

Royal Burgh of North Berwick Community Council

Minutes of the 455th Public Meeting held at 19.30 on Tuesday 06 May 2014 in The Fire Station, Station Road North Berwick

Present: Cllr S Sinclair Chairman

Cllr K Smith Secretary

Cllrs M Baker, R Bryson, E Danks, D Kellock, L Hall, W Macnair J Scott, H Smith, I Watson

In attendance: ELC Cllrs D Berry, J Goodfellow (part of meeting), local Press, PC Cameron Tait, Mrs A Turgoose, members of the public, including Robert Galbraith.

1 Apologies: Cllr H Flanagan, ELC Cllr T Day.

2 Minutes of the Meeting held on 1st April 2014

Amendment to Planning Matters item 11

66 High Street: The proposed metallic spiral staircase on the west side of the building would be built in an approximately 3 metre wide alley and could be seen from both the High Street and Market Place. It would cause obstruction both to people using the alley and the occupants of the neighbouring flat. The window of the proposed first floor flat which the spiral staircase would access could not possibly be within the regulation 18 metres from the neighbouring property. The proposed alterations to the west side of the building would involve considerable alteration of a listed building.

The adoption of the Minutes, subject to the foregoing amendment, was proposed by Cllr Scott and seconded by Cllr Baker.

3 Matters Arising.

3.1 Community Notice Board

(3.4) Cllr Kellock reported that he had received positive feedback regarding the Notice Board.

3.2 Reactive Speed Signs

(13.1) The Secretary confirmed that, as requested, the Reactive Speed Sign on Dirleton Avenue had been moved to Tantallon Road.

3.3 Roadside Banners

(14.1) The Secretary had written to request removal of the roadside banners when they were not supporting specific local events. The reply which had been circulated to Members set out the rationale for the installation of the banners but did not specifically address the request. ELC Cllr Berry advised that the Gullane Area Community Council was actively pursuing this issue.

3.4 Planning Matters

(11.1) In response to a question from Cllr H Smith, the Chairman confirmed that there had been no clarification regarding the interpretation of "temporary" in respect of the proposed gazebos at 26 Victoria Road.

4 Police Report

- 4.1 PC Tait expressed his pleasure at returning to Community Policing duties in North Berwick. He reported that 101 calls had been received by Police resulting in 9 recorded crimes of which 2 had been solved to date. Enquiries were ongoing regarding the unsolved crimes with a number of positive lines of enquiry.

Breakdown of crimes:

Theft – 1; Theft from a motor vehicle, not elsewhere classified (Common Law) – 1;

Breach of the Peace 1

Assault - 3; RTA (no insurance, no MOT) - 2 (solved); Vandalism - 1

Approximately 45 fixed penalty tickets had been issued for a variety of parking offences. Hand held radar speeding initiatives were in place throughout the North Berwick area, including Dirleton Road/ Avenue, Abbey Road/ Old Abbey Road. Several motorists had been warned regarding their manner of driving/ parking.

Coming into the busy summer season, the Police asked residents to assist with parking concerns and the flow of traffic in North Berwick by continuing to park appropriately and informing Police if they are aware of any persistent offenders/ inappropriate or dangerous parking in town.

4.2 CAPP (30/4/14) Agreed Priorities

A CAPP meeting had taken place on 30th April with the following agreed priorities:

Priority 1 Aberlady Corner (A198): Police to give attention to the corner at its junction with Haddington Road. Offences to be reported.

Priority 2: Old Abbey Road: Police to carry out speed checks regarding this area being used as a “rat run”.

Priority 3: Dog Fouling (whole Ward area): Police and Community Wardens to increase patrols in an attempt to detect offenders.

The next CAPP meeting would take place at the Council Chambers, Quality St North Berwick on Wednesday 28 May at 19.30.

If there are any questions, please contact PC Colin Banks on 01620 89358 or colin.banks@scotland.pnn.police.uk or Cameron.tait@scotland.pnn.police.uk

- 4.3 Cllr H Smith enquired as to the best way to contact Police regarding any of the above issues. PC Tait suggested phone or email, with email being used if a quick response was required.

- 4.4 A member of the public sought information about who to approach regarding “No Through Road” signs. There was a belief that such signage could slow down / reduce traffic in the Tantallon Terrace area. Cllr Bryson was aware of major traffic problems in that location on the previous Sunday. ELC Cllr Berry confirmed that ELC was aware of these problems and advised that, to be effective, the sign would need to be at the entrance to the Quadrant. He suggested that Peter Forsyth at ELC should be approached. ELC Cllr Berry also referred to a proposal to introduce a “20’s Plenty” initiative in the Law View residential area. This was the first of its kind in East Lothian.

- 4.5 PC Tait drew attention to the increase in foot patrols in North Berwick, ideally a minimum of a couple of hours each day. In terms of traffic management, the focus was on education, enforcement and engineering. It was hoped, that, over time, education would have an impact.
- 4.6 Cllr Danks queried whether the absence of traffic wardens had resulted in drivers abusing the parking time restrictions on the High St. PC Tait iterated that the Community Police could identify vehicles and take action. He was seeing a difference as people became aware that enforcement was taking place. ELC Cllr Berry confirmed that 10 of the 45 fixed penalty tickets had been issued for overstaying parking times on the High St.
- 4.6 The number of campervans parking in town was raised by Cllr Kellock. The Secretary advised that the matter had been on-going with ELC for a number of years with the attempts to introduce a bylaw being rejected by the Scottish Government. It was hoped that the parking consultation would provide a solution.
- 4.7 ELC Cllr Berry had concerns about treasure hunters searching on the Coos Green. The activity in itself was not an infringement of the Law but became a matter of concern when it created a hazard for pedestrians. He had asked ELC Landscape and Countryside and the Police to investigate.

5 Local Priorities and Budgets for 2014/15

- 5.1 The Treasurer set out the current expenditure and commitments which left approximately £600 uncommitted at this point. There was discussion following a request from Cllr H Smith to increase the donation to the Raft Race from £150. The Chairman stated that the request had been for £150 which was being met in full. The Raft Race had other sources of funding. The Treasurer reminded Cllrs that the £600 was to cover expenditure until the end of the financial year. Cllr H Smith queried the amount of money spent on the Newsletter. She suggested that attendance at free training events could help identify more effective use of funding. She had found a previous event to be thought provoking. The Chairman concluded that the Area Partnerships should provide the vehicle to enhance local engagement. She also confirmed that there was a commitment to continue with the newsletter for this year. She had requested information on communication methods and costs from other Community Councils. She reminded Cllrs that during the past 18 months NBCC had been involved in a survey about the Edington Hospital, had organised a meeting to discuss the Ferrygate proposals and had recently hosted an Open Meeting to raise awareness about the new Community Hospital in Haddington. Several Cllrs commented that they engaged with the Community on a daily basis through a range of voluntary and business interests and not everyone could afford time for training of this nature. In response to a question from Cllr Kellock, Cllr H Smith confirmed her intention to attend the training event in Glasgow on 14 May. The Local Priorities budget was approved. Cllr H Smith abstained.

The North Berwick Community Council Accounts for the year ended 31 March were discussed and approved, subject to satisfactory audit.

6 Area Partnerships

- 6.1 The Chairman asked for volunteers to represent NBCC on the new Area Partnership, two representatives and two substitutes. She indicated that there would be other local representation from, for example, voluntary and parent groups. The Secretary confirmed that the first meeting had been arranged for 20th May in the Hope Rooms 7-9pm. Attendance at four meetings per annum, possibly more, would be required.

It was agreed that the representatives would be Cllrs Sinclair and H Smith. Substitutes were Cllrs Hall and Danks.

- 6.2 ELC Cllr Berry reported that broad representation was necessary as Area Partnerships would have the capacity to allocate local funds. The expectation was that small working groups would be set up, reporting back at quarterly meetings.
- 6.3 Cllr Watson expressed a wish to be involved, given his range of interests, for example in the Arts Group, Museum and Youth Café. The Chairman stated that she would recommend inclusion of Cllr Watson and the Day Centre when responding with the names of the CC representatives.

7 Association of Community Rail Partnerships (ACoRP)

- 7.1 The Chairman and ELC Cllr Berry had attended a positive second meeting of ACoRP where discussion focused on both enhancing amenities and introducing new ideas. Topics included better connectivity with buses, local and Waverley signage and development of a tourist ticket which would combine methods of transport. The Chairman believed that there was a lot of goodwill to make improvements and confirmed that the need for toilets at North Berwick station would be considered.
- 7.2 ELC Cllr Berry reported on a meeting with local bus companies to discuss connectivity. It was accepted that current information about bus times was not visitor friendly and he was of the opinion that a specific North Berwick timetable was required
- 7.3 Cllr Scott raised the question of improved rail services in East Lothian, for example an hourly Edinburgh – Dunbar service. ELC Cllr Berry advised that Transport Scotland was signed up to increased services through Dunbar within the new franchise agreement.
- 7.4 In response to a question from Cllr Hall, ELC Cllr Berry was unable to say if there were plans, at this stage, to ensure that bus routes would pass the new Community Hospital in Haddington.

8 East Lothian Health Network

- 8.1 The Chairman provided feedback on the Open Meeting she chaired in the Hope Rooms on 30 April to discuss the new Community Hospital in Haddington. Despite poor weather, attendance was reasonable. It had been emphasised that the hospital to be built on the Roodlands site would be larger, have an increased range of services and would create additional beds for East Lothian residents. Access issues had been raised and assurance given that the planners were talking to bus companies. Once plans had been approved, there would be further local consultation.

9 Car Sharing Scheme

- 9.1 Robert Galbraith outlined the background to the scheme, referring to the existing Dunbar and Haddington experiences. An online survey was in place to ascertain the level of interest in having a car club in North Berwick although it was too early to comment on results. From research and discussions, he had concluded that there were people who needed access to a car periodically but did not need what was often the second car in the household. Mr Galbraith emphasised that local car clubs were based on short term use and he set out various options for car type e.g. electric and nature of funding, e.g. not for profit, franchise arrangement. Both Haddington and Dunbar had used public funding for their cars. In response to a question about use of the vehicles by self employed people, Mr Galbraith said that pricing in relationship to the duration of the rental would need to be addressed. The question of insurance would also need to be addressed but there were existing models to consider.
- 9.2 The Chairman thanked Mr Galbraith and expressed the Council's support for this initiative. She informed him that a member of the Community Council had undertaken some research into car sharing. Unfortunately, the person involved was not present. Mr Galbraith was interested in checking out this earlier interest.

10 Parking Consultation

- 10.1 The consultation exercise had closed on May 5th and the Chairman advised that Peter Forsyth at ELC would be considering the results. She wanted to put on record that this consultation had been commissioned by ELC, not the Community Council. The latter had attracted considerable undeserved criticism because of the mistaken view that it was determined to have a car park at the rear of Tantallon Terrace. This was simply not the case. The Community Council would reconsider its position once the results of the consultation were published. A member of the public expressed satisfaction at the clarification. The Chairman expressed her hope that the energy evident in this campaign could be used to address other North Berwick matters.
- 10.2 In response to a question from Cllr H Smith as to when the results of the survey would be available, ELC Cllr Berry indicated that, even after the results are known, there would be further consultation. He recalled a similar exercise 10-12 years ago which had to deal with difficult decisions and produced positive outcomes. He was optimistic that this survey could prove equally satisfactory
- 10.3 A member of the public asked about the role of the Community Council, once results were known. The Chairman stated that it was too soon to comment and reminded people that the Council had to carry out the wishes of the whole community, not just the town centre. The Council would consider and comment on proposals from ELC, in due course.
- 10.4 ELC Cllr Berry highlighted the need to consider a number of issues when looking at car parking near the sewage works e.g. renovation, work on sea wall defences, caravan parking. He also pointed out that the bus stop outside the Library had been removed when the one way system had been introduced in School Road and asked whether there was a view that the one way system should revert from south to north to north to south The Chairman reminded colleagues that this matter was included within the consultation.

11 Ferrygate

- 11.1 Cllr Hall had circulated an informative letter from Dirleton Village Association. It was clear that the rules had changed since the earlier planning application so there might be fewer grounds for appeal. She understood that the new planning application was likely to be submitted towards the end of 2014. The Chairman expressed her view that an effective Area Partnership could be helpful in an appeals procedure.

12 Planning Matters

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

Larchbank, Abbotsford Road – design change

1 Glenorchy Road – change of use of grass area to form 2 vehicle access, erection of 2 houses and associated works. An objection would be raised regarding the impact of increased traffic in the area.

6 Dunbar Road – extension to house.

47 Forth Street – alterations to the house as design changes to the scheme of development the subject of planning permission 10/00155/P.

12 York Road – alterations to building

19 Law Road – erection of 4 houses and associated works.

5 Marmion Road – widening of vehicular access

Tesco, Tantallon Road – display of advertisement

12 York Road – alterations to house

17 Forth Street – erection of conservatory-

1-3 Westgate – alterations to building

13 Reports from Groups and Societies

- 13.1 **CAPP:** Cllr Bryson had been present at the last CAPP meeting.
- 13.2 **St Andrew's Auld Kirk Project:** Cllr Kellock reported that the project continued to investigate funding sources
- 13.3 **Arts Centre:** Cllr Watson was pleased to report that, following funding from the Lottery and the Common Good Fund, a Consultant had been appointed to undertake the feasibility study.
- 13.4 **Dementia Awareness Event:** Cllr Danks provided feedback on the events held in the Hope Rooms on 22 April. Attendance had been encouraging with plenty of suggestions to improve awareness within the community. She also informed the meeting that Alzheimers Scotland planned to host 6 events within the Day Centre, dates still to be confirmed.
- 13.5 **North Berwick in Bloom:** The Chairman, as Secretary of In Bloom, reported that an application would be made to Civic Pride for another bin, similar to the one in Quality St

which was proving useful in combating litter. The additional bin would be positioned on the seafront.

- 13.6 **Litter & Bins:** The reappearance of old style polystyrene containers was commented upon by Cllr H Smith who also noted the presence of overflowing bins at the holiday weekend. ELC Cllr Goodfellow queried this as there had been litter collection over the holiday period. ELC Cllr Berry was aware that the station bins had not been emptied during the busy period.

14 Correspondence

- 14.1 The Secretary reported that there had been two applications for Variations (Major) of Premises Licences in respect of.

12 Quality St: An objection would be raised regarding an extension of the terminal hour on Thursdays to 1.00 am, contrary to Licensing Board policy. Concerns would also be expressed about noise and disturbance to neighbours.

Quarterdeck, High St – An objection would be raised regarding an extension of the terminal hour on Thursdays to 1.00am, contrary to Licensing Board policy. Concerns would also be raised about noise and disturbance to neighbours.

- 14.2 **“cycle forth”**

A letter from Robin MacEwen about **“cycle forth”**, a new cycling association to promote cycling in the North Berwick area, had been circulated to Members. There was some discussion regarding the necessity for cyclists to adhere to the Highway Code but, in principle, the Chairman confirmed support for the scheme.

- 14.3 **Resilience Planning Workshop**

The Secretary had received information from Sandy Baptie, Energy Planning and Risk Management Officer at ELC about a workshop to be held in the Brunton Theatre on 25 October 9am-1pm. Two nominations to attend the workshop would be confirmed at a later date. The Minutes of February 2014 indicated that Cllr H Smith had volunteered to attend.

- 14.4 **East Lothian Tenants and Residents Panel (ELTRP)**

The Secretary drew attention to the ELTRP conference to be held on 31 May in Ormiston Community Centre. Some Members were already aware of the event. Those interested in attending were advised to reply by 26th May.

Any other competent business

- 15.1 **Notice Board**

The Chairman suggested that, in the light of the success of the Notice Board, consideration be given to having a notice board which would be used specifically to promote volunteering opportunities within the town. The proposal was supported and the Chairman will make a funding application to Civic Pride.

- 15.2 **Skateboarding in the Lodge Grounds**

Cllr Hall expressed concern at the activities of kids skateboarding in the Lodge Grounds but was reminded by the Chairman that the Lodge was a public park, open to all.

15.3 Road works at Station Road

Cllr Macnair drew attention to the continuation of the road works/ traffic lights on Station Road over the Easter weekend, despite assurances that this would not be the case. The result had been lengthy queues.

16 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting would take place at 19.30 on Tuesday 3rd June at the Fire Station, Station Road. North Berwick