

Royal Burgh of North Berwick Community Council

Minutes of the 459th Public Meeting held at 19.30 on Tuesday 02 September 2014

in The Fire Station, Station Road, North Berwick Well, that's all for now.

Present: Cllr S Sinclair Chairman

Cllr K Smith Secretary

Cllrs R Bryson, E Danks, D Kellock (Minutes), L Hall, W Macnair, H Smith, I Watson, J Scott

In attendance: ELC Cllr T Day, ELC Cllr J Goodfellow, local Press, PC Gavin Ross, Kenneth Black, and four members of the public.

1 Apologies: Cllr M Baker, PC Cameron Tait, Mrs A Turgoose

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

The adoption of the Minutes was proposed by Cllr W Macnair and seconded by Cllr I Watson.

3 Matters Arising.

3.1 *"The Watcher Sculpture"*

(3.4) The Chairman reported that she had written to and met with Tom Brock, Chief Executive of the Scottish Seabird Centre regarding repositioning the sculpture. Mr Brock confirmed the ELC Planning Department written response, which indicated that the placement of the sculpture was approved, did not contravene the planning application and could not be moved nearer the railings because of underground services. Moving the statue would require a new planning application and any other location was unlikely to satisfy the sponsors. Mr Brock suggested that it could be illuminated and he undertook to investigate further.

3.2 *Local Government Boundary Commission*

(3.2) The Secretary confirmed that a response had been sent to the Commission in support of the *status quo*.

3.3 *McCarthy & Stone*

(3.6) The Chairman advised that following the public exhibition of their proposals the company were this week putting the finishing touches to their planning application for their proposed development at the Tantallon Road site.

3.4 *Quality Street Notice Boards*

(3.7) The application for Planning Permission had been submitted for the new notice boards and the painters for the planters would be on site by the end of this week.

3.5 *Amenity Services Inspection -Weeds*

(6.3) ELC staff had been out spraying over recent days.

3.6 *Broadband in East Lothian*

(14.3) The Chairman with Cllrs Macnair and Watson had attended the consultation on faster broadband. Cllr Watson explained that the fibre optic cable would be fed from the exchange to the green street boxes. Outlying areas far from exchanges would receive radio signals. North Berwick would be linked up by 2017. The main issue was to reduce the use of copper cabling, which was more expensive and a poorer transmitter.

3.7 *International Market at Elcho Green*

(15.1) The Secretary had written to the Clerk of the ELC Licensing Board following the Community Council's disquiet about arrangements for this event. The Clerk agreed that the Community Council would in future receive advance written notice of such events.

4 **Police Report**

4.1 PC Gavin Ross reported as follows -

1) Update from previous Community and Police Partnership (CAPP) meeting:

Police continued to patrol the Marine Parade and Tantallon Terrace areas, with numerous tickets being issued for parking offences. This would continue regularly.

There had been no Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) calls to Dundas Road logged on the Police systems.

2) Action from August CAPP:

Police were to monitor 'boy racers' after 10.00 pm in the Lochbridge Road area and to carry out speed checks in Marmion Road.

The next CAPP meeting would be on 24/09/14 in the Council Chambers, Quality Street.

3) Ward Priorities:

Road safety – There had been 4 vehicular accidents within the period and 10 other complaints regarding miscellaneous road traffic matters, ranging from obstruction to parking issues. There had been one incident of driving without insurance resulting in the seizure of the vehicle.

Anti-social behaviour (ASB) –

06/08/14 – Call to Forth Street regarding drunken youths shouting and causing a disturbance – no persons were there on arrival of police.

10/08/14 – Calls received to ASB in Lodge Grounds – nothing was ongoing on police attendance.

14/08/14 – Around 3.30 am reports received that bins were being thrown around street. Bins were found to be strewn around but no trace of culprits.

28/08/14 – Call received to High Street regarding cars revving engines and racing along street.

Vandalism x 1

Theft – Theft x 1; Theft from motor vehicle x 1; Theft/shoplifting x 2

Other offences – Assault x 1

4) 101 Response times:

- 4.2 Cllr H Smith commented that she had had occasion to phone 101 recently and had been put through to Edinburgh where it just rang out. PC Ross explained that at busy times it may take time to respond and a repeat call may be necessary. He clarified the difference between 999 and 101 calls, with 999 being for urgent, serious and emergency matters and 101 for lesser concerns. The Chairman queried the time taken to respond to calls. PC Ross explained that response time was dependent on what other matters the duty police were dealing with and where the police car was at the time of the call. He further reported that local Officers daily examined incident reports to look out for patterns. ELC Cllr Day advised that the issue of response times was due to be raised at the next Environment Group meeting.

5 Presentation by Kenneth Black, ELC Antisocial Behaviour Co-ordinator

Mr Black confirmed that the new community warden, Keith Tait, was now in post. He apologised for the absence of Mr Tait who had been expected at the meeting and advised that he would be able to attend in October. Mr Tait had five years' experience elsewhere and knew the Ward well.

Mr Tait would be wearing a black and red uniform carrying out high visibility duties in relation to low level antisocial behaviour, littering, fly-tipping and general community safety issues arising from, amongst other things, items of concern raised at CAPP meetings. The contact point is a 24/7 staffed phone line 0845 601 8518.

The Chairman welcomed this information and expressed satisfaction at a staffed phone point being in place.

6 Cockenzie Energy Park Proposals

The Chairman referred to the report that had been circulated to all members and the public meeting that was taking place as she spoke. She had invited Colin Bell from the Scottish Executive or Grant Young from the planning consultants involved with this project to come to speak to the Community Council but had been advised that the preferred method of disseminating information to community councils in future would be via the Association of East Lothian Community Councils. She understood that attempts were being made to arrange this. As this proposal was a major issue with wide ramifications it was agreed that the Community Council would monitor this matter and engage in wider discussions as necessary.

7 Transport and Tourism

- 7.1 The Chairman had written to the ELC Economic Development Department regarding the level of information available at the Library. Posters containing more helpful information for tourists to use when the Library was closed were being designed. Staff had received more training in how to manage visitor enquiries as well as attending to their library duties and appeared to be responding positively to this new aspect of their work.
- 7.2 Cllr H Smith commented that she understood that it was VisitScotland's view that most people use their own computers or mobile applications for tourist information rather than offices. Cllr Watson pointed out that mobile coverage and broadband speeds in the town

might have an impact upon visitors looking for information. The meeting considered that there was a need for a Tourist Information Office in North Berwick as tourism remained its major focus.

7.3 ELC Cllr Goodfellow explained that action was being taken to have a dedicated VisitScotland terminal in the Library with a link to Transport Scotland.

7.4 The Chairman displayed a charter prepared by RELBUS for East Lothian bus passengers, which she considered should be on all bus shelters. Members concurred and congratulated RELBUS for their initiative.

8 Signage for Car Parking

8.1 The Chairman expressed her disappointment on behalf of the Community Council that the direction signs for car parking and the amended finger pointing direction poles had not yet been installed. Several Community Councillors reported complaints about this from members of the public. The Chairman's enquiries indicated that work was progressing, but no date could yet be given for completion.

8.2 East Lothian Roads Network Management had produced an amended design for height restricting posts at the entries to the east beach car parks. The Community Council welcomed this initiative, which would include "no overnight stays" signs. It appeared, however, that these measures may not be in place until just prior to the 2015 season.

9 Old St Andrew's Kirk Project

9.1 The Chairman had attended a meeting with former committee members of the Friends of North Berwick Museum and others who were currently collecting information on the Old St Andrew's Kirk on Anchor Green as part of a project to produce a 3D model display in the Coastal Communities Museum, which could also be viewed on computer. The project would be the final act of the Friends of North Berwick Museum now that the running of the Museum had been passed to the new Coastal Communities Museum Trust.

9.2 Cllr Kellock reported that it was hoped that there would be a link in due course on the Museum webpage drawing together the historical progression through the years of the three St Andrew Churches in the town. A member of the Kirk Ports Working Group, Mrs Joy Dodd, was leading two public tours of that site's history in the context of current proposals for improving the ruin and surrounding area.

10 Remembrance Day Parade

The Chairman was overseeing arrangements for the parade with Cllr Bryson checking on details for the rehearsal. The Secretary had the wreath.

11 Vacancy for Community Councillors

There would shortly be two vacancies to be filled; the vacancies had been locally advertised and three people had expressed an interest.

12 Planning Matters

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

Rockville (Near Kingston)

Change of derelict agricultural buildings to form 1 house, change of use of agricultural land to form domestic garden, alterations and change of use of dovecot to form domestic storage building, erection of domestic garage and associated works, change of use of agricultural land for keeping horses and erection of stable block.

Miller Homes, Ferrygate Farm

Planning Permission in Principle for residential development and associated works

22 Melbourne Road

Demolition of walls and gate; alterations to house, widening of existing vehicular access, erection of gates and pier

11A Market Place

Replacement windows

36 Forth Street

Formation of additional decked area, steps, hot tub and glass balustrades as design changes to the scheme of development, the subject of planning permission 12/00529/P (part retrospective)

2 Fidra Road

Extension to house, replacement balustrade to balcony and alterations to steps

21 Dirleton Avenue

Replacement windows

Gin Head Tantallon

Renewal of planning permission 10/00787/P – Alterations and extension to laboratory buildings to form 7 houses, erection of garages, change of use of laboratory and agricultural land to form domestic garden ground and common amenity space, formation of vehicular access and associated works.

Quality Street

Display of advertisements for new notice boards (*see item 3.4*)

- 12.2 The Chairman had received details of a proposed development for housing with business allocation, which would be considered at a later date.

13 Reports from Groups and Societies

- 13.1 Cllr Watson reported on three matters -

- The Christmas Lights arrangements were well in hand. The Switch On was scheduled for Saturday, 22nd November, with refreshments served inside the Abbey Church.
- The Coastal Museum exhibition of the Great War memorabilia was attracting interest, with 1,459 adult visitors and 290 children so far. The Coastal Communities Museum Trust had now been formalised.

- This year's Raft Race had attracted 10 varied entries, many sandcastle displays and other attractions on the Elcho Green all helped by the good weather. There had also been a flying display, much appreciated by the audience.

13.2 Cllr Macnair detailed the excellent progress being made with the Old Pier, explaining in some detail what was being carried out. He said that an interpretive board would be needed to explain its history and current use and that he would draw in as much information as possible for this. The Chairman clarified that money would have to be found for such a display.

14 Correspondence

14.1 The Secretary reminded community councillors that the ELC Resilient Communities Workshop 2014 would be taking place on Saturday 25th October at the Brunton Hall. Cllr H Smith had agreed to attend.

14.2 The Secretary had received an e-mail highlighting concern about cars parking between Old Abbey Road and the Fire Station due to the station car park regularly being full. Cars near the junction with Old Abbey Road created a blind area for cars pulling out of that road.

The Chairman recognised this concern, but drew attention to the great length of time it took for the required permissions to be obtained and then for the road signs to be put up and the markings painted. It was noted that Drem Station had a similar problem and cones were used to mark off the area in the meantime.

On the back of this parking matter, Cllr Bryson expressed his concern that the yellow lines on the narrow part of Law Road had still not been replaced.

14.3 ELC Cllr Day confirmed that the Station Court parking issue would be addressed in the ELC Parking Consultation Report which was due to be published shortly.

14.4 The Secretary reported that grants of up to £150,000 per project were available from the Climate Challenge Fund for local community groups to use for *inter alia* litter/recycling projects. Cllr H Smith suggested that the community warden be asked for any ideas/projects that would be suitable for support. She also pointed out that community litter bins were being used by local outlets to dispose of bottles, tins and other refuse. The Chairman undertook to investigate further.

14.5 Cllr Bryson agreed to attend the East Lothian Tenants and Residents Panel Annual General meeting in Musselburgh on 22nd September.

15 Any other competent business

Audit - Cllr Scott sought agreement for Mr Kinnear to receive a £50 honorarium for auditing the financial books of the Community Council. This was approved.

16 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting would be at 19.30 on Tuesday 7th October at the Fire Station, Station Road, North Berwick.