

Royal Burgh of North Berwick Community Council

Minutes of the 458th Public Meeting held at 19.30 on Tuesday 05 August 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 D Berry, ELC Cllr T Day, ELC Cllr J Goodfellow, local Press, Police representatives, Tom Reid, Mrs A Turgoose.

1 Apologies: Cllr J Scott, PC Cameron Tait

2 Minutes of the Meeting held on 1st July 2014.

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

3 Matters Arising.

3.1 "The Watcher Sculpture"

(3.4) The Chairman reported that she had received a reply to the CC query regarding the positioning of the sculpture. The response from ELC Planning Department confirmed that it did not contravene the planning application and could not be moved nearer the railings because of underground services. To be moved would require a new planning application.

3.2 Cllr Macnair suggested that, in view of safety concerns raised by members of the public, an approach should be made to Tom Brock, Chief Executive of the Scottish Seabird Centre requesting that he reconsider the siting of the sculpture. There were genuine concerns about people walking into the sculpture, apart from the fact that it obstructed the footpath.

3.3 The Chairman agreed to write formally to Tom Brock who was already aware of the CC reservations about the siting of the sculpture.

3.2 Flag Poles at the Fire Station

(3.5) Cllr Kellock asked for an update on the installation of the flag poles. The Chairman was awaiting a reply from David Mackie as to when and where the flag poles would be positioned. She had received one comment from a member of the public saying that the purchase was a waste of money but, equally, she had received positive responses.

3.3 Crawford and Calder Cups 2014 – Putting competitions

(6.1) The Secretary thanked Cllr H Smith and Cllr Watson for their help with the posters and signs, fellow CC colleagues for their help on both qualifying and finals days and Martyn Huish who, again, had generously donated the Crawford Cup prizes and golf balls. The turnout for the qualifying rounds had been reasonable, although the number of under 14's competing was disappointing. The course had been challenging which was reflected in the scores. Robbie Croll and Harry Mackenzie, leading qualifiers in the Crawford Cup, achieved a score of 99 while Ross Lunn and Matthew Millar qualified for the Calder Cup with a score of 86.

Only 5 of the 10 who qualified for the Crawford Cup turned up for the finals which was won by Harry Mackenzie who beat Moray Stiven. The Calder Cup final was keenly contested between Ross Lunn and David Warren with David taking the trophy.

Cllr H Smith commented that it had been difficult to persuade people to participate in the events as they considered the standard too high. Cllr K Smith noted this for next time.

3.4 Local Government Boundary Commission

- (8.1) Responding to a query from Cllr Kellock, the Secretary informed the meeting that a response was in hand.

3.5 North Berwick in Bloom

- (10.5) Cllr Danks referred to the visit by judges from Beautiful Scotland on the morning of Monday 28th July. The visit had gone well, thanks to a team effort from all concerned. She noted, in particular, the early start by ELC colleagues to ensure that litter was collected after a busy Sunday in the town.

The Chairman recorded thanks to ELC Waste Management team from the Community Council.

3.6 McCarthy & Stone

- (11.12) The Chairman had been informed by McCarthy & Stone that they were planning an exhibition of their proposals for the site on Tantallon Road, currently occupied by The Space, on 18th August in St Andrew Blackadder Church. Details would be in the Press.

3.7 Noticeboard for Quality Street

- (12.1) The Chairman had made enquiries about the need for planning permission and had been advised that advertising planning permission would be required. She drew attention to the newly painted planters in that area. As part of a coordinated approach, the plan was to have all planters painted black. In due course, the blue seat would be repainted.

Cllr Macnair expressed his unhappiness about the removal of the Tourist Information Centre from Quality Street. Other Councillors were aware of visitors who had experienced difficulties in obtaining tourist information. These views were supported by ELC Cllr Berry who also highlighted the poor state of the upper part of the building which was originally the Tourist Office and was ELC owned. The Chairman noted the comments.

4 Police Service of Scotland Report

- 4.1 PC Budgeon 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.

Particular attention was paid to vehicle parking on pavement areas near the Glen Golf Club and numerous tickets were issued for causing an obstruction on the pavement.

There were no traffic accidents of note in the current month.

2) Anti-Social Behaviour:

10/07/14: the rear window of a car at the Kirk Ports was smashed by means unknown.

29/07/14: a female was the victim of a minor assault in the Lime Grove area of North Berwick.

Enquiries were ongoing in both cases.

3) Substance Misuse:

There were no recorded incidents this month.

4) Theft:

There had been several incidents of theft by shop lifting in the North Berwick Area and some from vehicles, (mostly left insecure).

The Police reminded the public to make sure that they secured their vehicles and did not leave items unattended which may be attractive to thieves.

4.2 Other incidents of note

The Police had received 146 calls this month.

Regarding police information for the noticeboard outside the toilets on Quality Street, PC Budgeon confirmed that delivery of the poster was still awaited.

4.3 CAPP Agreed Priorities

A CAPP meeting had taken place on 30th July and three areas of concern continued from the previous month.

Parking around the Harbour area/ Marine Parade/ Tantallon Terrace/ Quadrant etc.

Anti-Social Behaviour in Law View

Continued monitoring of afterhours use in the 3GS pitches area.

The next CAPP meeting would take place at the Council Chambers, Quality St North Berwick on Wednesday 27th August at 19.30.

- 4.4 Cllr H Smith enquired about policing the dispersal of people at the end of Fringe by the Sea events, for example at 3am. PC Budgeon assured the Council that, as Fringe by the Sea was now an annual event, the Police were aware of the issues and would be monitoring when events finished. In response to a question from Cllr K Smith regarding parking arrangements at the Recreation Ground for the Highland Games, the Police responded that they were aware of when and where it was happening and that the traffic management arrangements in the neighbouring streets, as in previous years, would be in place. ELC Cllr Berry had a concern that, as far as he knew, no additional Police Officers had been assigned to the Games. Due to the Police commitment at the Commonwealth Games, he had been unable to discuss matters with the Police. Assurances were given that extra resource would be available and PC Budgeon offered to confirm the position. Cllr Baker drew attention to the

fact the Regatta was also taking place on the same weekend. Police indicated that they knew about this event.

- 4.5 Cllr Hall raised the potential for traffic chaos at the Highland Games as some traditional parking spaces were now a football pitch. Cllr Danks reported that the Highland Games Committee had approved new signage and had appointed an extra security person who was ex-Police to direct traffic from Lochbridge Road. Due to changes, this year might prove difficult but there would be careful monitoring.
- 4.6 In relation to CAPP issues, ELC Cllr Berry said that these applied to the Law Residents' area more widely, not just Law View. He welcomed the appointment of Keith Tait, new Community Warden and was looking forward to meeting Alan Hogarth, new Police Inspector.
- 4.7 The Chairman informed the meeting that Kenny Black and Keith Tait would attend the September NBCC meeting.
- 4.8 Cllr Danks asked about the impact of CCTV in solving local crimes. PC Budgeon replied that it was generally useful but was not available in all locations. It had helped reveal the culprit involved in the shop theft but detection could still prove difficult if the perpetrator was unknown to the Police.
- 4.9 Parking on the pavement on St Baldred's Road was raised by Cllr Baker and other Councillors agreed that this was regular occurrence. He had reported the matter to 101. Police agreed to investigate.
- 4.9 The Chairman confirmed that, after discussion with the Library staff following the June NBCC meeting, staff would note car registration details of people misusing the bays allocated for disabled people at the Library and pass this information to the Police.
- 4.10 Cllr Bryson commented on the positive response to 101 calls.

If there are any questions, please email NorthBerwickCoastalCPT@Scotland.pnn.police.uk or ColinBanks@Scotland.pnn.police.uk

Presentation by Tom Reid ELC Waste Management

Mr Reid gave a presentation setting out ELC waste strategy and proposed changes from April 2015. Recycling targets were demanding and ELC had failed to meet last year's target of 50%, achieving 44.8% which placed it 12th out of 32 Councils in terms of waste recycling. Data had been analysed and over 10,000 tons of material going to landfill had been identified as suitable for recycling. Mr Reid outlined the changes from April 2015, including a new weekly food waste collection. Households would be given a 7 litre container for indoors and a 23 Litre container to be kept outside and collected weekly. Biodegradable sacks would be supplied, free of charge. He reported that food waste collection had received a mixed response in other areas, mainly due to the absence of biodegradable sacks. ELC had a system in place to identify when the household supply needed to be replenished. Green bins would be collected every two weeks, not every week. Garden waste would continue to be collected every two weeks and this service would be extended to rural properties. The box system for recycling would continue and the uplift of bulky items remains unchanged. A specific trade service would also be introduced and disabled people could be assessed for assisted

services. Mr Reid hoped that, if people engaged with recycling, the strategy should work. Communication of the changes would be through a range of media including the Press, presentations to Community Councils, social media and supply of calendars for every household. A bonus would be the creation of new jobs.

Replying to a query from Cllr Watson regarding the possibility of obtaining bird proof black bags, Mr Reid explained that the issue was still being explored but cost was the problem. He had requested an increase in the frequency of collections in the Harbour and beach areas over the summer months and was working with Kenny Black to try to improve the situation.

ELC Cllr Berry highlighted the problems created by black bags being left out too early by the owners/managers of holiday properties and traders. Mr Reid agreed that transient populations could present difficulties but that from April 2015 more powers would be available to ELC and he would be working with Kenny Black on areas to be targeted.

Both Cllr Watson and ELC Cllr Berry suggested that sharing of bins in some locations, e.g. flats, could lead to a reduction in the number of wheelie bins and Mr Reid agreed that communal bins could be the way forward, adding that with all new properties, this is the first option. ELC was avoiding the use of large communal bins. He suggested that people monitor the impact of the change from weekly to fortnightly collection of green bins before requesting a smaller green bin.

Cllr H Smith welcomed the commitment to supply biodegradable bag.

Mr Reid, responding to Cllr Hall's concerns, gave reassurance that the food waste container had a lockable lid and would deter animals e.g. foxes from scavenging.

Cllr Danks enquired about plans to recycle drink cartons/tetrapaks. Mr Reid advised that this was a cost issue as the cardboard was low grade and, at present, no company was prepared to deal with it.

The meeting was informed that the introduction date would be in April, possibly towards the end of the month, to avoid Easter holidays. All the changes would be introduced simultaneously, not piecemeal, with a lot of effort being made to keep people informed.

Cllrs Macnair, Bryson and Watson suggested that Mr Reid make contact with the many property agents operating in North Berwick who can inform the service users who may be non-residents.

ELC Cllr Berry noted that in 15 years he had never received a complaint about the waste collection in North Berwick and congratulated the team for their good service.

5 Community Rail Partnership.

- 5.1 The Chairman advised that to date, over 500 survey forms had been completed. She encouraged Councillors to put forward their suggestions before the end of August when responses would be collated.
- 5.2 ELC Cllr Berry commented on the positive role played by the Kiosk Manager at the station in promoting local tourism. The Chairman concurred, noting that he was attracting a lot of interest and using materials from the Library stocks.

6 Amenity Services Inspection

- 6.1 The Chairman reported on the recent Inspection Tour she undertook with Stuart Pryde from ELC, Cllrs Kellock, Macnair and H Smith, Andrew Hogarth from ELC Landscape and Gardening. Among other issues, the unsatisfactory state of the toilets at the Harbour was noted.
- 6.2 The proposal to replace painted railings at the harbour and beach areas with galvanised steel was a disappointment for Cllr H Smith who stressed the importance of the appearance of the town. Cllr Macnair expressed his view that the North Berwick climate dictated what was possible and sustainable and that it was not financially sound to replace like with like. Cllr H Smith disagreed, suggesting that in this situation, the costs might need to be borne. Following lively discussion, the Chairman concluded that this debate could continue as nothing was happening imminently.
- 6.3 Cllrs Watson, Bryson and Macnair raised concerns about weed control on pathways. Cllr Watson had observed physical removal of weeds and wondered why they were not being sprayed. Cllr Bryson, commenting on the poor state of the pavements due to weeds in Gilbert Avenue and Couper Avenue, had made enquiries and been told that action was down to the contractor to whom complaints should be directed.
- 6.4 Cllr H Smith expressed thanks to the Amenity Service Team for the additional rubbish collections in the Harbour area which had made a great difference.

7 Cockenzie Energy Park Proposals

- 7.1 Information about the proposals had been circulated and the Chairman sought views as to the need for a response from the Community Council. Cllr Hall commented on the scale of the proposals which she believed would affect a lot of the East Lothian coastline. Cllr H Smith agreed that there would be an impact, for example on the John Muir Way and golf courses but felt that more information was needed.
- 7.2 There was discussion about the business benefits the Energy Park could bring to East Lothian. Cllr Macnair noted that its position on bedrock, near the sea, was an ideal site and could lead to lots of business for the county. ELC Cllr Goodfellow envisaged that the development would create over 1000 highly skilled jobs and emphasised that this was a “clean” industry. In ELC Cllr Berry’s view, a holistic approach was required as the development of the waterfront could produce benefits for tourism in the longer term.
- 7.3 It was agreed by the Council that more factual, unbiased information was required. The Chairman offered to invite an appropriate person to a future NBCC Meeting.

8 Signage for car parking: an update on Parking Consultation

- 8.1 The Secretary had circulated Information on proposed signage for car parking. The Chairman proposed to reply to Peter Forsyth at ELC Transportation, accepting the new measures which several Councillors felt was an improvement, albeit a small one.
- 8.2 Concerns were raised regarding the absence of a reference on the signage to the distance from the car park to the beach. Cllr Danks felt that some of the areas from parking places to the beach were not safe for walking. In response to a query from Cllr H Smith, the Chairman agreed to check out the situation regarding the removal of existing signs, in the belief that those giving conflicting messages would be removed.

- 8.3 ELC Cllr Berry drew attention to the lack of signage regarding currently underused parking facilities available at weekends, for example, at the Community Centre, Station, and the High School. He estimated that in excess of 45 spaces were not used at weekends. Cllr Watson commented that the High School did not come under Peter Forsyth's jurisdiction. Cllr Baker felt that some of these spaces were too far away from the main amenities, given that many visitors are elderly. While further discussion would continue, the Chairman agreed to reply accepting the new signage, on behalf of the Community Council.
- 8.4 The Chairman thanked Cllr H Smith for her helpful information on campervans.
- 8.5 The Secretary had circulated details of new signage stating no overnight parking and no campervans for the Castlehill and Marine Parade areas. Although Cllr Bryson had some reservations regarding their value, given his previous experience, the new signs were generally welcomed. ELC Cllr Day raised the possibility of introducing "goal posts" as an additional measure and the Community Council agreed to support this suggestion.
- 8.6 The Chairman reported that the report following the Parking Consultation was due in September or October. At this stage, it seemed that the Coo's Green proposal was unlikely to go ahead.

9 Law Race – 6th August

- 9.1 The Chairman confirmed that the majority of Councillors were available to award the medals at the ceremony which would start at 7.30pm.

10 Remembrance Day Parade

- 10.1 Cllr Bryson had obtained from Douglas Adamson copies of the letters used in previous years. A wreath had been ordered.

11 Vacancy for Community Councillor

Following the resignation of Haley Flanagan, the position had been advertised. Cllr H Smith asked about the application procedure and was advised that this could be done via the NBCC webpage or by contacting the Chairman or Secretary, in the first instance. The Chairman drew attention to the press coverage of Haley's resignation.

12 Planning Matters

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

Lilands Dirleton Avenue – extensions to house to form two houses, formation of vehicular access and associated works

1, Rhodes Holding – design changes to the scheme of development the subject of planning permission 13/00371/P.

15 Ferrygate, Gasworks Lane – extension to flat.

Gilsland Caravan Park Newhouse Road – erection of workshop/storage shed.

Links Cottage, Abbotsford Road – extension to house and erection of garage.

2&5 King's Knoll, Clifford Road – extensions to buildings, formation of external staircase, roof terrace with balustrade, hardstanding area, erection of shed and demolition of part of building.

2&5 King's Knoll, Clifford Road – formation of hardstanding area, erection of shed and extension to flat 2, formation of external staircase, roof terrace with balustrades to flat 5.

9a Dirleton Avenue – replacement of single glazing with double glazing within existing window frames and repainting of windows.

7 Quadrant – alterations, extension to building, formation of hardstanding area, steps, erection of walls, gates, demolition of parts of building walls and gates.

7 Quadrant – alterations, extension to house, widening of existing vehicular access, formation of hardstanding area, steps, erection of walls and gates.

16c, Melbourne Road – replacement windows

13 Reports from Groups and Societies

13.1 **CAPP:** Cllr Bryson had attended the last CAPP and confirmed that priorities were as set out in the Police Scotland report.

13.2 **St Andrew's Auld Kirk Project:** Cllr Kellock reported that connections between this project and the Museum continued to be explored. There had been no further progress on finance. Discussions with Viridor were ongoing.

13.3 **Old Pier:** Both Cllr Watson and Cllr Macnair commented on the significant progress at the Old Pier.

13.4 **Coastal Communities Museum:** Cllr Watson was pleased to report that, between 20 June and 27 July, the World War One exhibition had attracted 972 visitors, including 173 children.

14 Correspondence

14.1 Service to commemorate World War 1 at Edinburgh Castle 10 August

The Secretary had received an invitation for two Community Councillors to attend this service on 10th August at Edinburgh Castle, 9am until 3pm. It was agreed that Cllr Kellock would represent NBCC.

14.2 Future of the Edington Hospital

The Community Council had received a letter from Eddie Clark raising his concern about the future of the Edington hospital, in the light of the creation of the new Roodlands Hospital in Haddington. He had asked if the Community Council would be making a submission to retain the Edington. Cllr Danks stated that there was no suggestion that the Edington would close. Indeed, there had been a well-publicised commitment for the retention of the Minor Injuries Unit. Other usage would be up to the Community.

ELC Cllr Goodfellow agreed that there was no threat to the Edington Hospital at present. Further down the line, when the new hospital had been established, the Older People's strategy would be reviewed but that was very much in the future. The Chairman was aware that David Small had made a commitment to get back to the Friends of the Edington by the end of August. The Secretary would write to Mr Clark clarifying the position.

14.3 Broadband in East Lothian

The Secretary drew attention to an event to be held in Haddington on 14 August 16.00 – 18.00 to discuss the rollout of superfast broadband. Three representatives were invited to attend the event. Cllrs Sinclair, Kellock and Watson agreed to attend.

15 Any other competent business

15.1 International Market at Elcho Green

There had been no consultation with the NBCC about this market to be held on Elcho Green in North Berwick 7-10 August. ELC Cllr Goodfellow had managed to divert the event from the Law Road car park which had been the original proposed location. Several Councillors raised concerns about the possible impact on local businesses. ELC Cllr Berry suggested that the CC write to the Licensing Officer to enquire about the lack of consultation and it was agreed that the Secretary would do this.

15.2 Letter of praise from a visitor

The Chairman was delighted to read out a letter received from a visitor who had high praise for the town and its residents.

16 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting would take place at 19.30 on Tuesday 2nd September at the Fire Station, Station Road, North Berwick.