

Royal Burgh of North Berwick Community Council

Minutes of the 453rd Public Meeting held at 19.30 on Tuesday 04 March 2014 in St Andrew Blackadder Church, North Berwick

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

In attendance: ELC Cllr T Day, local Press, PC Colin Banks, Mrs A Turgoose, Geoff Ramsay and residents from Macnair Avenue & Clifford Road.

1 Apologies: Cllr H Smith, ELC Cllrs Berry and Goodfellow.

2 Minutes of the Meeting held on 4th February 2014

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

3 Matters arising.

3.1 Planning Matters

(3.5) Cllr Day reported that Planning permission had been granted for the development at Dirleton Court.

3.2 Tourist Information Office Closure

(3.6) The Chairman said that some new signs were in place outside the Beehive to show the location of the Museum and Tourist Information. Some “finger signs” were out of date and were being reviewed. If Cllrs had any suggestions for new/ replacement signage, they should let her know.

4 Police Report

4.1 PC Banks reported that there had been thirteen reported crimes, six of which were part of the same incident of vandalism in which cars were damaged at Craigleith Avenue. There had been one incident of fraud involving non-payment of a taxi fare, one road traffic offence (solved), one theft, one shoplifting, one assault and two breaches of the Criminal Justice Licencing Act. Several lines of enquiry were being followed up.

4.2 Cllr Hall raised the question of increased litter and street parking in the Greenheads Road area, following the opening of the all-weather sports pitch, this despite the availability of specific parking areas for people using the facilities.

PC Banks was aware of concerns about noise levels and ELC Cllr Day had received complaints at his surgery. Cllr Danks asked if there was a requirement for more litter bins in the area adjoining the pitch. PC Banks confirmed that the area was being monitored and that “Enjoy Leisure” might consider the need for extra bins.

4.3 The Chairman asked if CCTV had played a role in solving recent crimes. PC Banks advised that in store CCTV was being used in the case of the store theft and broader CCTV coverage in the case of the taxi fraud. It was agreed that CCTV was a good resource.

4.4 PC Banks was pleased to report that PC Cameron Tait would return to work in North Berwick very soon. He also passed on thanks from PC Laura Dobbie, now in Inverness, for the good wishes sent from the Community Council.

4.5 ***Community and Police Partnership (CAPP)***

At the CAPP meeting on 26th February, three priorities were agreed.

Litter bins to be replaced at NISA store on Dundas Road

Action: Community Warden to report to ELC and have the bin replaced.

Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Hotspots to be given patrols

Action: Police and Community Wardens to give attention to the areas as highlighted by incidents of ASB (Law View)

Parking Complaints

Action: Police to monitor any increase in parking complaints prior to Easter holidays and summer season.

The next CAPP meeting would be held on Wednesday 26th March 2014 at 19.30 in the Council Chambers, Quality St, North Berwick.

If there are any questions or queries, please contact PC Colin Banks on 01620 893585 or colin.banks@scotland.pnn.police.uk or Cameron.tait@scotland.pnn.police.uk

PC Banks left the meeting at this point.

9 **Planning Matters – this agenda item was brought forward to accommodate a presentation by a group of residents.**

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

17 Clifford Road – erection of 5 flats, Bowling Club building and associated works.

A number of residents from Macnair Avenue & Clifford Road set out their objections to this application. Geoff Ramsay, who led the presentation emphasised that he was not an official spokesperson. While residents had concerns regarding reduction of an area for leisure activities, loss of privacy, and lack of view/ loss of green spaces, their planning objections centred mainly on the height, scale and appearance of the proposed buildings, the impact on traffic on Clifford Road and loss of parking places.

9.1 Following discussion, the Chairman indicated that the Community Council would lodge objections based on the height and scale of the development which included a penthouse and a Clubhouse which was taller than the flats. The size and style had nothing in common with other properties in the area. There were concerns about potential traffic and parking issues in an area with an already busy junction, hospital, Health Centre, Community Centre and schools

- 9.2 ELC Cllr Day advised that the application was likely to be considered in April and that anyone who had objected would be notified of the Planning Committee. He was aware that a number of comments had already been received. Once the report had been compiled, the ELC Cllrs would have it for a week, after which time ELC Cllr Day indicated he would be happy to share the content. Three people could each speak for five minutes at the meeting and he recommended that they plan and optimise the time available to them.

12 Quality St – alterations to building

12 Quality St - installation of fans

JP's 96 High St – variation of planning permission to allow additional dining places, to extend opening hours from 9.am to 11pm, Monday to Sunday, inclusive

Unit 5, 45 Melbourne Place – change of use from office to life coaching centre-

Galloway's Pier – extension, heightening of pier and increase width of access path

12 St Margaret's Road – widening of vehicular access, formation of steps, hardstanding areas and erection of walls - a query was raised regarding the finish of the proposed walls

North Berwick Golf Professional's Shop, Beach Road- alterations to building and installation of air conditioning unit

26 Westgate – display of advertisement

Gilsland House – planning permission in principle for the erection of 6 houses

As Cllr Macnair had declared an interest in this application he left the room while it was being discussed.

The Chairman confirmed that the Community Council had discussed this application. In the context of a shortage of housing land, no objections would be lodged.

5 East Lothian Health Network

- 5.1 The Chairman and three Cllrs had attended a meeting about the plans for the new community hospital in Haddington. Cllr Hall reported that the people who had delivered the presentation had offered to attend a Community based event in North Berwick.
- 5.2 Cllr Danks supported this proposal as she believed many people knew little about the hospital plans and needed to see the details and identify potential issues eg transport problems.
- 5.3 The Chairman confirmed that the offer would be accepted and an Open Meeting arranged. The Community Noticeboard could be used to promote the event.

6 Dementia Awareness

- 6.1 The Chairman drew attention to the efforts of Sue Northrop and Sandra King to make North Berwick a Dementia Friendly town. Awareness raising sessions would be held in the Hope Rooms on 22nd April 10am -12 noon and 7 - 9 pm. It would be an opportunity to share ideas and experiences and develop proposals for the town. In addition, the Day Centre would be offering drop in sessions on a trial basis. Information would be included in NB News and posted on the Noticeboard.

7 Old St Andrew's Kirk Project – update

- 7.1 Cllr Kellock reported that several Groups were involved with the project which aimed to re-roof the tower and restore other areas. Various applications for funding were in the pipeline. It was hoped that, eventually, information boards highlighting the history of the church and graveyard would be developed and the area could be incorporated into walks around the town.
- 7.2 Cllr Scott referred to the plaque indicating the presence of Commonwealth War Graves and asked who was responsible for their care. No information was forthcoming. Cllr Baker commented that these graves could be useful as a lever to secure funding for the project.

8 Parking Consultation

- 8.1 The Chairman noted that this was still not available. ELC Cllr Day advised that the final consultation document had been signed off by the three Ward Councillors and, therefore, should be online very soon.
- 8.2 ELC Cllr Day raised the matter of the removal of traffic wardens without consultation. He had recently attended a meeting with Police Scotland. There was a possibility that traffic wardens could be reinstated and he was hopeful of a resolution.

Cllrs K Smith and Bryson both noted that there was a precedent as Stirling had reinstated traffic wardens.

10 Reports from Groups and Societies

- 10.1 **Harbour Trust:** Cllr Macnair indicated that he and Cllr Bryson were due to attend a meeting of the Harbour Trust. Feedback would be provided to the Community Council.
- 10.2 **Coastal Communities Museum:** Cllr Watson reported that the current “Winter Feast” exhibition would be extended until 1st June with the next exhibition focusing on World War 1 and its impact on local areas.

11 Correspondence

11.1 Local Government Boundary Commission

The Secretary referred Councillors to the local Government Boundary Commission Consultation taking place between 21st February and 23rd April. Councillor numbers were being scrutinised with the possibility that ELC could lose two Councillors. She offered to circulate details of the website.

There was consensus that retention of the current numbers would be the best option.

11.2 ELTRP - Road Safety

The Secretary reported that East Lothian Tenants and Residents Panel was hosting a Road Safety play at Fisherrow Community Centre, Musselburgh on 31st March 6pm-8pm to which Councillors were invited.

11.3 Police Scotland

The Chairman had received papers relating to policing structure and Police priorities and these would be circulated for information and comment if it was felt that priorities had changed

12 Any other competent business

12.1 Brownies Thinking Day

(11.3) Cllr Scott commented that having the lights turned on for the Brownies' Thinking Day on the evening of 21st February had been much appreciated.

12.2 Roadside Banners

Cllr Scott queried the value of the advertising banners/signage along the routes into the town. Cllr Baker commented that they were a distraction and difficult to read.

ELC Cllr Day advised that the banners had been purchased for the Open Golf but could be adapted for local initiatives. He was aware that some residents were concerned about the implications for road safety.

12.3 Flood Gates

A resident of Lower Quay had contacted the Secretary regarding assistance with funding to install flood gates. The cost was expected to be approximately £300 per property. The Chairman confirmed that the Community Councils' Local Priorities funds for the current year were exhausted. Following discussion, it was suggested that the residents approach SEPA and the Harbour Trust for advice

12.4 ELC Housing Allocation Policy

Cllr Flanagan raised the question of ELC housing allocation policy, in the light of reported noise and damage within the new development at Law View. Councillors agreed that the new properties were of good quality and it was hoped that the reported disturbance was an isolated incident.

12.5 Community Notice Board

Cllr Flanagan suggested that the Community Noticeboard could be used to signpost the Tourist Information base in the Library. The Chairman commented that new permanent signage should fill the gap left by closure of the Tourist Office. The Community Noticeboard was to showcase local current initiatives and should be kept updated. Present indications were that it was being used appropriately.

12.6 Old Notice Board

The Chairman drew attention to the now unused noticeboard outside the Police Station and suggested it should be used to promote the Community Council with information and photographs of Councillors.

13 Date of next Meeting

Tuesday 1st April at 19.30 in St Andrew Blackadder Church