been received for the lights in the trees in Quality Street to be switched on for The Open and the Fringe by the Sea. Cllr Watson would investigate.

14 Date of next meeting

19.30 on Tuesday 06 August in St Andrew Blackadder Church