

## Royal Burgh of North Berwick Community Council

### Minutes of the 449<sup>th</sup> Public Meeting held at 19:30 on Tuesday 05 November 2013 in 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, D Kellock, L Hall, W Macnair, I Watson  
(attended for part of the Meeting, after Fireworks display)

**In Attendance:**                    ELC Cllrs T Day and J Goodfellow, local Press, PC Alan Halliday, Special Constable Stephen Harper, A Turgoose

- 1                    (a) Apologies**  
Cllrs H Smith and ELC Cllr D Berry. (Cllr H Smith joined the meeting later in the session)  
**(b) Absent** - Cllr H Flanagan
  
- 2                    Minutes of the meeting held on 1st October 2013**  
The adoption of the Minutes was proposed by Cllr Danks and seconded by Cllr Baker
  
- 3                    Matters arising**
  - (3.1) *Reactive Speed Sign:* The Secretary reported that she had clarified the accuracy of recording with Colin Baird of ELC Transportation and had circulated this. The sign would be activated between speeds of 27 and 45 mph. The sign would show "Slow Down" above 45mph  
  
In response to discussion as to how data would be collected and used, Cllr Goodfellow offered to ask Robin McEwen to contact the Secretary about this.
  - (3.4) *Scotland's Seas Consultation:* The Chairman had been in contact with Tom Brock, Chief Executive of The Scottish Seabird Centre (SSC) to discuss Community Council alignment of views with those of SSC. Any views should be with the Chairman before the week commencing 11 November.
  - (3.5) *Community Rail Partnership:* The Chairman reported that she had attended a meeting with wide representation. The next step was the preparation of a draft Charter
  - (5.1) *Local Priorities - Budget:* It was confirmed that the Community Council had donated £400 to the EL Yacht Club for the Fireworks Display on 5 November
  - (8.4) *Edington Forum:* ELC Cllr Goodfellow advised that he would be chairing a meeting of representatives from the Community Councils in the North Berwick Coastal Ward on Tuesday 12 November at the Gullane Day Centre.

(9.1) *Grazing on the Law*: Cllr Macnair asked if the ponies on the Law were being leased. ELC Cllr Goodfellow agreed to check the position.

(15.6) *Seating/ shelter at Abbey Road bus stop*: ELC Cllr Goodfellow apologised for his delay in checking the position.

#### **4 Police Report**

PC Halliday from the East Lothian Community Action Team and Special Constable Harper attended in the absence of PC Dobbie who had submitted a written report.

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

During October there had been a total of 120 calls received by police. For the Ward area there had been 10 recorded crimes of which 3 had been solved. The crime figures represented crimes in North Berwick and the outlying coastal villages

Solvency of crime was currently 30%, up from 11% for the same period in 2012. Enquiries remained ongoing in relation to the unsolved crimes with a number of positive lines of investigation being pursued. A number of unsolved crimes from the previous month had also been solved. Reported crimes included shoplifting (1), theft (3), malicious mischief (1), possession of controlled substance (drugs) (2) - solved, racial breach of the peace (1) - solved, house breaking (1) and vandalism (1)

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

A number of road traffic initiatives had been underway to highlight road safety. As an objective of Police Scotland was to reduce road accidents and ultimately road casualties, focus was being placed on driver safety. With darker nights this was as important as ever. Drivers were reminded to wear seatbelts at all times and not to use mobile telephones or hand held devices whilst driving.

The initiatives also focused on persons driving without valid insurance or MOT, persons driving under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol and a focus on a safe driving manner for all road users and pedestrians.

4.3 CAPP had agreed three priorities for this month:

##### **Priority 1.**

Gilbert Avenue, North Berwick.

##### **Actions to be undertaken**

Meeting to be organised between local residents, Community Officers and Housing association.

**Progress** : Police and ELC (Jim McLeod)

##### **Priority 2**

Nisa store Lochbridge Road.

##### **Actions to be undertaken**

Ongoing complaints regarding loading and door sensor

**Progress:** ELC Cllr Berry

### **Priority 3**

Concerns regarding Halloween and Bonfire Night

#### **Actions to be undertaken**

Complaints regarding issues in previous years regarding eggs being thrown and fireworks being discharged out with displays.

**Progress:** Police, (patrols and plans already in place).

4.4 **Date and time of next meeting: 19:30 at North Berwick Council Chambers on Wednesday 27 November 2013.** The meeting is public and all are welcome and encouraged to attend. The meeting would be advertised on the Force web page and on the Police Scotland Twitter site.

4.5 In discussion, the issues regarding cyclists riding without lights, riding the wrong way on one way streets and/ or on pavements were highlighted. It was recognised that cyclists could pose a threat to themselves and members of the public. Police reported that they could do educative work with kids in schools but, with adults, it was more difficult. The Police agreed to look again at the issues raised in the meeting.

4.6 The question of the length of time it took for Police to attend an incident in North Berwick at 1am on Sunday 3 November was raised by Cllr Baker. PC Halliday said that this would be investigated.

4.7 In the event of questions or queries, contact Laura Dobbie or Colin Banks on 01620 893585, [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)

PC Halliday and Special Constable Harper left the meeting after discussion of the report

### **5 Christmas Lights**

5.1 The Choir had been in contact to discuss arrangements. Cllr Scott would forward details to Cllr Danks. Attendance of the Lifeboat Queen, two escorts and a surprise Celebrity to switch on the Lights had been confirmed. Switch On would be advertised for 4pm on Saturday 23 November at Abbey Church.

5.2 Cllr Watson confirmed that a piper would lead Santa at the Christmas Lights parade.

5.3 The Chairman reported that cheques from businesses were still being received and that the number of stickers sold at this point matched that of 2012. She had also distributed the Christmas Quiz to the usual outlets. There would be a meeting to discuss hospitality but, at this stage, everything appeared to be on course.

### **6 Litter Bins**

6.1 The Chairman reported that she had written to Stuart Pryde, ELC Principal Amenity Officer inviting him to a meeting with Community Councillors as it was considered important to have ELC on board for any future initiatives. It was noted that Edinburgh would be pursuing a high tech option. Cllr H Smith had already indicated that she could not support an alternative bin which did not have a recycling facility.

6.2 The Chairman advised that a request for funding to implement a high tech solution could be made to Civic Pride, applications to be submitted by the end of November.

6.3 There was consensus that a meeting with Mr. Pryde was needed.

6.4 The Chairman commented that a future meeting of the Association of East Lothian Community Councils would include a talk on recycling.

## **7 Community Notice Board**

7.1 The Chairman reported that the board would be ready w/c 11th November. The intention would be to have the board installed before Christmas. She confirmed that planning permission had been agreed.

## **8 Parking Consultation**

8.1 The online consultation was not yet in place. ELC Cllr Day had been assured that it would be in place within the next few weeks. Hard copies of the consultation paper would also be available through the Library and Community Centre. The Press would also help publicise the consultation. ELC Cllr Day offered to liaise with the Press.

## **9 Newsletters for 2014**

9.1 The Chairman explained the current arrangements for Newsletter layout, printing and distribution using Royal Mail. She personally had designed the layout and had researched options for printing and distribution to ensure value for money. To continue using Royal Mail, new contracts for 2014 would need to be agreed. She sought views and support for the continuation of the present arrangements.

9.2 Cllr Bryson proposed support to continue as at present, seconded by Cllr K Smith

## **10 Training Courses Report**

10.1 Cllr H Smith was not present for this item, due to a prior commitment. She attended the latter part of the meeting but asked that the item be deferred to a future meeting.

## **11 Planning Matters**

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

- 12 Quality St - erection of 2 units of holiday letting accommodation and the formation of hardstanding area.
- Links Lodge, Links Road - demolition of house.
- Links Lodge, Links Road - erection of 1 house, garage/storage building and associated works.
- 33 Marmion Road -alterations to flat, erection of shed, greenhouse, gates, railings, trellis, external stair with seating area and formation of decked area.
- 15 Westgate - installation of roof windows.

- 68 High St - display of advertisement.
- 2, Marleyknowe, Windygates Road - internal alterations to flat.
- 117 High St - alterations to shop front and installation of ATM machine.
- 36 St Andrew St - extension to house

## **12 Remembrance Sunday**

12.1 The Chairman asked Community Councillors to assemble at Abbey Church at 10.15am. The service at the War Memorial would commence at noon.

## **13 Reports from Groups and Societies**

### **13.1 *Fireworks display***

Cllr Watson reported that the Fireworks display held earlier that evening had been very successful with a huge turnout.

### **13.2 *Coastal Communities Museum***

Cllr Watson confirmed that the Museum was still optimistic that Winter opening would be possible.

### **13.3 *St Andrew's Old Kirk Project***

Cllr Kellock reported that the working group was exploring different aspects with other organisations that had relevant experience e.g. looking at funding opportunities.

### **13.4 *CAPP***

Cllr Bryson had attended the last CAPP meeting and commented that 3 Police representatives, (not local), Chair and 3 members of the public had attended.

### **13.5 *Law Residents' and Tenants' Association***

Cllr Bryson gave an update on the recent, very well attended AGM and noted that the Association had enjoyed a very successful year.

He reported that the first phase of the new houses would be allocated early in January 2014, a second phase at the end of January and the third phase at the end of March 2014.

The money given by Harts the Builders had still to be allocated.

### **13.6 *Health Service Reorganisation***

Cllr Hall had attended two meetings. She outlined some of the problems which had been identified; including the particular transport difficulties faced by disabled, for example, people attending hospital appointments. She reported that the present service appeared to consist of a range of organisations working in the same area but disjointed and with different approaches.

The Chairman commented that David Small, the recently appointed Joint Director of East Lothian Health and Social Care Partnership would, no doubt, be giving this consideration.

## **14 Correspondence**

### **14.1 *Application for variation of premises licence***

The Secretary had received notice of an application to vary the premises licence in respect of 37-39 Quality Street by including live music and televised sport in their operating plan. As there were residential properties above, adjacent to and opposite the premises, it was agreed that the Secretary would write to the Licensing Board with these concerns.

### **14.2 *Commonwealth Games Baton Bearer***

The baton for the Commonwealth Games will be carried through East Lothian on 17 June 2014. A request had been received to nominate individuals who could act as baton bearers. The nominees needed to meet certain criteria.

Any suggestions should be passed to the Secretary. The deadline for nominations was 22 November.

### **14.3 *Nominations for Royal Garden Party 2014***

The Interim Lord Lieutenant had asked the Community Council to nominate those thought to be deserving and suitable for an invitation to the Queen's Garden Party. Nominees should be British citizens who have not previously attended a Queen's Garden Party. Nominations should be with the Lieutenancy Office by the end of the year.

### **14.4 *ELTRP***

A Learning and Business Review Day would be held in the Brunton Hall on 19 November from 10.30am to 3.30pm.

### **14.5 *ATC Cadets Presentation***

The Secretary reported that an invitation had been received to attend an ATC cadet presentation on Tuesday 26 November at 19.15 in St Andrew Blackadder Church Hall. Anyone interested in attending should let her know.

### **14.6 *Police Scotland East Lothian Public Consultation.***

A Police Scotland Consultation paper had been received. The Chairman would arrange for it to be circulated to Community Councillors.

### **14.7 *Referendum Debate***

The Secretary had received a request to organise a debate on the Independence Referendum. It was agreed that as the Community Council was apolitical, organising such a debate would be inappropriate.

### **14.8 *Local Democracy Survey***

ELC Cllr Goodfellow asked if the Community Council had received a survey about local democracy. It was a Scottish Government initiative.

The Secretary agreed to check the situation and, in the absence of information, would contact Cllr Goodfellow.

## **15 Any other competent business**

### **15.1 *Youth Band***

Cllr Scott had learned that a youth band who had played at the event in the Lodge

Grounds in June had secured other opportunities in the music industry.

15.2 ***Local priorities***

The Treasurer (Cllr Scott) confirmed that, in the Local Priorities Budget, a sum of £597.00 remained uncommitted for the current year.

15.3 ***Fire Station***

Cllr Danks noted the progress towards reopening of the Fire Station in the near future.

15.4 The Community Council congratulated the Fire Service for their efforts in maintaining a professional service while unable to operate from their building in Station Road. It was agreed that the Community Council would donate £100 towards the celebratory reopening of the Station.

The meeting closed at 21.00

**16 Date of next meeting: 19.30 on Tuesday 3 December in St Andrew Blackadder Church.**