

Royal Burgh of North Berwick Community Council

Minutes of the 448th Public Meeting held at 19:30 on Tuesday 01 October 2013 at St Andrew Blackadder Church, North Berwick

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

In attendance: ELC Cllrs T Day & J Goodfellow, PC L Dobbie, Mrs A Turgoose.

1 Apologies

Cllrs M Baker & D Kellock.

2 Minutes of the meeting held on 03 September 2013

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

A correction to the spelling of the surname 'Macnair' was noted

3 Matters arising

3.1 *Re-active speed sign*

(3.3)

The Secretary reported that the sign had been installed but the accuracy of recordings was questioned. Cllr Watson indicated that only the range 27-34 mph would be displayed. Cllr Hall understood that only every fifth car was being recorded. The Secretary would check the situation with Colin Baird of ELC Transportation.

3.2 *Christmas Lights*

(3.4)

Cllr Watson reported that the hooks were to be inspected on 02 October and that a zigzag effect would not be possible to fill the current gap at St Andrew Blackadder Church. However, the gap could be closed, perhaps using a straight line.

Cllr H Smith reported the offer of entertainment from a dance troupe during the switch-on. She was advised to pass details to the Lights Committee.

Cllr Watson reported that there had been no progress in identifying the person responsible for attaching lights to the jawbone at the top of the Law. The Chairman stated that the issue of lighting the jawbone as part of this year's Christmas lighting would be raised at the next Christmas Lights meeting.

3.3 *Coastal Communities Museum*

(10.1)

Cllr Watson reported that the Museum would be looking for World War 1 material for an exhibition in summer 2014.

3.4 *Scotland's Seas Consultation*

(14.2)

The Chairman had e-mailed Tom Brock, Chief Executive at the Scottish Seabird Centre (SSC) regarding the Scotland's Seas Consultation 2013. The Community Council would like to align itself with the views of the SSC as this would best serve the community.

3.5 *Community Rail Partnership*
(14.3) The Chairman had been invited to a meeting later this month at the Scottish Seabird Centre to discuss the formation of a Community Rail Partnership.

4 Police report

PC Dobbie reported as follows –

4.1 Crime:

During September a total of 133 calls had been received by the Police. For the Ward area there had been 14 crimes of which 7 had been solved. A number of positive lines of investigation were being pursued. The crime figures represented crimes in North Berwick and the outlying coastal villages.

Solvency of crime was 50% up from 28% for the same period in 2012. Reported crimes included theft (1), fraud (1), shoplifting (1), police obstruction (1) attempted house breaking with intent (business) (1), drinking in a public place (1) harassment (1), theft of motor vehicle (1), racial breach of the peace (1), house breaking (2), theft from insecure motor vehicle (1) and assault (1)

4.2 Local initiatives:

A number of road traffic initiatives were underway to highlight road safety and driver safety to reduce accidents and casualties. Drivers were reminded to wear seatbelts at all times and not to use mobile phones or hand held devices whilst driving. There was also to be a focus on driving without valid insurance or MOT, driving under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol and on a safe driving manner for all road users and pedestrians.

4.3 CAPP priorities:

Lochbridge Road parking issues - Police and traffic wardens were monitoring safety issues caused by contractors' vehicles parked in the area. The public were encouraged to report any issues to the police.

Waighton and Newbyth – Police patrols were monitoring vehicles attempting to overtake the school bus while children were boarding.

Ballencrieff to North Berwick A198 – Police patrols were monitoring Cycle Clubs who were causing disruption by cycling more than two abreast.

4.4 Any other matters:

- PC Dobbie advised the Community Council that, from January 2014, Police attendance at Community Council meetings, not just North Berwick, could not be guaranteed due to organisational changes within Police Scotland. The implications for Community Policing remained uncertain. However, the Community Council was assured that, in the absence of police representation, a report would be available
- The next CAPP meeting would be held in North Berwick Council Chambers on Tuesday 29 October at 1930 hours. The meeting was open to the public and all were welcome and encouraged to attend. The meeting would be advertised outside the police station.
- 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 Macnair raised the fact that there appeared to be little awareness of the Highway Code and suggested it should be highlighted and possibly included on Police websites. PC Dobbie agreed that this could be helpful. The public were

encouraged to alert the Police if breaches were observed as these could be followed up e.g. by using CCTV evidence.

In response to questioning about discussion of the Highway Code in schools, particularly with reference to cycling on pavements or the wrong way down one-way streets, PC Dobbie confirmed that the Police were no longer involved as teaching staff dealt with cycle training and road safety more generally.

Cllr Watson asked if the Police could remind newsagents of the increased risks to newspaper delivery people during the darker mornings. It was agreed this was possible. The Community Council agreed to consider the potential to raise awareness of the Highway Code more widely e.g. among those attending The Space.

- 4.5 The ELC Cllrs indicated that they would be raising the question of the possible reduction in numbers of Community Police Officers and changes to the service delivered by Traffic Wardens at a forthcoming meeting with the Divisional Commander.

PC Dobbie left the meeting.

5 Local Priorities

- 5.1 Cllrs Scott reported a budget underspend of £2,500 last year

He explained that for the current financial year the following sums had been spent to date – Raft Race (£150); Law Race medals (£200); painting town sign (£408) repairing town sign (£111); Edington architect's fee (£180); Christmas lights – lockup rent (£926); Newsletter printing (£765); Newsletter postage (£600). The following sums had been committed but not yet spent – ELYC Fireworks (£400); 2 Newsletters (£2,730); Christmas tree (£482); re-active speed sign (£1,165).

- 5.2 He proposed that £1,000 of the underspend would go towards this year's Christmas Lights Project with the balance held in reserve. Cllrs Bryson and Macnair seconded the proposal.

6 Proposed town food market

- 6.1 The Chairman reported that two ladies from the Town Food Market Group had given a presentation of their plans to the Community Council but there had been no further information from them on the proposed site. She understood that a starting date of Easter 2014 had been proposed.

7 Litter Bins

- 7.1 The Chairman had obtained information from Edinburgh and Scottish Borders Councils about their gull proof sacks and bins. As it was ELC policy to tackle the issue at source, a number of steps were discussed. The Chairman had written to the main takeaway food outlets in the town asking for their co-operation in tackling this issue. The letter had been copied to the Business Association, The Environment Trust, ELC Councillors and the local press.

- 7.2 It was agreed to put the letter on the Community Council website and to use any other networking opportunity.

- 7.3 Cllr Watson had learned that one outlet was proposing to replace polystyrene containers with cardboard packaging but this was not yet in place.

7.4 ELC Cllr Goodfellow reaffirmed that most litter was placed in bins and that seagulls were the problem. Several Councillors were concerned about the lack of activity by the Council but it was agreed that there first needed to be action to tackle the problem at source. ELC Cllr Goodfellow suggested that, ultimately, if the issue persisted, the Community Council might need to approach ELC to discuss a pilot or other experimental approach to the problem.

7.5 Cllr Bryson had noted the presence of steel bins at Gullane. ELC Cllrs Day and Goodfellow were unaware of this but would check it out.

8 Edington Forum

8.1 Cllr Hall reported that that the Forum had met on 24 September. Sandy Ford's 'proof of concept' drawings had been examined by NHS staff. A second storey with 10 en suite beds was proposed. It had been agreed that the drawings had possibilities but as they had not been costed they could only be kept in mind as a possibility. The Edington's future was safe at present; it was felt as much as was possible had been done.

8.2 David Small, Joint Director of the East Lothian Health and Social Care Partnership, had provided information on the initial plans for the new Community Hospital at Roodlands with the overall aim of taking the services to the people. The effect of the Community Hospital on the Edington would have to be examined carefully.

8.3 The next stage in planning had to be aligned with the Scottish Government's Public Bodies (Joint Working) Bill effective from April 2015, the first draft of which was expected in mid-2014. As far as North Berwick was concerned a strategic commissioning plan would have to be produced for inclusion in the first draft. It had been suggested that either the already formed Edington Forum or the Community Councils in the North Berwick Coastal Ward form an introductory body to discuss the production of an effective strategic commissioning plan.

8.4 A meeting, to which representatives from the Community Councils in the North Berwick Coastal Ward would be invited, was proposed for 15 October to discuss how to take matters forward. ELC Cllr Goodfellow would chair the meeting. The Community Council supported the proposal.

9 Grazing on the Law

9.1 The Chairman reported that this matter had received a degree of publicity and an open meeting had been held recently. The Law was one of four East Lothian sites where Exmoor ponies would be introduced. They were already on Traprain Law and seven would be on North Berwick Law within the next few weeks.

9.2 Cllr Macnair raised concerns that the unique eco structure of the Law had not been fully considered. He suggested that Exmoor ponies might not graze effectively as they could be selective. Introduction of sheep might be advisable. He also noted that others had voiced concerns about the excessive removal of gorse which could result in loss of bird habitats and landslides.

9.3 Cllr Macnair had passed information about sheep grazing to ELC and had asked to be kept informed of developments.

10 Parking Consultation

10.1 The Secretary reported that Peter Forsyth of ELC Transportation was planning to put on-line on the Council's consultation hub a questionnaire which would be a

follow-on from the MVA North Berwick Car Park Site Appraisal and subsequent Cabinet Report of 9 April, focusing on car parks and on street parking management so that the Council could engage with the community on their proposals. Although it had originally been intended to have it in place in September, because of other priorities, it would not now commence before November. The consultation would be open for 8 weeks. Concern had been expressed that the consultation would be on-line as anecdotal evidence suggested that responses to on-line consultations were not great. He had confirmed that, whilst the on-line consultation would be their main approach, it would be supplemented with documentation placed in Libraries and Community Centre. The Secretary would be advised when it goes on-line.

11 Minute Secretary

11.1 Anne Turgoose had been appointed as Minute Secretary and was welcomed to the meeting by the Chairman.

12 Planning Matters

12.1 Cllr Hall drew attention to the fact that the names of individual planning officers were no longer indicated on the list of registered applications which meant that reaching the correct contact person could be difficult.

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

- *9 Melbourne Place* - extensions to house with first floor balcony.
- *Arrgask House, 6B St Margaret's Road* – extension to house.
- *3a Marine Parade* – alterations to flat including dormers, formation of roof terrace, pitched roof to porch, extension to garage, erection of shed and formation of hardstanding.
- *5 Marine Parade* – alterations to conservatory, formation of decking, handrails and steps.
- *Corner Cottage, 1 Quadrant Lane* – alterations to house.
- *4 Rhodes Holdings* – installation of air source heat pump.

12.3 *Royal Burgh Sign* – The Secretary had been asked by ELC about the retention and relocation of the recently refurbished Royal Burgh signage on the Haddington Road following the proposed re-alignment of the road. It was agreed that the sign should be retained and repositioned at an appropriate place at the entrance to the town. If possible the existing poles should be retained but this could prove to be impractical.

12.4 *Mains Farm – Walker Homes Development*
It was confirmed that planning permission had been granted on 1 October.

13 Reports from Groups & Societies

13.1 *CAPP*
Cllr Bryson emphasised the need to retain Community Policing. Cllrs Day and Goodfellow indicated that they would be raising the matter at a forthcoming meeting

13.2 *Environment Trust*
Cllr H Smith reported that the Trust had written to several organisations in the town proposing a plan for the townscape but had been disappointed with the response. The Community Council had been the only responder.

- 13.3 *Coastal Communities Museum*
Cllr Watson reported that the Museum had closed on 28 September having welcomed over 4,000 visitors. Community partners had been asked for exhibits so that the Museum could be kept open 3-4 days per week. There was no shortage of ideas or materials.
- 13.4 *Performing Arts Centre*
Cllr Watson referred to the feasibility study. Ways to fund the study had yet to be identified.
- 13.5 *Representation on NB High School and Law Primary School Parents' Councils*
Cllr Flanagan had been invited to join the Parents' Council of both schools. It was agreed that as the Community Council had no representation on either Council she would report back as appropriate. She was also a member of the East Lothian Partnership.
- 13.6 *Association of East Lothian Community Councils*
The next meeting was on Wednesday 13 November. No Minutes had been received from the last meeting.
- 13.7 *East Lothian Health Forum*
Cllr Hall had met the newly appointed Chief Executive of NHS Lothian. The next meeting of the Forum was on 7 November.

14 Correspondence

- 14.1 There was none

15 Any other competent business

- 15.1 *Christmas Lights*
Cllr Scott reported that he had not received a reply from the Business Association regarding the Christmas Lights. He would e-mail again. Cllr Danks suggested that the Community Choir might like to be involved with the switching on celebrations and would check the position. Cllr H Smith would obtain further information from the dance troupe and suggest they contact Cllr Scott.
- 15.2 *Street naming*
Cllr Macnair expressed concern regarding a perceived lack of protocol/procedure regarding the naming of streets. This had arisen from recent experiences with CALA and the naming of streets in the Gilsland Development.

ELC Cllr Goodfellow explained that Community Councils could put forward suggestions but these might not always be accepted. The three Ward Councillors had to unanimously approve any suggestions. There was the potential for a breakdown in communication but procedures were clear.
- 15.3 *Market Street lights*
Lights were reported to have been out for over a month. Cllr Watson agreed to investigate.
- 15.4 *Leaf sweeping*
Cllr Flanagan asked ELC Cllr Goodfellow to check out the frequency of street cleaning as excessive leaf accumulations had been observed.

15.5 *Westbay Road closure*
The Secretary asked how long Westbay Road would be closed and how long the traffic lights would be on Station Hill. These were likely to be in place until April 2014.

15.6 *Seating/shelter at Abbey Road bus stop*
Cllr Danks raised the question of seating or a shelter to accommodate people waiting for buses at the stop at the top of Abbey Road. ELC Cllr Goodfellow agreed to check this with the Transportation Department.

16 Date of next meeting

15.1 **19.30 on Tuesday 05 November in St Andrew Blackadder Church**