

Royal Burgh of North Berwick Community Council

Minutes of the 460th Public Meeting held at 19.30 on Tuesday 07 October 2014

in The Fire Station, Station Road, North Berwick.

Present: Cllr S Sinclair Chairman

Cllr K Smith Secretary

Cllrs R Bryson, E Danks, D Kellock, D Ritchie, J Scott, H Smith, I Watson,

In attendance: ELC Cllr T Day, ELC Cllr J Goodfellow, local Press, PC M Juchniewicz, Keith Tait, Peter Hamilton, Mrs A Turgoose.

1 Apologies: Cllr M Baker, Cllr L Hall, Cllr W Macnair, PC Cameron Tait, ELC Cllr D Berry

2 Minutes of the Meeting held on 2nd September 2014.

The adoption of the Minutes was proposed by Cllr D Kellock and seconded by Cllr B Bryson.

3 Matters Arising.

3.1 Broadband in East Lothian

(3.6) The Minutes of 2nd September 2014 were amended to delete the phrase “and from there to houses”. The Chairman reported that she had been notified of another seminar on Broadband. Cllr H Smith reminded Councillors that the timescale to link North Berwick by 2017 was not guaranteed. The timing would be determined by BT.

3.2 Signage for Car Parking

(8.1) Cllr H Smith reported that the sea front signs were in place.

3.3 Quality Street Notice Boards

(3.4) The Chairman confirmed that the planters in Quality Street had now been repainted.

4 Police Report presented by PC Matt Juchniewicz.

4.1 There had been 128 calls to the Police in the month, 21 recorded crimes of which 13 had been solved with enquiries continuing into the other crimes.

4.2 **Road Safety:** There had been two road accidents but no crimes or offences were committed. One person suffered minor injuries involving a low speed collision between a car and a bus on Marmion Road. There was also a minor collision on the High Street when a driver opened their door and another vehicle struck the wing mirror. There had been several complaints regarding miscellaneous road traffic matters, ranging from obstruction to parking issues.

4.3 **Anti Social Behaviour:** On the evening of Sunday 5 October an incident at Lochbridge Road had resulted in a male being arrested and charged with 6 offences – playing loud music and refusing to desist, two breaches of the peace, vandalism, possession of an offensive weapon and resisting arrest. A report was submitted to the Procurator Fiscal and the accused was released on bail.

4.4 **Substance Misuse:** One offence of possession of a controlled substance (personal amount of cannabis).

- 4.5 **Theft:** There had been two incidents of shop lifting and two thefts relating to items stolen from an insecure vehicle; a business was broken into and items stolen.
- 4.6 The public consultation survey for the North Berwick Coastal Ward had been completed and the information was in the process of being collated. PC Juchniewicz informed the meeting that “SMARTWATER” kits had been issued to members of the public who had been victims of a housebreaking or live in an area identified as being likely to benefit from the kit which marked items with a unique forensic chemical compound, enabling property to be identified and also acted as a deterrent. He also reminded members of the public to ensure that vehicles were secure.
- 4.7 CAPP priorities for North Berwick: **1) Dundas Road** – parking issues, littering, general anti-social behaviour around the bus shelter **2) Dog Fouling on the path at the rear of Law View, 3) Monitoring and issuing tickets to offenders in overstay bays outside shops between bank and dentist.**
- 4.8 **Date of the next CAPP meeting: Wednesday 29 October at 19.30 in the Council Chambers, Quality Street**
- 4.9 Cllr Bryson asked if the Officer was aware of incidents in the High Streets. Unfortunately, as he was not local, the Police Officer apologised that he couldn’t respond. The Chairman expressed the frustration of the Community Council at the absence of local representation. Cllr Bryson asked if there was a police presence in North Berwick that evening. The Officer did not know, stating that there were no officers stationed in the town at present. Some processing of crimes took place in Haddington but Dalkeith with the custody suite was the main centre for activity.

5 Community Councillor Vacancy

- 5.1 The Chairman formally welcomed Deborah Ritchie and commented upon the wealth of experience, including expertise in the area of Health and Well Being, which Deborah brought to the Community Council. She was also pleased to inform the meeting that Peter Hamilton would join formally in November, following the retirement of Bob Bryson.

6 Community Warden – Keith Tait

- 6.1 Keith Tait was welcomed by the Chairman and gave a short presentation setting out his roles and responsibilities. Duties involved dealing with a range of antisocial behaviour issues, including domestic noise, dog fouling, fly tipping and litter, often working jointly with the Police. The Warden outlined the geographical area he covered which extended from the Gosford Estate to the outskirts of Dunbar. His aim was to be as visible as possible and he encouraged the public to contact the service on 0845 601 8518 if they had concerns. In his absence, the administrative team would refer the matter to another officer. In the case of domestic noise, complaints should go to 101 and, if occurring at night, the matter would be passed to the designated night noise team.
- 6.2 Cllr H Smith asked about the number of Wardens and was advised that the team consisted of eight people which included Kenneth Black, the Anti-Social Behaviour Coordinator.
- 6.3 In response to a question from Cllr Kellock regarding promotion of his role so that the public understood it, the Community Warden drew attention to information on the website and recent publicity in the Press. While much of the awareness was based on high visibility of the

Warden in the Community, he would do leaflet drops if there was a particular local issue of concern. He also confirmed that posters were available to which the Chairman commented that there should be information regarding contact details outside the Police Station. ELC Cllr Goodfellow offered to take this matter forward.

- 6.4 Cllr H Smith raised the question of a forward programme where certain events would be the Warden's focus e.g. November Fireworks display. Although the Warden had been asked by the Police to get involved, at this stage, his approach tended to be reactive. However, it was hoped to introduce a programme for young drivers.

7 Transport and Tourism

- 7.1 The Chairman had not received any information regarding the proposed terminal for the Library. She planned to meet with the Museum representative, Richard Rodgers, to review signage to Tourist Information and the Museum and would be discussing information boards at the Railway with the Station Manager. She also confirmed that the ELC Economic Development Department had acknowledged that the town map at the Station was upside down and would produce a replacement.
- 7.2 Cllr H Smith raised the question of the East Lothian Tourism Strategy and how to access it online. Golf and Events were highlighted but not Tourism itself. ELC Cllr Day offered to take this up with the person responsible for Tourism.

8 Signage for Car Parking

- 8.1 There was a wide discussion regarding the beach car park signs. The Chairman was aware that Peter Forsyth had received a query about their legality. Cllr Bryson had spoken to people who had threatened to remove the sign. They were reluctant to go to the caravan park as this would attract a charge. ELC Cllr Day believed that goalposts might help and, in addition, the approaching end of the peak holiday season should alleviate the situation. Cllr H Smith had noticed a decline in the number of campervans but was unsure as to the reason and expressed concern that the campervans were merely being displaced to other areas eg Victoria St. She had also noted that some signs had been moved to face the sea. ELC Cllr Day suggested that overnight parking was the issue but Cllr H Smith disagreed, reporting that the campervans were creating daytime problems by blocking exits. She felt that the location of alternative sites needed to be made clear. The Chairman reported that the findings from the questionnaire on parking should be available at the end of October.

9 cycleforth Report

- 9.1 The Secretary referred Councillors to the report from *cycleforth* which had been circulated. She noted that it had already been sent by *cycleforth* to ELC, Sustrans and other interested parties. The contents of the wide ranging report with its large number of suggestions were discussed. Some of the proposals related to areas to the west of the town, beyond the town boundary.
- 9.2 Cllr Ritchie drew attention to the positive contribution of cycling to public health, adding that the number of cyclists was large and growing. She observed that some of the issues raised in the report e.g non adherence to speed limits should be raised with the Police. She also had concerns that ELC had not fully accessed money available to develop community links and reminded Councillors that the huge number of cyclists presented real safety risks.

The Chairman concluded that everyone would support measures to improve safety but the report had not addressed the cost of the suggestions.

- 9.3 Cllrs H Smith and Danks reflected the generally held view that there were some suggestions which were unrealistic and could not be supported but others were worthy of debate, although many issues were beyond the control of the Community Council.

10 Remembrance Day Parade

- 10.1 The Chairman reported that some arrangements were in place and she was pleased that John Starr would act as Marshal. It was agreed to contact the Army Cadets who had not yet been approached. Final arrangements would be discussed at the November Community Council meeting.

11 Planning Matters

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

53, Old Abbey Road EH39 4BP: Erection of one house with a detached residential accommodation and associated works.

17 Beach Road EH39 4AL: erection of sheds and heightening of trellis (part retrospective).

Clarification would be sought regarding the height of the trellis.

66 High Street EH39 4HF: display of advertisements.

15 Westerdunes Park EH395 HJ: alterations and extension to house, alterations to garage, erection of gates and railings

42 Forth Street EH39 4JG : demolition of gates

42a Forth Street EH39 4JG: alterations to flat, erection of gates, screens, sheds, formation of hardstanding area, steps and raised decked area.

5 Netherlaw EH39 4RF: extension to house.

5 Quidenham Court EH39 4RX: extension to house

30/32 Victoria Road Fisherman's Hall EH39 4JL: alterations, extension to 2 flats, erection of gates, fencing and balustrade.

Flat 2, 8 Quality St EH39 4HP: erection of fencing, gate, the formation of pedestrian access and installation of satellite dish (retrospective)

Links Cottage Abbotsford Road EH39 5DD: extensions to house

Craigend Cottage 2a Cromwell Road EH39 4LZ: demolition of walls, trellises and gates

Craigend Cottage 2a Cromwell Road EH39 4LZ: alterations, extension to house, installation of solar panels, external staircase with first floor balcony and formation of hardstanding area. **A query would be raised regarding the appropriateness of the proposals in a conservation area.**

3 York Road EH39 4LS: replacement Windows

12 Reports from Groups and Societies

12.1 Old St Andrew's Kirk project

Cllr Kellock confirmed that the application for a £360k grant for the restoration and development of the site had been submitted to Viridor. There is a requirement for third parties to provide 10% of the total sum, in this case £36k. The North Berwick Environment Forum would act as Applicant on behalf of the Kirk Ports Working Groups for all monies drawn in. The Project requested that the Community Council would also act as an Independent Third Party. Cllr Danks was concerned about the grant applications and stated that the Heritage Lottery fund would not give money to a Community Council. Cllr Kellock clarified that the Community Council would not be involved in applying for grants. Its role would be purely as an independent Banker to receive all monetary contributions for the requisite 10% and to forward these to Viridor when requested. The Treasurer and Chairman agreed that, if this was a legal route, then no problems were foreseen. The request was approved. Cllr Kellock indicated that more information should be available following a meeting in November.

12.2 Coastal Communities Museum

Cllr Watson reported that, during September, 386 adults and 46 children had visited the World War 1 exhibition which would continue until March. The Museum was now operating on restricted hours.

12.3 Arts Centre

Cllr Watson advised that the feasibility study should be completed in approximately one month.

12.4 Community Centre

Cllr H Smith was pleased to report that the Community Centre would reopen on 3 November and that there would be an opening ceremony. The Centre would be doing fund raising for music therapy and might look to the Community Council for a contribution. She agreed to forward details of this project to the Chairman.

Cllr Ritchie had a query regarding the facilities for counselling. She was reassured that, although the room used for counselling no longer existed, a quiet room was available, albeit it was much smaller than the original space. She made the point that there was shortage of spaces for Cruse Counselling in East Lothian, partly due to cost implications.

12.5 Christmas Lights

Plans were up to date and Cllr Scott would be attending a further meeting on 13 October. He had been in touch with the Business Association and a £500 donation was a possibility. There was some difficulty in obtaining a solo piper. He was advised by the Chairman that John Starr could be a useful contact. If it remained an issue, Cllr Kellock suggested that the Pipe Band could be approached directly.

12.6 North Berwick in Bloom

The Chairman, as Secretary of In Bloom, had attended the ACoRP (Association of Community Rail Partnerships) awards ceremony at Scarborough Spa on 2 October. North Berwick had been awarded second prize in this UK wide competition and the team of volunteers was

delighted with the result. The winning Station was Hindley, near Wigan. ELC Cllr Day congratulated In Bloom on their success and remarked on the high standard of floral displays in the town. The Chairman agreed to pass on his comments to the volunteers and acknowledged the role of ELC in the creation and maintenance of the Memorial Gardens.

13 Correspondence

- 13.1 **Rubbish bins:** the Secretary referred Members to correspondence from Tom Reid regarding the proposed sacks to be used in Quality Street and around the Harbour for properties that cannot store a wheeled bin. The sacks had the same capacity as a regular 240 litre bin and were gull proof. When empty, the sacks folded to the size of a carrier bag. Given that they could be anchored securely, the Community Council supported the suggestion.
- 13.2 **Reactive Speed Signs:** an email had been received from Colin Baird of ELC asking if current locations for the two signs should be changed. Following discussion, it was agreed that the positions on Tantallon Road and East Road should be retained as they seemed to have had some effect on traffic control. However, it was highlighted that the East Road sign was in need of repair. To avoid complacency, ELC CLR Goodfellow suggested that a change of location be considered at the next review and Cllr Ritchie believed that some areas highlighted in the *cycleforth* report could be possible locations. Cllr K Smith said that additional signs raised cost implications for NBCC.
- 13.3 **Yacht Club Fireworks - 5 November:** the Secretary had received a request for £400 from the Yacht Club to support the Fireworks display at the Harbour on 5 November. The Treasurer confirmed that this amount was already planned expenditure under the Local Priorities budget. Cllr H Smith suggested that the amount be reviewed next year as the sum had not changed for several years.
- 13.4 **Glen Golf Club Car park obstructions:** an email with photographs had been received from Jonathan Best regarding boulders placed on the footpath at the Golf Club and showing vehicles parked on the grass. It was agreed that Mr Best should raise this issue directly with the Golf Club. The Secretary would forward the email contents to Stuart Pryde at ELC, Andrew Hogarth, ELC Landscape and Countryside and the Police. Cllr Bryson would also raise this matter at the next CAPP meeting.

14 Any Other Competent Business

14.1 Car pool for North Berwick

The Chairman had attended a meeting regarding a carpool for the town. Haddington and Dunbar carpools had now merged their organisations and a bid was being considered for two cars for North Berwick. Volunteers run the Haddington and Dunbar car pools but there may be funding for a part time post. Cllr Watson queried the location of the car pool in North Berwick, given the shortage of parking spaces in the town. One suggested location was the car park behind the old Council Offices on Quality Street. Cllr H Smith advised that, in Dunbar, the High School had one space with Bleachingfield having the electric car space.

14.2 East Lothian Community Education Programme

Cllr H Smith alerted members to the recently published programme of free courses and encouraged fellow Councillors to look at the courses available, for example in helping to understand/ use Twitter and Facebook. She agreed to forward details to the Chairman.

14.3 *Recycling bin on Quality St*

Cllr Watson had noticed that the condition of the exterior of the bin required attention. It was grubby and unhygienic. The Chairman agreed to raise this with the appropriate people.

14.4 *Treasurer's remarks*

The Treasurer requested and was given approval to pay a cheque for £96 to cover planning permission costs for the Noticeboard. He also requested and was given approval to pay £137.80 for Insurance. The switch to ELC Insurance had resulted in a cheaper premium.

14.5 *Misuse of street bins*

Cllr Danks raised concerns about the use of street bins by commercial cleaners who chose not to take rubbish to the Amenity Centre. She had details of the firms, names and dates. ELC Cllr Day offered to take this further.

14.5 *Noticeboard at Law Road*

As there had been difficulty in opening the Noticeboard, Cllr Watson agreed to investigate. The Chairman reminded Councillors that the unlocked side was for public use.

14.6 *Area Partnerships*

The Chairman and Cllrs H Smith, Danks and Hall had represented the Community Council at the Area Partnership meetings. Cllr Watson had also attended, representing the Youth Network. The Chairman reported that some key areas had been highlighted for discussion and Cllr H Smith had produced a Paper which would be circulated for comment. Replies should be directed to Cllr H Smith who would collate the responses.

15 *Date of Next Meeting*

The next meeting of the Community Council will be held at the Fire Station, Station Road North Berwick on Tuesday 4th November at 19.30