

Royal Burgh of North Berwick Community Council

Minutes of the 451st Public Meeting held at 19.30 on Tuesday 07 January 2014 in St Andrew Blackadder Church North Berwick

Present: Cllr S Sinclair Chairman

Cllr K Smith Secretary

Cllrs M Baker, E Danks, D Kellock, L Hall, W Macnair, I Watson

In attendance: ELC Cllrs D Berry, T Day and J Goodfellow, local Press, PC Colin Banks, Mrs A Turgoose, Mrs K Gilhooley & a group of residents from Dirleton Court, Sandy Baptie.

1 Apologies: Cllrs R Bryson, H Flanagan, H Smith and J Scott.

2 Minutes of the Meeting held on 3rd December 2013

The adoption of the Minutes was proposed by Cllr Kellock and seconded by Cllr Hall.

3 Matters arising

3.1 Christmas Lights:

(3.5) Cllr Watson reported that most of the lights had worked well. Recently, some had failed at the end of the High St – this could be weather related. Approximately half of the tree lights on Quality St were not working and a tree specialist might be required. In response to a query from Cllr Macnair as to the timing of the work, Cllr Watson said that it was likely to take place before there were many leaves on the trees but the tree specialist would advise.

The Chairman commented that the accounts had not yet been finalised but she was hopeful for the future of the Lights.

The Secretary reported that another invoice had been received from Scorpio and that it would be passed to the Treasurer

3.2 Community Notice Board

(7.1) The Chairman confirmed that the notice board was now in place but not yet in use. Cllr Hall commented that it was not immediately obvious how to access the board and that the public would need to be alerted to its existence. In discussion, the cost of the board was raised – the Chairman agreed to check this with the Treasurer.

Cllrs Watson, Macnair and K Smith remarked that the size of the board was smaller than expected. The Chairman reminded Cllrs that they had seen plans and had approved the design and size. She hoped that community side of the board would be used to promote local events, coffee mornings etc. She also noted that other notice boards in the town were not in good condition and might need attention, at some point.

3.3 SESplan Consultation

(10.1) The Chairman thanked the Councillor who had sent a contribution which had been incorporated into the response.

3.4 **Application for a variation of premises licence – Bunney’s 96 High St**

(14.2) The Secretary had contacted ELC Licensing Department who had received objections to the application which was to be considered on 24 January. She had written with the Community Council’s concerns about the proposed extension to opening hours and the impact of playing music at all times and live performances at certain events.

3.5 **Nominations for Royal Garden Party 2014**

(14.6) The Secretary confirmed that four nominations had been submitted to the Lord Lieutenant’s Office.

4 **Police Report**

4.1 PC Banks reported that during December a total of 161 calls had been received by Police. For the Ward area there had been a total of 23 recorded crimes of which 10 had been solved. Solvency of crime was at 43%. Enquiries remained on-going in relation to the unsolved crimes with a number of positive lines of investigation. A number of unsolved crimes from the previous month had since been solved. This time last year the solvency rate was 36%. This figure also represented crimes from the outlying coastal villages and was not specific to North Berwick.

Crimes reported in December can be expressed as follows

Breach of the Peace	2(2 solved)
Theft	5
Assault	5(3 solved)
Misuse of Drugs Act	2(1 solved)
Theft/ abusive behaviour	2(2 solved)
Theft/ housebreaking	2
Vandalism	2
Being in building area/ intent to steal	1
Pedlars Act	1(solved)

4.2 **Local Initiatives**

A number of road traffic initiatives had been underway to highlight road safety. As an objective of Police Scotland to reduce road accidents and ultimately road casualties, focus was on driver safety. In the darker nights this was as important as ever. Drivers were reminded to seatbelts at all times and not to use mobile phones or handheld 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 safe driving manner for all road users and pedestrians. These initiatives continue into January.

4.3 **CAPP**

CAPP priorities were carried forward from last month as no December meeting took place.

Priority: Parking issues at Ware Road/ Dirleton Avenue

Actions to be undertaken: Patrols to be conducted by Police

Priority: Festive Road Checks in relation to road and vehicle safety

Actions to be undertaken: Police would be conducting numerous road checks

Priority: Keeping people safe through Christmas and New Year activities.

Actions to be undertaken: Police would focus on ensuring the safety of local residents during the festive season

4.4 **Other Matters**

The next CAPP meeting would be hosted by North Berwick High School on Wednesday 29th January 2014 at 19.30. The meeting was public and all are welcome and encouraged to attend. If there are any queries or questions, please contact Laura Dobbie or Colin Banks on 01620 893583, laura.dobbie@scotland.pnn.police.uk or colin.bank@scotland.pnn.police.uk

- 4.5 Cllr Baker asked about the scale of drink driving offences. PC Banks reported that two offences had been recorded, neither in North Berwick. This was much the same as last year. ELC Cllr Berry commented that the town had been very busy over the New Year. He said that North Berwick was becoming more popular as a location on New Year's Day. PC Banks noted that this year's festivities had lasted until almost 4am

PC Banks left the meeting at this point.

5 **Resilient Communities**

5.1 **Presentation by Sandy Baptie, Emergency Planning and Risk Manager ELC.**

Mr Baptie set out his role in identifying risks, planning, responding and handling the recovery phase in an emergency situation. He emphasised the role of the community working alongside ELC in a multi-agency response. The risks for North Berwick included coastal flooding, oil pollution, loss of utilities/ power cuts and fuel disputes. A key task was to identify local contacts who had the skills, resources and equipment etc to assist in an emergency. Plans would incorporate actions to help vulnerable people in the community.

He referred Community Councillors to the "Ready Scotland" website which provided information on developing a Community Resilience Plan. The multi-agency approach meant that, depending on the situation, RNLI and Coastguards could have a role. In an emergency, all means of communication were used – tweets, email, website, local radio

- 5.3 ELC Cllr Berry said that, while people had a responsibility for their own properties, ELC could have a role where lives are at risk.
- 5.4 Mr Baptie invited the Community Council to send two representatives to a workshop where Councillors, voluntary groups and ELC staff could work through possible emergency scenarios. The Chairman confirmed that two people would attend the October event at the Brunton Theatre.
- 5.5 Cllr Danks recalled the role of the Day Centre in taking food and medication to elderly people during snowy conditions. Mr Baptie emphasised that whoever was responsible for taking the lead on Community Resilience would need to set up the necessary links.

- 5.6 ELC Cllr Berry suggested that, as a preventative measure, the sewerage works be considered a vulnerable facility as it was in need of attention. His view was supported by the Community Councillors. Mr Baptie agreed to raise this matter with the appropriate engineers

He was thanked and left the meeting at this point

6 Area Partnerships

- 6.1 The Secretary reported that the Community Council had been invited to send 1-2 Councillors to a Coastal Ward briefing on Monday 3rd February in the Hope Rooms 7-9pm. Topics for discussion would include the role and operation of Area Partnerships, the Area Coordinator's role and working with partners.

The Chairman indicated that she would attend and that it would be helpful if the other delegate had not attended a previous event.

Councillors were to express interest to the Secretary by 24th January

- 6.2 Councillor Macnair commented that a concise statement of the role of Area Partnerships was still required. The Chairman confirmed that this had been requested.

7 Parking Consultation

- 7.1 The Secretary reported that this was not yet on the website

8 Planning Matters

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

25 Marmion Road - erection of walls, formation of steps, hardstanding areas (retrospective)

Tesco- to allow deliveries to store 6.00am - 23.00pm Monday to Saturday, inclusive

42 Keppel Road – house extension

1, Teviotdale, Abbotsford Road – changes to external finishes on dormers

Purves Cottage, Station Road – change from plumber's yard to domestic garden, house extension

Dirleton Court – erection of seven dwellings

A group of residents from Dirleton Court expressed their objections to the proposed new development. While accepting the need for more supported housing, they had concerns about the choice of location. Main concerns were the destruction of the garden area including the removal of 15-17 trees, loss of social areas and the deleterious effect on the outlook currently enjoyed by many residents. The Chairman thanked the residents for their presentation.

The ELC Councillors could not comment on the planning application but advised that issues regarding the poor state of the current building should not form part of their objection to the new development.

ELC Cllr Berry informed residents that a site visit would take place prior to the Planning Committee meeting and that this would offer them an opportunity to express their views.

ELC Cllrs Berry and Day explained that residents could voice their opinions, ideally through a spokesperson, at the Planning meeting. ELC Cllrs Berry and Day and the residents agreed to keep in touch but, in the meantime, the Community Council would object to the proposed development on the grounds of overdevelopment of the site and loss of amenity.

5, Marine Parade – alterations to conservatory, formation of decking, handrails, steps, fencing

7 Bramerton Court – alteration to flat, formation of fencing

11a Abbey Road – replacement windows

8, Glasclune Court – replacement balcony

6 Links Road – alteration and house extension

1, Redholm - Greenheads Road –alteration

60 Ibis Place – external staircase, erection of railings, gate, fencing

1May Terrace – erection of garage, fencing and gates

9 Reports from Groups and Societies

9.1 **Museum:** Cllr Watson confirmed that the Coastal Communities Museum would be open on Saturdays and Sundays until April.

9.2 **St Andrew's Old Kirk Project:** Cllr Kellock reported that the Working Group was looking at funding possibilities. A meeting had been held with Historic Scotland, among others. He encouraged people to visit the exhibition at the Museum.

10 Correspondence

10.1 The Secretary had circulated information from the East Lothian Health Network. A meeting was scheduled for 6th February in John Muir House.

11 Any other competent business

11.1 **Fire Station:** The Chairman reported that she had been informed by Colin Bruce, Station Commander, that the Station was expected to be fully operational by mid-January with an official opening in mid-February. A donation of £50 from the Community Council towards the reopening celebrations had been declined as the Fire Service is a public service and could not accept such a donation.

11.2 **Scotrail:** The Chairman had been informed that Scotrail was making grants for station improvements. She suggested that the Community Council make an application to Scotrail for the provision of toilets. The suggestion was approved. ELC Cllr Berry suggested that Scotrail should be advised that the notice board at the station, in a prime location, would be more useful if it contained local information. Community Councillors supported this suggestion.

11.3 **Tourist Information Office Closure:** Cllr Kellock drew attention to the closure of the Tourist Information Office. ELC Cllr Goodfellow confirmed that the Tourist Office which had been operated by Visit Scotland was now permanently closed. Some tourist information was

available in the Library. The new community notice board could be used to signpost this tourist information base. Cllr Berry queried whether some kind of local voluntary arrangement could be considered to replace the Office.

In response to questions, ELC Cllr Goodfellow said that the upper floor had local tenants. He assumed the ground floor belonged to ELC but would look into this.

- 11.4 **Allocation of Council Houses:** Cllr Watson expressed regret that local people often could not access local housing as they did not have enough points.

ELC Cllr Berry explained that ELC was very constrained in what it could do, for example, homeless people have priority. The fact that someone was "local" had never had priority. He said that, of the 42 new houses at Law View, 40% would be transfers. The remaining 60 % would come from the top of the waiting list.

ELC Cllrs advised that the number of points awarded to people who had been released from prison had been halved.

12 Date of next Meeting

Tuesday 4 February at 19.30 in St Andrew Blackadder Church