

Royal Burgh of North Berwick Community Council

Minutes of the 461st Public Meeting held at 19.30 on Tuesday 04 November 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, D Ritchie, J Scott, H Smith, I Watson,

In attendance: ELC Cllr D Berry, ELC Cllr T Day, ELC Cllr J Goodfellow (part of meeting), local Press, PC Cameron Tait, Peter Hamilton, Jackie Tagg, Anita Nutter, Mrs A Turgoose.

1 Apologies: None

2 Minutes of the Meeting held on 7th October 2014.

The adoption of the Minutes was proposed by Cllr D Kellock and seconded by Cllr E Danks.

3 Matters Arising.

3.1 Quality Street Notice Boards

(3.3) The Chairman reported that the notice boards had been ordered. Cllr Macnair commented on the need for the seat to be repainted and the Chairman confirmed that the unpaid squad would undertake that task. Cllr Kellock drew attention to a potential problem at the Community Notice Board when plants blocked access to information. It was noted that the In Bloom team had already replanted the tub eliminating the problem.

3.2 Access to East Lothian Tourism Strategy

(7.2) ELC Cllr Day responded to the request from Cllr H Smith for an update. He reported that he had raised the matter, a meeting was planned and that he would speak to Cllr H Smith when more information was available. There were plans to refresh the ELC website.

3.3 East Lothian Community Education Programme

(14.2) Cllr H Smith had circulated the winter programme. Cllr Ritchie indicated that she had already signed up for a course which included utilising Facebook. Cllr H Smith reported that she had done some work in creating a draft Community Council Facebook page and would welcome comments. The Chairman expressed some concern that the Community Council had not been consulted. Cllr H Smith apologised and confirmed that the Facebook page was not live. The Secretary advised that the logo was incorrect and agreed to forward the correct one to Cllr H Smith. Cllr Ritchie expressed her view that Facebook should be considered as part of a Community Council Communication strategy. The Chairman asked that it form an item for a future agenda.

4 Police Report presented by PC Cameron Tait.

4.1 There had been 99 calls to the Police in the month, 15 recorded crimes of which 8 had been solved with enquiries continuing into the other crimes.

4.2 **WARD PRIORITIES:** 1] **Road Safety:** One incident of person with no MOT – the driver was charged. There had been a number of minor vehicular accidents though nothing of any seriousness.

There had been several complaints regarding miscellaneous road traffic matters, ranging from obstruction to parking issues.

4.3 2] **Anti-Social Behaviour:** There had been a small number of incidents regarding persons shouting and swearing in the High Street at weekends. The number of calls relating to anti-social behaviour in the form of youths loitering and boy racers on Dunbar Road had been reduced. Meeting with residents had borne this out. Police would continue to monitor the situation. There had been one incident of vandalism where a plastic conduit had been ripped off a wall in a common stairwell

4.4 3] **Substance Misuse:** There had been no reports of substance abuse.

4.5 4] **Theft:** There had been two incidents of shop lifting and one theft relating to power tools stolen from an insecure vehicle. PC Tait reminded members of the public to ensure that vehicles were secure.

4.6 **Other Incidents/ Crimes:** Following a large party in Gilbert Avenue, Council night wardens had attended, instructing the occupiers to turn down the sound. Police also attended and a male was arrested for obstructing a Police Officer, assaulting a Police Officer and resisting arrest. He was held in Police custody over the weekend and appeared at Haddington Sheriff Court on Monday 3 November.

4.7 **CAPP priorities for North Berwick: Three areas were highlighted**

- a) Youths loitering at the bus stop: **Police to monitor and deal with any offenders/ offences.**
- b) Speeding on Marmion Road: **Police to monitor and carry out speed checks.**
- c) Dog Fouling on the path at the rear of Law View: **Police to monitor and take appropriate action.**

Date of the next CAPP meeting: Wednesday 26 November at 19.30 in the Council Chambers, Quality Street. Feedback to: NorthBerwickCoastalCPT@Scotland.pnn.police.uk or Cameron.Tait@Scotland.pnn.police.uk

4.8 ELC Cllr Berry drew attention to the fact that PC Colin Banks had now left the area and wished to register his thanks for PC Bank's efforts which he considered often went above the call of duty. The Community Council endorsed this view and also expressed their appreciation.

4.9 The presence of skips without lights on St Baldred's Road was raised by Cllr Bryson while a similar problem on Dirleton Avenue was highlighted by Cllr Baker. PC Tait offered to investigate.

4.10 **Remembrance Day**

It was confirmed that Police arrangements were in place for Remembrance Day.

5 Community Councillor Vacancy

5.1 The Chairman formally acknowledged with sadness the resignation of Cllr Bryson. His letter of resignation was read aloud. On behalf of the Community Council, she presented Cllr

Bryson with a gift and thanked him for his significant contribution over the years, wishing him well with his plans for the future. She was also pleased to inform the meeting that Peter Hamilton would formally join the Community Council in November.

6 Transport and Tourism

- 6.1 The Chairman reported that she had walked around the town with ELC Cllr John McMillan looking at signposts which could need to be changed or augmented, bearing in mind the loss of the Tourist Information Office. The ELC Councillor agreed that the delay in action was unacceptable. The Chairman had been advised that a meeting involving ELC Councillors and officials was due to take place on 6 November and she was hopeful that this would produce action. The ELC Cllrs confirmed that they would be attending the meeting and would also chase up the results from the parking consultation.
- 6.2 ELC Cllr Berry clarified that information at the station was not wholly the responsibility of ELC as the Community Rail Partnerships had an involvement. The Chairman informed the meeting that she would be meeting the new rail franchise managers at a meeting in Glasgow on 6 November. She believed that a coordinated approach to signage, optimising space available and avoiding duplication could be achieved.

7 Resilient Communities Workshop

- 7.1 Cllrs H Smith and Ritchie recently attended a workshop to discuss the development of a Resilience Plan in the event of an emergency. They had found it a useful workshop which considered potential emergency scenarios and how to respond. They had already identified some of the actions which would be needed in North Berwick, for example, creating an Assets Register, identifying local resources and skills, undertaking a Risk Assessment and a Communication Plan and ascertaining who would be “vulnerable” within the Community. Cllr H Smith made Members aware of the Scottish Power scheme which enabled vulnerable people to register to ensure they were given priority in a crisis. She also spoke about emergency packs which could be available and believed that people should be encouraged to register. The Chairman accepted that informal arrangements needed to be strengthened by a clear structured response.
- 7.2 Replying to a query from Cllr Kellock, Cllr H Smith confirmed that a template for a local plan was available on the “Ready Scotland” website.
- 7.3 The Chairman concluded that this was an important project which warranted further discussion as a plan would need to be developed.

8 Area Partnership.

- 8.1 The Chairman, Cllrs Danks, Hall and H Smith had represented the Community Council at the Area Partnership meeting. Cllr Watson had also attended, representing the Youth Network. The meeting had identified key areas for example, broadband rollout. Cllr Danks noted that some areas e.g. Fenton Barns and Archerfield had been omitted from the plans and North Berwick would be last to come online, at some point in 2017. Cllr H Smith was aware that ELC Cllr Goodfellow had encouraged people to register an interest with BT Openreach to which Cllr Danks responded that local businesses needed to be made aware of the registration process. The next Area Partnership meeting would be held on 25 November with Health and Social Welfare as the topic for discussion. Cllr Scott asked about attendance rates and was advised that, to date, there had been full attendance of representatives and

deputies but that numbers would be slimmed down as the Partnership became more established. The Chair of the Area Partnership, David Small, would attend the December meeting of the Community Council.

9 Community Rail Partnership

- 9.1 The Chairman would have the opportunity to meet managers from Abellio, the new rail franchise operator, in Glasgow on 6 November. She also reported the launch of the Community Rail Partnership at Queen Margaret University on 18 November to which members of the Area Partnership had been invited. She expressed her hope that some changes would emerge, once the Community Rail Partnership was fully up and running.

10 Centre for Youth & Criminal Justice Survey

- 10.1 The Secretary had circulated details of the short online survey which appeared straightforward but required a Community Council response by 19 December. It was agreed to deal with this at the mid-month meeting of the Community Council.

11 Remembrance Day Parade

- 11.1 It was confirmed that the Church service at St Andrew Blackadder would start at 10.45am. Cllr Kellock asked Members to arrive by 10.40am, entering from St Andrew Street. The service would be followed by a parade to the War Memorial for a noon service. The Chairman requested that Members attend both services. Seats at the front of the church would be reserved for the Community Council while, at the outdoor service, they should congregate in the garden area. The salute would be taken by three people: The Deputy Lord Lieutenant, representing the Queen, ELC Cllr Day representing East Lothian Council and the Chairman representing North Berwick Community Council. John Starr would act as Marshal. Cllr H Smith queried if the temporary traffic lights beside the War Memorial would still be there. The Chairman planned to seek clarification from ELC Transportation Department.

12 Main Issues Report (MIR)

- 12.1 Cllr Hall outlined the importance of this detailed Report which is the first formal stage of preparing the Local Development Plan. MIR is a consultation document setting out ideas for the future development of the area, setting out preferred options. The MIR needed careful scrutiny and would require a response from the Community Council. The final plan to be agreed in 2015 would set out the agenda for the next ten years. Cllr Hall referred people to Section 9a of the report which focused on North Berwick.

As part of the public consultation there would be an informal drop in session from 2.00 pm – 5.30 pm with a free workshop from 6.30 pm – 8.30 pm on 4 December in the Community Centre. Councillors were encouraged to prepare questions for the planners. The report was available on the ELC website with hard copies being available in the Library from 17 November. The consultation would close on 8 February 2015.

- 12.2 ELCs Cllr Berry and Day both emphasised that the meeting was not a lobbying opportunity. The aim was to address questions, not respond to comments. Comments could be included in response to the consultation.
- 12.3 ELC Cllr Berry encouraged Councillors to look at the broader context, not just North Berwick. The Plan covered the area from Edinburgh to Berwick and he was concerned that East Lothian needed a clearer plan than that on offer, to avoid being viewed as a dormitory town

for Edinburgh. While there was an emphasis on housing, there was a failure to fully address transportation and infrastructure issues and recognise the need to develop job opportunities and business growth. He had already raised transportation matter with Ministers. He agreed that ELC had shown a commitment to jobs but the reality was that the last commercial site in Haddington had recently been allocated for housing. ELC Cllrs Berry, Day and Goodfellow had voted against this proposal.

The Chairman indicated that the report, which was lengthy and with many appendices, would be discussed at the December meeting.

13 Planning Matters

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

4 Victoria Road EH39 4JL: Replacement windows.

Land at Mains Farm: Application for approval of matters specified in conditions of planning permission in principle 13/00227/PPM- erection of 113 houses and associated works.

Land at Mains Farm: Approval of Matters specified in Conditions of planning permission in principle 13/00227/PPM – for infrastructure associated with the residential development including the construction of means of access junctions at Grange Road, Spine Road, cycle/pedestrian footpaths, SUDS, linear park, play area, strategic landscaping/ tree planting, landscaping of Countryside Park, traffic calming on Grange Road and 2 electric sub stations.

It was agreed that it would be queried if Dark Skies had been considered in this development.

Eleanora, Dirleton Road EH39 5DF Alterations to the house and erection of garage as design changes to the scheme of development the subject of planning permission 13/00901/P.

An objection would be raised regarding the size of the garage.

Flat 1, 8 York Road EH39: Alterations to flat

25 Westgate EH39 4AG: Demolition of gate and fence.

25 Westgate EH39 4AG: Alterations to building, erection of gate and fence.

5 Melbourne Road EH39 4JP: Formation of window

Land adjacent to 6, Forth Street Lane EH39 4JB: Erection of 1 flat and 2 garages.

An objection would be raised in view of the extent and intrusive nature of the development which would impact on neighbourhood privacy.

1 Teviotdale Abbotsford Road EH39 5DB: Replacement windows.

60 Forth Street EH39 4JJ: Alterations to house.

3 Inchgarry Court, Links Road EH39 4AP: Replacement windows.

9 Springfield Gardens EH39 4NN: Alterations to house, formation of decking and associated works.

44 High Street: Display of advertisements.

14 St Margaret's Road EH39 4PJ: Formation of hardstanding areas and erection of wall.

3 Netherlaw EH39 4RF: Extension to house as changes to the scheme of development the subject of planning permission 12/00969/P.

10 Tantallon Terrace EH39 4LE: Alterations to flat and installation of dormers.

The Retreat, 18A Fidra Road EH39 4NG: Erection of gates.

Leacraig, Rhodes Holdings North Berwick: Prior Notification of Erection of agricultural building.

Flat 3, 10 West Bay Road EH39 4AW: Widening of vehicular access and erection of gates.

Flat 3, 10 West Bay Road EH39 4AW: Erection of gates, demolition of gates and part of wall

14 Reports from Groups and Societies

14.1 **CAPP:** In view of the resignation of Cllr Bryson, Cllr Hamilton would attend the next CAPP meeting as the CC representative.

14.2 **Old Pier:** The Community Council congratulated those involved in the restoration work at the Old Pier. The results were attracting praise and reflected an excellent coordinated approach.

14.3 **Christmas Lights:** Cllr Scott reported that the Secretary had organised posters for the event on 22 November. These would be put up on the Noticeboard and distributed throughout the town. He had been receiving positive feedback from local businesses.

The Chairman invited Councillors to participate in a gift wrapping exercise at 2pm on Tuesday 11 and 2pm Wednesday 12 November.

15 Correspondence

15.1 **ATC Presentation Event:** The Secretary had received an invitation to Councillors from Staff, Cadets and the Civilian Committee of 132 (North Berwick) Squadron ATC to attend the annual Presentation ceremony on 28 November in St Andrew Blackadder Church Hall 19.15 for 19.30 until 21.00. Councillors were asked to confirm attendance with the Secretary as soon as possible.

15.2 **Association of East Lothian Community Councils:** A meeting would be held in The Town House Haddington on 13 November at 7.30pm. Cllr Scott was unable to attend this meeting but would continue as the Community Council representative. Cllr H Smith offered to attend the meeting on this occasion.

15.3 **The Big Debate:** The Secretary agreed to circulate information about a recording of the BBC's lunchtime radio programme The Big Debate, due to take place in St Andrew Blackadder Church on 21 November. The programme, chaired by Gordon Dewar, was looking to attract a lively audience. Application was by email. Cllr Kellock asked who decided which questions would be used. The consensus was that selection would be made from questions submitted to the BBC.

15.4 **The Royal Horticultural Society Community Funding:** The funding was designed to help gardeners enhance public spaces in towns and villages. The Chairman, as Secretary of North Berwick in Bloom, agreed to look at possibilities.

15.5 **The Forth Estuary Forum** News Bulletin had been circulated.

15.7 **Banners:** The Chairman informed Councillors that ELC was reviewing the role of roadside banners which had been in place since 2013. Comments were invited on the location, content, number and legibility of the banners and suggestions invited for further promotional activities. The Council had expressed concerns about the banners on a number of occasions and the Chairman agreed to reflect these in her response.

16 **Any Other Competent Business**

16.1 **Beach Wheelchairs.**

The Community Council welcomed Jackie Tagg who gave a presentation on Beach Wheelchairs. She had been researching the possibility of introducing wheelchairs which could enable children and adults with mobility problems to access North Berwick beaches. She had reviewed practices in other parts of the U K and the USA and provided information on costs, ownership, storage and maintenance issues. Estimated cost would be approximately £4000. She expressed disappointment in the negative reaction of the ELC Access Team and had plans to approach ELC directly. She requested support in principle from the Community Council. Cllr Macnair raised a motion to support the proposal. This was unanimously approved.

16.2 **Parking of Campervans.**

Anita Nutter, as a campervan user, set out the difficulties she experienced, as a non-Blue Badge holder, in accessing the beach during the day due to the current parking restrictions. She accepted the need to ban overnight parking. There was a discussion on the rationale for the present restrictions which aimed to prevent the area becoming a de facto camp site and to reduce the aggravation and congestion being experienced by residents. Cllr Bryson stressed the inconvenience experienced when campervans parked for several consecutive days, often lengthwise, taking up 3 places. He had witnessed 25 campervans on one occasion and expressed fear that the introduction of coastal car parking fees in other areas in 2015 would encourage more campervans to come to North Berwick. ELC Cllr Goodfellow highlighted the fact that there was no height restriction on parking on Tantallon Terrace and the restrictions only applied to the three car parks on the sea front. Ms Nutter suggested that the parking signs on the sea front were confusing. ELC Cllr Day drew attention to the parking consultation which should consider a lot of these issues, including the viability of parking permits. He also noted that, in addition to roadside parking along the sea front, there was extensive parking available at the Recreational Ground, created at great expense. ELC Cllr Berry suggested that Ms Nutter consider parking on School Road, the Museum or the Imperial car park, all of which were free and close to the seafront.

16.3 **Seaweed Clearance:** Cllr H Smith expressed thanks to ELC for clearing the excess seaweed which had attracted flies in such quantities that local residents in the harbour area had been unable to open windows. However, she had been disappointed in the delay before action. ELC Cllr Berry added that ELC had been assisted by a farmer in the task which is not normally undertaken at this time of year. The amount of seaweed, unusually mild weather and high tides had all contributed to the problem which ELC Cllr Goodfellow explained had not been reported until Wednesday. The contract with the farmer had been agreed on Thursday with the beach being cleared on Monday.

- 16.4 **Scottish Older Peoples' Assembly:** Cllr Ritchie agreed to provide feedback on the meeting held at the Parliament on 31 October, at a later date.
- 16.5 **Hazard on Station Hill:** Cllr Baker drew attention to a box creating a potential hazard at the bottom of Station Hill. ELC Cllr Goodfellow offered to investigate.
- 16.6 **Crossing on the High Street:** Problems in crossing the High Street by residents with mobility difficulties from Tigh Mhor had been raised with ELC Cllr Berry. He opened a discussion as to an appropriate location for a crossing. Cllr Danks had ascertained views at the Day Centre where there was a consensus that there was no strong case for a crossing. Most cars travel slowly in this congested street. The suggestion of lights near Church Street was likely to cause problems for funerals and create a backlog of traffic coming from the seafront. ELC Cllr Berry suggested that "20's Plenty" could help resolve issues.

17 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Community Council will be held at the Fire Station, Station Road North Berwick on Tuesday 2nd December at 19.30

