

Royal Burgh of North Berwick Community Council

**Minutes of the 446th Public Meeting held at 19:30 on
Tuesday 06 August 2013 at St Andrew Blackadder Church, North Berwick**

Present: Cllr S Sinclair Chairman
Cllr J Scott Treasurer
Cllr K Smith Secretary
Cllrs M Baker, R Bryson, E Danks, H Flanagan, L Hall, W MacNair, I Watson

In attendance: ELC Cllrs D Berry & J Goodfellow, local press.

1 Apologies

Cllrs D Kellock & H Smith, ELC Cllr T Day.

2 Minutes of the meeting held on 02 July 2013

The adoption of the Minutes was proposed by Cllr Bryson and seconded by Cllr Baker.

3 Matters arising

3.1 *Painting of Brodie Court*

(3.1)

It was noted that although the painting of the front of the building was a huge improvement, it was felt that the rest of the building should have been done at the same time. It was also noted that the ground at the back of Brodie Court needed attention.

3.2 *Association of East Lothian Community Councils*

(14.3)

Cllr Flanagan asked that her report on the AGM held on 12th June be deferred to the next meeting. The Chairman commented that the meeting had been keen to share experiences of projects and was interested in community councils which produced newsletters. It was suggested that our website be linked to the AELCC website.

3.3 *Integration of Health & Social work*

(6.2)

Cllr Hall asked that the last Minute be amended by inserting 'now' between 'was' and 'a'.

An e-mail from NHS Lothian's Public & Community Involvement Co-ordinator had been circulated previously. It was agreed that the survey referred to therein was a waste of time; it was felt generally that this was another delaying tactic.

3.4 *Putting Competitions – Crawford & Calder Cups*

(9.1)

The Secretary reported that the event had been successful and it was pleasing that more under-14s had competed this year. Local boy, Ross Lunn had won the Crawford Cup and Billy Wilson, a visitor from Fraserburgh, had won the Calder Cup, both worthy winners. In a departure from the norm this year vouchers had been given to the prize-winners in the Calder Cup. She thanked Martyn Huish for generously donating the Crawford Cup prizes and golf balls and also those who had helped on both days.

3.5 *Application for variation of premises licence at the Glen GC*

(12.2)

The Secretary reported that further investigation of the application had revealed

that the Club currently had a licence which was restricted to members and guests. They were now applying for an open licence which would allow members of the public to go into the Club for a drink or a coffee. The operating hours were also to be amended but ELC Licensing had confirmed that there was nothing out of the ordinary with the application. In the circumstances the decision had been taken not to comment on the application.

4 Police report

PC Dobbie in giving her apologies for absence late due to an on-going incident in North Berwick had submitted the following report after the meeting -

4.1 Crime:

Since the last community council meeting, there had been a total of 222 calls to the area received by the police. For the Ward area there had been a total of 7 recorded crimes of which none had been solved.

Solvency of crime was currently 0%. Enquiries remained on-going in relation to the unsolved crimes. This time last year the solvency rate was 43.5%. It should be noted that this figure also represented crimes from the outlying coastal villages and was not specific to North Berwick only.

The crimes reported in July could be expressed as follows:

Vandalism	2
Sexual assault	1
Theft pedal cycle	1
Sec 57 Civic Government Scotland Act	1
Theft from a Motor Vehicle	1
Theft House Breaking	1

4.2 Local initiatives:

Operation Evasion had continued with attention being placed on the security of local and coastal car parks. Officers and traffic wardens would be patrolling the relevant areas and advising persons about leaving valuables on display within their vehicles and the dangers of leaving such items on display while vehicles were unattended.

The event season was underway and local officers had undertaken numerous events already.

4.3 The CAPP priorities agreed for this month had been set as:

Priority	Actions to be Undertaken	Person responsible.
Residents reported feeling fearful and concerned after recent events in Gilbert Avenue—this Priority was continued from last month.	Re-assurance patrols to be conducted in the area by Police and ELC Wardens	Police /Wardens

Parking issues at Tantallon Terrace/Marine Parade – in particular at weekends	Patrols of the area at the relevant times to detect offences	Police and Traffic Wardens
The crossing at Aberlady Main Street – people had started parking on the zig zag’s within the limits of the crossing	Patrols of the area to detect offences	Police

Any other matters:

- 4.4
- The next CAPP meeting was due to be held on Wednesday 28th August at 1930 hours within North Berwick Council Chambers. The meeting was open to the public and all were welcome and encouraged to attend. The meeting had been advertised on the force web page and on the force Twitter site.
 - 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

4.5 Cllr Flanagan reported that there was a problem with ‘boy racers’ in Forth Street.

5 Bus Regulation (Scotland) Bill - consultation

5.1 Cllrs Baker and Bryson had read the consultation document for a Bill proposed by Iain Gray MSP 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 putting them out to tender with operators. They commented that the proposals were good. It was agreed that they and the Secretary would prepare a response for submission by the 31st August deadline.

6 Proposed town food market

6.1 The Chairman was concerned to note that a group wanting to promote an outdoor food market in the town had suggested the Law Road car park as a possible venue. Although the initiative was to be applauded it was agreed that, given the parking problems in the town centre, the car park was not a suitable place to hold it. Market Place, the grassed area at St Andrew Blackadder Church and the forecourt of the Lodge grounds were suggested as alternative sites. The Chairman would write to the group with the community council’s concerns and suggestions of alternative venues.

7 NBCC Accounts for year ended 31st March 2013

7.1 The Treasurer tabled the accounts for the year ended 31st March 2013 which had been audited. They were now ready for submission to East Lothian Council.

8 Minute Secretary

8.1 The Chairman reported that the two ladies who had been interested in taking on the role were now no longer interested. She was in discussion with another two interested parties.

9 Recreation park car parking/ Station Court parking

9.1 Following comments that the refurbished car park was being under-utilised, the Secretary had written to Colin Baird, Area Network Officer in the Transport Division of ELC requesting adequate signage directing people to it. Confirmation had now been received that the Imperial and Glebe car parks were to be designated as short stay (3 hours) and the Recreation car park was to be signed as long stay. The signposting would happen after the necessary Traffic Orders were in place.

9.2 It was pointed out that the traffic island in Dunbar Road at the entrance to the car park was now in the wrong position and that, as there was no pavement on the east side of the road, pedestrians would require to cross the road. Routing to the town should be looked at.

9.3 The Secretary had received a letter from the Station Court Residents' Association regarding the congestion caused by overflow station parking on the access road to Station Court and the station. The cones currently placed by the fire station building contractors had greatly alleviated the problem but this was not the solution to the longstanding problem. The Secretary had written to Peter Forsyth of the Transportation Department of ELC, copying in Cllr T Day, and awaited a response.

10 Re-active speed signs

10.1 Confirmation had been received from Colin Baird, the ELC Area Network Officer that the re-active speed sign would be installed in East/Dunbar Road this month and would alternate with the proposed sign in Tantallon Road. He felt that the one in Dirlerton Avenue should remain as it was as it was proving to be effective.

11 Law Race – 7th August

11.1 Members were reminded that the Law Race would be taking place the following evening with a 7.30 pm start and that we had been asked to hand out the medals.

12 Planning Matters

12.1 *Ferrygate* – Following the successful public meeting on 15th July, the Community Council had written to the Directorate for Planning and Environmental Appeals of the Scottish Government objecting to the proposed development and requesting an extension to the time limit for objections to be submitted. The request for an extension had been turned down. It appeared that the Reporter had not yet been appointed. It was noted that Iain Gray, MP had been helpful and was against local decisions being reversed by the Scottish Government.

12.2 The following new applications were viewed, discussed and commented upon where appropriate:

- *Royal British Legion, Dunbar Road* - erection of 3 houses and associated works. It was suggested that access to these houses should be from Craigleith Avenue rather than Dunbar Road which would mean there would be no need to move the traffic island.
- *NBCC noticeboard, Law Road* – display of advertisements. Permission had

- been granted. The noticeboard would now be ordered.
- *CALA Homes (East) Ltd* – display of advertisements at Newhouse Road site. Permission had been granted before NBCC as statutory consultee had had an opportunity to consider the application.
- *Walker Group (Scotland) Ltd* – re-alignment of Haddington Road and formation of access to Mains Farm and Law Primary School. It was noted that a small portion of the education supplement on each house was to be used towards the cost of the re-alignment of the road.
- *1D Westbay Road* – alterations to flat and formation of decking.
- *1 Rhodes Farmhouse* – replacement windows.
- *Engine Cottage, Abbotsford Road* – part demolition of wall for a temporary period of 2 years.
- *Engine Cottage, Abbotsford Road* – change of use of grass verge and formation of vehicular access for a temporary period of 2 years. As concern was expressed, the removal of some trees would be questioned.
- *32 Glenorchy Road* – extension to house, erection of walls and fencing.

13 Reports from Groups & Societies

13.1 *Christmas lights*

It was reported that St Andrew Blackadder Church would be giving money to extend the lighting to fill the gap in the High Street. There had been discussions about postponing the switch-on for a week but as the original date had been publicised it would remain as 23rd November.

13.2 *Coastal Communities Museum*

Cllr Watson reported that the opening of the museum had been a great success and that in the first month there had been 1,000 visitors. It was hoped to have another exhibition after September. The Café was now open.

13.3 *Performing Arts Centre*

Cllr Watson reported that the group, which was now formally constituted, was progressing various options

13.4 *ELTR*

Cllr Bryson reported that the sale of the calendars produced by the local group had raised £500 which had been shared between the Christmas lights, North Berwick in Bloom, the Guides & Scouts and 1st Responders.

13.5 *Edington Forum*

Cllr Hall reported that the East Lothian Health Forum's representative at the meeting of the Edington Forum (EF) on 30th April had produced for the East Lothian PPF a highly biased and personal opinion of the meeting which, as it was distributed throughout the East Lothian Health Forum, would give a very poor picture of the work of the EF. He had not taken into account the changes made with the approval and co-operation of David Small and Carol Lumsden and had not reported on anything that had happened at the meeting, including the survey conducted by NBCC and the plans submitted for the extension to and improvement of the Health Centre and Hospital. His only positive contribution was that the EF should be disbanded and replaced but he did not say with what. Cllr Hall emphasised that the EF had the health services in North Berwick very much to the fore and would continue to do so. The next meeting of the Forum was scheduled for 24th September but there was doubt as to whether this would happen.

13.6 *North Berwick in Bloom*

The Britain in Bloom Champion of Champions judging had taken place on 29th July. The Chairman was disappointed that unsupervised dogs had been allowed to run

about in the Lodge grounds when the judges were there. The decision would be announced in October.

14 Correspondence

14.1 *Fire station*

The Chairman reported that work on the rebuilding of the fire station was progressing well and that the date for the planned return of the service to the building was November. She had been advised that it would be impracticable to provide public toilet facilities in the building for security reasons and insurance reasons (like for like re-instatement).

14.2 *RELBUS AGM*

The AGM of RELBUS would be held on 20th August in the Buffet Room of Haddington Town House at 7.00 pm.

14.3 *Dog Fouling Fortnight*

From 30th September till 13th October the Clean Up Scotland campaign would be focusing on a dedicated fortnight of activity to raise awareness of the severity of the issue of dog fouling in Scotland.

14.4 *Consultation on tackling and preventing litter and fly tipping*

The Scottish Government had published its draft National Litter Strategy for consultation which could be viewed on the Scottish Government website. Responses were invited by 27th September.

14.5 *First World War: Then and Now*

The Secretary had received a letter from Fiona O'Donnell MP drawing attention to the Heritage Lottery Fund's funding programme for projects requiring up to £10,000 to help understand the First World War and the legacy it had left on communities. She had also highlighted the Historic Scotland fund being run in conjunction with the War Memorials Trust to support the conservation of local memorials. Members were reminded that work had been carried out to the war memorial a few years ago but consideration would be given to other projects which would qualify for funding such as an exhibition in the museum.

15 Any other competent business

15.1 The Secretary had received a complaint from a resident regarding the proliferation of advertising A-boards blocking pavements, in particular Steam Punk in School Road/East Road, Fidra Fine Art in Dirleton Avenue and tables & chairs outside premises in Forth Street. She would raise the matter with the Roads and Licensing Departments at ELC.

16 Date of next meeting

19.30 on Tuesday 03 September in St Andrew Blackadder Church

