

Royal Burgh of North Berwick Community Council

Minutes of the 464th Public Meeting held at 19.30 on Tuesday 03 February 2015

in The Fire Station, Station Road, North Berwick.

Present: Cllr S Sinclair Chairman

Cllr K Smith Secretary

Cllrs M Baker, E Danks, L Hall, P Hamilton, W Macnair, J Scott, H Smith, I Watson

In attendance: ELCs Cllr D Berry, T Day and J Goodfellow, PC Charlie Duncan, Inspector Alan Hogarth, local Press, Mrs A Turgoose.

1 Apologies: Cllrs D Kellock, D Ritchie.

2 Minutes of the Meeting held on 6 January 2015.

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

3 Matters Arising.

3.1 **None.**

4 Police Report.

4.1 PC Duncan introduced Inspector Alan Hogarth.

4.2 There were 76 calls to the Police in the month.

WARD PRIORITIES:

1] Road Safety:

A vehicle was stopped by police on Lochbridge Road. The driver was found to have no insurance. The vehicle was seized and the driver reported to the Procurator Fiscal.

A vehicle accident occurred on Marine Parade where a car crashed into a wall before driving off. Police traced the vehicle and the driver was found to have no insurance. Again, the vehicle was seized and the driver reported to the Procurator Fiscal.

A vehicle accident occurred on Dirleton Avenue where a van and cyclist collided. The cyclist was conveyed to ERI and found to have sustained a broken arm. No further police action was taken.

A vehicle accident occurred on Law road between 2 cars. No injuries were sustained and all parties exchanged details at the scene.

There were several parking complaints over the last month (parking /obstruction). Numerous tickets were issued.

2] Anti-Social Behaviour:

A wilful fire raising occurred at a field close to Tantallon Road where 90-100 hay bales were set alight with an estimated cost of damage being £1500. Enquiries are still ongoing.

A vandalism occurred at an address on St Baldred's Crescent where a window of the property was smashed by having a bottle of "Buckfast" thrown at it. Enquiries ongoing

A report of a group of youths behaving in a rowdy and disorderly manner on Kirk Ports was received. Police attended but no youths were traced.

Report of youths banging on windows at Pattle Court - Officers attended but no youths were traced and the area given additional passing attention.

Youths were reported fighting on Dundas Road following the dispersal of a party at a nearby address. No fight found to be ongoing upon police attendance but youths were dispersed from the area and the occupier of the address where the party had been held was visited by police and warned.

One fixed penalty notice was issued for a male urinating in a public place.

3] Substance Misuse:

There were no recorded incidents of substance misuse for the period covering this report.

4] Theft:

Theft of a nameplate and seat from the tennis courts at North Berwick. Enquiries are ongoing.

4.3 CAPP priorities for North Berwick: Two areas were highlighted for the Coastal Area.

- Youths loitering at the bus stop on Lochbridge Road at its junction with Law View and behaving in a disorderly and antisocial manner.

Police and Community Wardens to monitor and actively patrol the area

- Inconsiderate/ dangerous parking on St Baldred's Road outside the Scout Hall and Medical Practice.

Police to monitor and deal with any parking offences

Date of the next CAPP meeting: Wednesday 25 February 2015 at 19.30 in the Council Chambers, Quality Street. Feedback to: NorthBerwickCoastalCPT@Scotland.pnn.police.uk or Charles.Duncan2@Scotland.pnn.police.uk

4.4 In response to a query from Cllr Baker, PC Duncan agreed that the time of year with increased use of alcohol could have had a role in some of the offences.

ELC Cllr Berry commended PC Duncan for his effective traffic control in the High Street, drawing attention to the obstruction caused by cars parking within loading bays. Inspector Hogarth welcomed the acknowledgement of PC Duncan's work in North Berwick, noting that parking is an issue in many areas of East Lothian. PC Duncan had been even handed in dealing with business owners and others.

ELC Cllr Berry also highlighted the potential safety problems which had arisen at Hogmanay and believed that a strategy was needed for future years, including consideration of a street closure. ELC Cllr Goodfellow noted that ELC employees started the clean-up at 9am to which the Chairman commented that she had been told that volunteers had also been involved.

Hogmanay had presented challenges for the Police. Such was the amount of alcohol confiscated from young people, that it could not be transported to Haddington but had to be disposed of in North Berwick. Inspector Hogarth expressed his disappointment, noting that similar issues had not arisen in either Dunbar or Haddington and there was a need to work with residents and the community to determine how the alcohol had been obtained. The event in North Berwick had now become very big, attracting young people from elsewhere. Cllr Watson reported suggestions that people had been bringing alcohol from Edinburgh on the train and Cllr K Smith suggested that parents may also have played a role in the supply. Inspector Hogarth indicated that alcohol sales were being scrutinised. One aim would be to prevent situations arising in the first place.

Cllr Macnair asked about initiatives in schools to highlight the dangers of alcohol abuse which resulted in more deaths of young people than drugs. PC Duncan confirmed that the Police visit both Primary and Secondary Schools to discuss drink and drugs issues. Cllr H Smith reported that schools take these matters seriously and they feature constantly across the curriculum. It was important that all parties, including Police, Schools, Youth Network and the Community Council worked together to support initiatives.

Cllr Watson noted that the Youth Network had organised Alcohol and Drugs Awareness sessions, including in schools, a couple of years ago and this could be worth revisiting. He would raise it at the next meeting of the Youth Network. The Chairman proposed that CAPP would be another appropriate forum in which to discuss these matters. Inspector Hogarth expressed his hope that future measures would result in a better Hogmanay experience in 2015/16.

Inspector Hogarth outlined his belief in “Local People for Local Solutions” and was pleased to report that, from 4th March 2015, there would be an increased team to cover the area. This was welcomed by the Community Council as was the news that PC Cameron Tait had not required surgery and should be able to return to work in a month.

5 Resilient Communities

- 5.1 Minutes of the meeting which had attracted a range of contributors had been circulated. Cllr H Smith reported that she had written again to absentees and asked Cllrs for other suggestions and details of those who should be included. At the moment, a data base of contacts was being developed. It was important that, for example, the Police, Fire Service, Lifeboats were kept in the loop so that people knew who to contact if action was needed. A Facebook page had been set up and had attracted a few individuals. It had already been agreed that the Sports Centre would act as a Crisis Centre. The next meeting, open to everyone, would be held on 26th February at 4pm in the Community Centre. Sandy Baptie would be attending.

6 Area Partnership

- 6.1 The Chairman reported that the last meeting, at which she and Cllr H Smith were CC representatives, had focused on the Main Issues Report (MIR). The next meeting in March should return to addressing the local priorities which had already been identified.

7 Street Naming

- 7.1 Cllr K Smith reminded Cllrs that a bank of 18 street names had been requested by ELC. Moffat and Russell had already been submitted. Another six suggestions were now required.

Following discussion, Richardson, Stevenson, Milroy, Douglas, Lauder and Pilgrim were selected for consideration.

Rotary had already approached ELC requesting a name to commemorate 50 years of their presence in North Berwick. The Chairman, following discussion with Rotary, had forwarded a suggestion to Stuart Pryde that the newly surfaced pathway across Elcho Green would be appropriate as Rotary Walk or Rotary Way. It was possible that Rotary would contribute to the upkeep of the pathway. Cllr Danks understood that "Rotary Way" was a traditional name favoured by the Organisation.

8 Main Issues Report (MIR)

8.1 It was acknowledged by Cllrs that they had spent a great deal of time on the issues raised within the MIR and were agreed on the content of their submission which included parts of the town character statement. The Chairman circulated a document she had created in which she summarised written views submitted by Cllrs and subsequent discussions. It was agreed that this document would constitute their formal response. Cllrs could also make individual responses.

8.2 Cllr Macnair questioned ELC Cllrs regarding the timing of the final report, once responses had been considered. ELC Cllr Berry thought a draft report could be produced this year but 2016 was more likely as any challenges would affect the timescale. As the MIR is a series of suggestions, the final document could be more refined so there could be objections.

9 Planning Matters

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

Seton Lodge 8 Marine Parade EH39 4LD: Alterations and extensions to flat. A query would be raised regarding the use of aluminium window frames

Midmar 39 St Baldred's Road H39 4PU: Extension to house. No objection was raised.

Aldi Stores Ltd 45-52 Dunbar Road EH39 5AB: Alterations and extension to building and associated works. An objection would be raised regarding the change of colour of the building.

Aldi Stores Ltd 45-52 Dunbar Road EH39 5AB: Variation of Condition 7 planning permission P/00696/92 to change the opening hours from 08.00 – 20.00 Monday to Friday and 08.00 - 18.00 Saturdays and Sundays to 08.00 to 22.00 Monday to Saturday and 09.00 to 19.00 Sundays and removal of delivery/ servicing restrictions. An objection would be raised on both changes to opening times and proposed change to delivery arrangements.

28 Victoria Road EH39 4JL: Erection of canopies and windbreaks. No objection was raised.

Grange Road: Erection of sales cabin and associated works for a temporary period of 12 months. It was agreed to raise an objection regarding the position of the cabin and absence of parking but the NBCC understood that the application had already been withdrawn

7a South Hamilton Road EH39 4NJ: Design changes to the scheme of development the subject of planning permission 14/00196/P. No objection was raised.

15 Cromwell Road EH39 4LJ: Erection of one house and associated works. No objection was raised.

19 Glasclune Gardens EH39 4RB: Alterations, extensions to house, formation of decking and hardstanding areas. No objection was raised.

11 Abbey Road EH39 4BS: Erection of door canopy. No objection was raised.

10, 12 and 12a Quality Street EH39 4HP: Re roofing and re-rendering and part demolition of building. No objection was raised.

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10 Reports from Groups and Societies

10.1 **Coastal Communities Museum:** Cllr Watson reported that during January, when the Museum was open only at weekends, 99 adults and 10 children had visited. The current exhibition would continue into March with the next exhibition, featuring the artist Henry Scott Tuke, starting in April.

10.2 **Arts Centre:** Cllr Watson advised that a public meeting to discuss the feasibility of the Arts Centre would take place on 10 March in the Hope Rooms. Details would be advertised.

10.3 **Law Residents' Group:** At a recent meeting of residents, Cllr Hamilton had been made aware of difficulties in Law View during icy weather, when people found it difficult to get to the main road, as the road had not yet been adopted by ELC. No grit bins had been supplied. ELC Cllr Goodfellow expressed surprise at this omission and agreed to raise the matter with ELC.

10.4 **Tourism Strategy:** Cllr Macnair had read the new East Lothian Tourism Strategy and stated that he was not very impressed by the content which failed to give enough significance to this area. His criticism applied equally to *Visit Scotland* information. ELC Cllr Berry commented that he had submitted five pages of criticism of the ELC strategy.

10.5 **Environment Trust:** Cllr H Smith reported that a meeting would be held during the week commencing 9 February.

10.6 **Christmas Lights:** Cllr Scott advised that a meeting would be held on 23 February at 4.15pm. ELC Cllr Berry commended all those involved with the last display, particularly the volunteers and Cllr Watson who had efficiently put up and dismantled the Lights.

10.7 **New Quality Street Noticeboard:** As difficulty was experienced in opening the noticeboard, Cllr Scott asked if a modification to the fastening mechanism was possible. ELC Cllr Berry said that allen keys were used to help prevent vandalism. The Chairman agreed that the person who installed the noticeboard should be asked to return.

10.8 **Food Banks / Trussell Trust:** Cllr Danks had attended a talk regarding Food Banks. She thought that the information provided could be relevant for inclusion in the next Community Newsletter and agreed to send details to the Chairman.

11 Correspondence

11.1 **Scottish National Heritage:** The Secretary reported that she had received information that the partial denotification of the Law as a Site of Special Scientific Interest had been granted.

11.2 **East Road sign repair:** The Secretary had contacted Colin Baird of ELC regarding the sign which had been out of action for over two months. A reminder had been issued and a visit from the maintenance contractor was awaited.

11.3 **East Lothian Health Network:** The Secretary had circulated an invitation to attend a meeting of the East Lothian Health Network on 10 February, 2.00 – 3.30pm at John Muir House, Haddington. This was an opportunity to influence draft plans for Health and Care. The Chairman and Cllrs Danks and H Smith had already booked places.

11.4 **ELC Customer Charter:** The draft Customer Charter/ Customer Communication Standards documents had been circulated to Councillors. Closing date for comment was 20th February

12 **Any other competent business**

12.1 **Budget:** Cllr Baker asked when details of funding from ELC would be known as the Yacht Club was hoping for additional funding in 2015/16. The Treasurer confirmed the end of March as likely timescale. Previous advice was that the Yacht Club should request match funding from the Common Good Fund. ELC Cllrs Day and Goodfellow confirmed that no applications had been received. Cllr Baker would follow up this matter with the Yacht Club.

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 3rd March 2015 at 19.30.

