

## Royal Burgh of North Berwick Community Council

### Minutes of the 457<sup>th</sup> Public Meeting held at 19.30 on Tuesday 01 July 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, H Smith, I Watson

**In attendance:** ELC Cllr J Goodfellow, local Press, PC Cameron Tait, Mrs A Turgoose.

**1 Apologies:** ELC Cllr D Berry, ELC Cllr T Day Cllr J Scott

**2 Minutes of the Meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2014.**

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

**3 Matters Arising.**

**3.1 Association of Rail Partnership (ACoRP)**

(7.3) The Chairman advised that an audit of stations from Waverley to Dunbar was taking place. As North Berwick in Bloom had adopted the local station, she, as In Bloom Secretary, would be completing the audit form. In response to a question from Cllr Macnair, she confirmed that the need for public toilets would be included.

**3.2 Car Sharing Schemes**

(3.5) The Chairman reported that funding was not available for the proposed new project. Dunbar had applied for two cars for North Berwick but this proposal had not been supported. The next edition of NB News would include a request for expressions of interest in helping to organise a car pool. Feedback on existing schemes, types of vehicles etc. was available.

**3.3 Compacting Bin**

(3.6) The Chairman, on behalf of In Bloom, had submitted a bid to Civic Pride for another compacting bin, similar to the one in Quality St. She was pleased to report that the bid had been successful and the additional bin would be located at the seafront. Cllr H Smith had concerns that the new bins would reduce recycling opportunities. Cllr Danks had investigated whether the compacting bin contents went to landfill and had been reassured by Andrew Hogarth from ELC Landscape and Countryside that the contents were separated for recycling purposes

**3.4 "The Watcher Sculpture"**

(12.2) In response to concerns expressed by residents regarding the siting of the sculpture, the Chairman had written to enquire if planning permission had been approved for the present location. She learned that planning permission had been approved in August 2012 – planning reference 12/00413P. Cllrs were asked to look at the drawing and documentation and the Community Council would form a view as to whether correct procedures had been followed. The Chairman added that the position had been considered acceptable in terms of its integration into this part of the North Berwick conservation area.

### **3.5 Flag Poles at the Fire Station**

(12.5) Funding by the Community Council for two new flagpoles had been discussed with Dave Roulstone, Fire Station Officer.

## **4 Police Service of Scotland Report**

4.1 PC Tait set out Ward Priorities.

### **1) Road Safety:**

Throughout the month, Police had continued to issue parking tickets and educate drivers regarding their parking. Focus had been on bottlenecks/ areas of concern (harbour area, Victoria Road, The Quadrant, Marine Parade/ Tantallon Terrace etc.) Number of tickets issued was commensurate with the previous month. No further complaints of speeding had been received but Police would continue to monitor and use the speed gun in various locations.

On 20/06/14 on Dirleton Avenue a vehicle was stopped and a male driver found to be driving without a licence or insurance. He was charged and the vehicle confiscated.

### **2) Anti-Social Behaviour:**

07/06/14 an allegation of assault by a female was reported. She was arrested and interviewed and subsequently released as there was insufficient evidence to prefer a charge.

15/06/14 on Quality Street, a female was given a fixed penalty for urinating in the street.

20/06/14 a report of a minor sexual assault was made. A person had been identified and would be interviewed in due course.

23/06/14 at Forth Street, an assault took place. A male was traced, arrested and charged.

29/06/14 on the High Street, a male committed a breach of the peace by challenging others to fight. He was arrested and charged.

### **3) Substance Misuse:**

19/06/14 acting on intelligence, a misuse of drugs warrant was executed in the North Berwick area. This resulted in multiple charges under the Misuse of Drugs Act. This is the second consecutive month when acting on intelligence had led to a positive result.

### **4) Theft:**

On 08/06/14 at Clare Court, garden items were stolen from a garden. Enquiries are ongoing.

On 12/06/14 at Gilbert Avenue a ceramic duck was stolen from a garden. Enquiries are ongoing.

4.2 **Other incidents of note**

The Police had received 101 calls, 10 recorded crimes. 7 solved crimes.

Regarding police information on the noticeboard outside the toilets on Quality Street, PC Tait confirmed that an updated poster had been requested.

### **4.3 CAPP Agreed Priorities**

A CAPP meeting had taken place on 25 June and three areas of concern were highlighted.

- Parking issues in the Harbour area and Tantallon Terrace / Marine Parade/ The Quadrant.
- Anti-Social Behaviour in the Law View area.
- Monitor after hours use in 3G playing fields area

The next CAPP meeting would take place at the Council Chambers, Quality St North Berwick on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> July at 19.30.

4.4 Cllr Hall expressed concern about the noise, including swearing, from the 3G pitch during activities and after hours. While accepting it could be difficult to change behaviour during games, PC Tait agreed to speak to referees, coaches, parents and kids. Disturbance after hours could be monitored. ELC Cllr Goodfellow had visited the area between 9 and 10pm and had not considered the noise to be excessive. The Chairman believed that a visible police presence could be helpful.

4.5 Parking issues were discussed. Examples were given of misuse of parking spaces on the High Street by staff working in a range of local businesses. PC Tait iterated that this was also a problem in other towns. Cllr Baker raised the question of parking and camping at the East Bay. PC Tait was not aware of any specific legislation to deal with this problem but would investigate. Parking on pavements and inappropriate parking between the Glen Golf Club and the sewage works was raised by Cllr Bryson. PC Tait was aware of these issues and had given out 9 tickets in that area on 1 July for parking on the pavement. Cllr Baker drew attention to a similar issue on Dirleton Avenue which was causing inconvenience, traffic disruption and creating potential hazards for pedestrians. All were reminded to phone 101 to report any problems.

4.6 In reply to a query from Cllr Bryson, PC Tait was unaware of an alleged disturbance in the High Street on the previous Saturday night involving women engaged in fighting

If there are any questions, please email [NorthBerwickCoastalCPT@Scotland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:NorthBerwickCoastalCPT@Scotland.pnn.police.uk) or [ColinBanks@Scotland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:ColinBanks@Scotland.pnn.police.uk)

### **5 Area Partnerships**

5.1 The Chairman along with Cllrs Danks, Hall and H Smith had attended a meeting on 24 June at which four syndicates discussed issues which had been identified in strategic documents. Cllr Watson was also present, representing the Youth Network. Cllr H Smith considered it a useful exercise, producing some interesting ideas and new perspectives. The focus had been on looking at problems and ways to resolve them. Cllr Danks concurred but had some concerns that the facilitation of the groups was not always fully inclusive. Cllr Watson agreed to some extent but pointed out that, as always, there were time restrictions. He expressed hope that, from the discussions, significant subjects would emerge to merit attention. Cllr H Smith shared this view, adding that listening to others could produce some new, refreshed ideas. The Chairman commented on the informative opening presentation with supporting statistics which had helped focus attention. The next meeting is planned for 9 September at which issues would be revisited.

## **6 Crawford and Calder Cups – Putting competition**

- 6.1 The Secretary informed Cllrs that an article publicising the event had been printed in The Courier. Cllr Watson agreed to produce posters for display in shops, caravan parks, noticeboards etc. It was agreed that the Secretary would discuss arrangements for the rotas on both days at the mid-month meeting and would arrange purchase of prizes. Cllr Kellock apologised that he was unavailable to assist at the events but offered to help with the preparations.

## **7 Planning Matters**

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

**22 St Margaret's Road** – alteration and extension to flat

**2 Fidra Court** – alterations, extension to house and associated works.

**22 Lord President Road** – extension to house.

**53 Old Abbey Road** – erection of one house and a detached residential accommodation annex and associated works.

ELC Cllr Goodfellow offered to check if the annex was a separate house.

**Nisa Local, 96 Lochbridge Road** – installation of one inverter heat pump and three condensing units (retrospective)

**26 Marmion Road** – replacement windows.

**2 Fidra Road** – extension to house, replacement balustrade to balcony and alterations to steps.

**Kinabalu, Redholm Park** – erection of conservatory

**13 Rhodes Cottages, Lime Grove** – alterations to building

**Street only, Nungate Road** – display of advertisements by Cala.

It was agreed to seek further information regarding the timescale for the advertisements to be on display.

**1, Teviotdale, Abbotsford Road** – alterations, extension to building and part demolition of building

**1, Teviotdale, Abbotsford Road** – extension to house

**66 High Street** – alterations to building and erection of signage.

**66 High Street** – alterations and part change of use of shop to form one flat and repainting of building.

As this is a listed building, it was agreed to raise an objection to the creation of the dormer window which would change the character of the building. Concerns were also expressed regarding internal changes. Further information would be sought regarding the change of signage. ELC Cllr Goodfellow advised that the rules were strict regarding listed buildings and planning officials would make recommendations on both parts of the planning application.

***Eleanora, Dirleton Road*** – alterations to house and erection of garage as design change to the Scheme of Development, the subject of planning permission 13/00901/P.

## **8 Local Government Boundary Commission**

8.1 The total number of councillors across Scotland would not change significantly but the proposal was that ELC should lose two councillors, reducing to a total of 21. ELC Cllr Goodfellow explained that deprivation was taken into consideration in determining the number of councillors and, as a result, East Lothian would lose out. He stressed that there was little evidence that councillors in deprived areas had more demands than councillors in less deprived areas. Indeed, as the County with the fastest growing population, East Lothian could make the case for an additional councillor. The ramifications of cuts could lead to a reorganisation of boundaries with the loss of the direct relationships between towns and their outlying areas. These changes could result in a loss of continuity and the sense of community which is currently present.

8.2 The Chairman reminded Cllrs that the consultation was open until 21st August. NBCC would agree a response supporting the status quo.

## **9 Remembrance Day Parade**

9.1 It was explained by the Chairman that the British Legion who usually organised the Parade had disbanded. Douglas Adamson had asked the NBCC to assume responsibility for the event and this had been agreed. Cllr Watson had spoken to Douglas Adamson who would offer guidance in this transitional year. Cllr Bryson offered to take this matter forward.

## **10 Reports from Groups and Societies**

10.1 ***CAPP:*** Cllr Bryson reported that parking issues, a problem in many areas, had been discussed. He had also attended the Law Residents' Association meeting and walked around Law View. Some changes had been suggested. He commented on the positive relationship with ELC. Money was now available to revamp the swing park at Lochbridge Road and this work would be undertaken by ELC. There were also plans to seek permission to repaint the railings at Nisa on Lochbridge Road, once ownership was known. Cllr Bryson had concerns about the unacceptable condition of one area of Law View, following completion of the building work. The Chairman was pleased to report that, now that the area had dried out, it would be planted to become a wildflower meadow. She congratulated Law Residents for their efforts.

10.2 ***St Andrew's Auld Kirk Project:*** Funding remains an issue with this project with plans to submit an application to Viridor. Cllr Kellock had been in contact with the Coastal Communities Museum Trust to explore the sharing of ideas regarding display of information, including electronic media. This was a longer term goal and was dependent on securing funding.

10.3 ***Arts Centre:*** Cllr Watson reported that the online survey was closing on Friday 4 July. To date, there had been a good response.

10.4 ***Coastal Communities Museum:*** The new World War One exhibition was now open at weekends, attracting 111 visitors on the first weekend. Cllr Watson considered the presentation, which focused on the impact of the War on this area, to be well worth a visit. The café was also open. He drew attention to a memorial book on display. The beautifully

illustrated book had been found by a volunteer in a locked display cabinet in the Old Council Chambers and was considered more appropriate to the Museum where it is secure and insured. The Community Council agreed to the relocation of the book to the Museum, on condition that it was not removed. Typed copies, made within the Museum, would be acceptable. Cllr Watson referred to a second book, relating to World War Two, which remained locked in Old Council Chambers. He believed that it would also benefit from being curated.

10.5 **North Berwick in Bloom:** Cllr Danks reported that preparations were underway for the visit to North Berwick by judges from Beautiful Scotland on the morning of Monday 28 July. Cllr Watson commented that it was good to see the hanging baskets on display.

10.6 **Environment Trust:** Cllr H Smith advised that she had attended the AGM. The Trust would not be meeting during the summer.

10.7 **Community Centre:** Cllr H Smith reminded Cllrs that the Community Centre would be closed over the summer so that a new lift could be installed.

## 11 Correspondence

### 11.1 Resignation

The Secretary had received an email from Haley Flanagan confirming her resignation from NBCC with immediate effect. The Chairman would write to Haley thanking her for her input. She was aware that other demands on her time had made it difficult for Cllr Flanagan to continue as a Cllr. The vacant post would now be advertised

11.2 **RELBUS AGM:** Members were advised that the AGM date had been confirmed as 27 August but the venue had still to be decided.

11.3 **Logo for Scotland's Community Councils:** Details of this design initiative had been circulated.

11.4 **Community Empowerment (Scotland) Bill:** The Secretary reminded Cllrs that the links had been circulated regarding the Local Government and Regeneration Committee's Call for evidence. The closing date was 5 September at 5pm.

11.5 **Climate Challenge Fund:** Information had been circulated regarding available funding for suitable projects. Ideas would be welcomed. Cllr H Smith suggested that the car scheme might be an appropriate suggestion.

11.6 **National Planning Framework 3/Scottish Planning Policy:** The Scottish Government had published the finalised versions of NPF3 and SPP. The links had been circulated but some difficulties had been experienced in accessing the database

11.7 **Tell Me Scotland Update:** This had been circulated.

11.8 **Forth Estuary Forum:** This had been circulated.

11.9 **"cycle forth"** – a publicity leaflet was now available.

11.10 **North Berwick Law:** The Secretary advised Cllrs that Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) had deemed that part of North Berwick Law should lose its status as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). Representations should be made in writing by 4 September. Cllr Hall had spoken to Neil Clark, ELC Principal Countryside Officer, who thought it possible for ELC to put their designation on the site, although it would not carry the same weight as SNH.

11.11 **East Lothian Care & Repair:** The Secretary had received a letter from Care & Repair requesting support from NBCC for their work. Cllrs praised their work and agreed to include details on the Noticeboard and the Community Council website.

11.12 **McCarthy and Stone:** The Company had requested an opportunity to address the Community Council as part of the pre planning stage for building plans at the site in Tantallon Road currently occupied by The Space. The Secretary would invite them to the mid-month meeting on 15 July.

## 12 **Any other competent business**

### 12.1 **Noticeboard for Quality Street:**

The Chairman confirmed that detailed quotes and a letter confirming that planning permission was not required would be necessary before this work could proceed. Two quotes had been obtained. The first was for one noticeboard using the existing metal structure. The cost would be £1158, plus £150 for installation, plus vat. The second quote was for two boards, fixed to the wall. Cost would be £2132, £380 for installation, plus vat. Cllr Danks considered that two boards could provide more scope but cost was an issue. Cllr Kellock wondered if any price adjustment was possible. Overall, two boards were considered preferable so the Chairman agreed to explore the availability of funding and the need for planning permission. Several Cllrs commented on the need for the entire area to be tidied, to which the Chairman was pleased to inform Cllrs that In Bloom had plans to paint the planters black which should give a more coordinated approach.

### 12.2 **Elcho Green pathway**

The condition of this path was causing concern and the Chairman had written to Stuart Pryde. His reply made it clear that ELC would undertake repairs only if by failing to do so it would create a danger. ELC would take no action if the need was purely cosmetic. It had been accepted that the work was necessary and quotes were being obtained to repair the pathway. Stuart Pryde had said that, in the future, the Community Council could apply to Civic Pride for a grant to undertake ongoing repairs and maintenance.

12.3 **Cockenzie Energy Park:** Information would be forwarded to Cllrs by the Chairman.

12.4 **Seats at the Lighthouse:** Cllr Watson noted that this type of seating was more difficult to keep clean and was already marked by seagulls. He wondered who had cleaning responsibility. Cllr H Smith raised concerns about the lack of drainage leading to an accumulation of water on the seats.

12.5 **Signage at Seabird Centre Car Park:** Cllr Bryson asked for an update. Experiences indicated that the present signage caused confusion. It resulted in people paying to park in a free car park, in the belief that it was part of the Seabird Centre car park. ELC Cllr Goodfellow was looking into this matter.

## 13 **Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting would take place at 19.30 on Tuesday 5th August at the Fire Station, Station Road, North Berwick