

Royal Burgh of North Berwick Community Council

Minutes of the 465th Public Meeting held at 19.30 on Tuesday 03 March 2015

in The Fire Station, Station Road, North Berwick.

Present: Cllr E Danks Vice Chairman

Cllr K Smith Secretary

Cllrs M Baker, D Kellock, L Hall, P Hamilton, W Macnair, D Ritchie, J Scott, H Smith, I Watson

In attendance: ELC Cllr D Berry, 2 ELCAT representatives, George Johnstone, local Press, Mrs A Turgoose.

1 Apologies: Cllr S Sinclair (Chair), ELC Cllrs T Day and J Goodfellow.

2 Minutes of the Meeting held on 3 February 2015.

The adoption of the Minutes was proposed by Cllr J Scott and seconded by Cllr M Baker.

3 Matters Arising.

3.1 New Quality Street Noticeboard.

(10.7) Cllr Kellock asked for clarification on the issue of the mechanism and was advised that a new allen key would resolve the matter.

3.2 Yacht Club

(12.1) Cllr Baker reported that he had contacted the Yacht Club and advised that they request match funding from the Common Good Fund

4 Police Report.

4.1 There were 65 calls to the Police in the month.

WARD PRIORITIES:

1] Road Safety:

Following a report of an erratic driver on the High Street, a female was traced and found to have no licence or insurance. The vehicle was seized and the driver reported to the Procurator Fiscal.

A bus caught fire on Station Hill. The fire was quickly extinguished and no injuries were sustained.

Police stopped a vehicle on Marine Parade. The driver had no insurance and a report was submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.

Following the report of a possibly drunk driver on Tantallon Road, a female was traced and found to be over the drink drive limit. She was arrested and held in police custody to appear at Edinburgh Sheriff Court.

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

2] **Anti-Social Behaviour:**

A report of youths drinking in the grounds of Blackadder Church was reported. Police attended but no youths were present.

A report of a group of youths congregating on Dundas Road was attended by police but youths were not traced.

Following two reports of loud music being played at an address on Gilbert Avenue, police attended and warned the occupier accordingly and details were sent to the ELC Noise Team.

3] **Substance Misuse:**

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

4] **Theft:**

Theft of a number plate from a vehicle on West Bay Road

An attempted housebreaking to a property on Highfield Road. No entry was gained to main residence and no items were reported stolen. Enquiries were ongoing.

Alcohol, cigarettes and money were stolen during a break in at North Berwick Fry, Quality Street. Enquiries were ongoing.

Theft of fuel from Dalrymple Service Station. Enquiries were ongoing.

Theft of a charity box from a business premises on Market Place. Enquiries were ongoing.

4.3 **CAPP priorities for North Berwick: Two areas were highlighted for North Berwick.**

- Dundas Road. Youth antisocial behaviour in and around the bus shelter near the LOCO shop.

Police and Community Warden to take action

- High Street – parking issues.

Police to monitor and deal with any parking offences

Previous priority: *Youths loitering and behaving in a disorderly and antisocial manner at the bus shelter at Lochbridge Road at junction with Law View.* Patrols had been undertaken by Police and Community Wardens with no youth activity identified. Since the last CAPP Meeting there had been no Police calls or calls to ELC ASB team in relation to the bus stop.

Parking issues on the High Street and St Baldred's Road: Tickets had been issued to numerous vehicles by CBO and, on occasion, Officers from ELCAT. Attention was also given to St Baldred's Road and Law Road at pertinent times but no offences were detected.

Other incidents of note

Following several calls in relation to youth antisocial behaviour in Dundas Road to Police and ELC ASB Team, the ASB Team has opened a case in relation to youth ASB in the area and investigation was currently ongoing.

Date of the next CAPP meeting: Wednesday 25 March 2015 at 19.30. Venue to be confirmed. Feedback to: NorthBerwickCoastalCPT@Scotland.pnn.police.uk

- 4.4 In response to the Report, the Chairman commented on the disappointing rise in crime. She also referred to the day time house breaking which Police agreed to check out. They highlighted the ongoing campaign against bogus workmen and encouraged people to contact the Police if they had concerns. Cllr H Smith asked about the time between a report by the public and Police response as it was likely that the people concerned would have fled the scene. PC advised that the response time was down to resources but any details obtained by the public, for example vehicle details, were helpful. The presence of Police in the area also acted as a deterrent.
- 4.5 Cllr Scott queried the response to 101 calls, citing an example where the message “out of order” was in place for 20 minutes. Police confirmed that complaints had been received about response times. Response to 101 as a non-emergency number was always likely to be slower but, if difficulties were being experienced, reports could be made via the internet.
- 4.6 Report on Facebook of an incident of indecent exposure at a bus stop in Dirleton at 8.30pm on the previous Saturday was raised by Cllr Ritchie. Police were unaware of the incident but were happy to speak to people and issue reassurance.

Cllr H Smith referred to the incident of a male urinating in a public area but indicated that the witness was unlikely to report it.

Cllr Hamilton had received a complaint from a member of the public regarding safety issues outside the Bus Depot. As buses parked on the pavement, pedestrians had to walk on the road. ELC Cllr Berry drew attention to the presence of a well-lit, safe walkway across the road.

Regarding the 5 am break in at North Berwick Fry via the front door, ELC Cllr Berry queried the potential role of CCTV in detecting the culprits. Police advised that some cameras swivel and may not have been pointing in the right direction. Also, cameras are not manned at all times. However, the CCTV would be used to see movement of vehicles and people in the area around the time of the break in.

4.7 **Policing in North Berwick**

Police advised that from 4 March there should be a more visible presence of officers as North Berwick was to be used as a mustering point. This was welcomed by everyone. ELC Cllr Berry asked if the local team could be invited to CAPP meetings and the Police agreed to pass on the information.

5 **Resilient Communities**

- 5.1 Cllr Ritchie reported on the second meeting held on 26 February which had been attended by Sandy Baptie who confirmed that ELC would pay the insurance premiums. He advised that it was important to keep messages simple and Cllr Ritchie reiterated that the plan was not to take over roles which were already established within the community. She also reported that the Community Centre would act as the local Resource Centre. To date, there had not been many individual responses but several groups had expressed interest in being involved including a dog walking team who offered to take care of pets. The question of looking for a missing person had been raised and Cllr Watson advised that the Coastguards and Police are frequently called in such incidents, having been trained in search procedures. The draft plan was to be completed by Cllr Ritchie by the end of March but she raised the question of who the Coordinator should be as no one within the existing Coordinating Group wished to take

on this role. It was suggested that the Community Council could be an appropriate source but it needed further discussion and should be revisited at the mid-March meeting.

- 5.2 The fact that equipment would not be held locally but would need to be fetched from a central point in Haddington was raised by ELC Cllr Berry. Cllr Watson supported the purchase of a low cost pay as you go pager which could be passed to the appropriate person, similar to that used by First Responders.
- 5.3 Cllr Macnair asked what would happen if a ship laden with oil came ashore. Cllr Ritchie confirmed that an emergency plan involving coastguards and ELC was in place. There was no major role for volunteers.
- 5.4 Identifying and meeting the needs of vulnerable people was discussed. Cllr Ritchie expressed confidence that the Committee would know who to approach within the Community e.g. Health Centre, Day Centre for this information. Cllr Danks was aware that the Dementia Friendly team was also considering what action might be required. In Dunbar, people could place a notice in the window requesting help but this could create other problems. It was agreed that this needed further consideration and discussion with the Police.
- 5.5 Cllr H Smith who had been unable to attend the last meeting expressed appreciation for the role played by Cllr Ritchie on behalf of the Community Council.

6 Area Partnership

- 6.1 The last meeting had concentrated on the Main Issues Report and Broadband provision but Cllr H Smith reported that the next meeting would return to addressing local priorities and there was still time to make further comments and suggestions. Cllr Hall highlighted coastal erosion and Cllr Danks stressed the need to retain a prosperous High Street. The budgets had been announced with £200,000 allocated to this area. Cllr H Smith reminded Councillors that there was a need to think more broadly than “North Berwick”.
- 6.2 ELC Cllr Berry believed that communities had an appreciation of what was required. The money allocated was for this year only and had come from other sources, for example ELC Landscape and Countryside. To be successful, the Partnerships needed to demonstrate that local communities appreciated what the Partnerships were achieving. Cllr H Smith stressed the importance of disseminating information about the outcome of meetings and the budget.

7 Street Naming

- 7.1 Cllr K Smith had received a request for a further three names for the Mains Farm development. Moffat, Russell, Richardson, Stevenson, Milroy, Douglas, Lauder and Pilgrim had already been selected. It was agreed to recommend Marr, Miller and Tweedie.
- 7.2 Cllr Ritchie was in favour of auctioning names with proceeds going to charity but ELC Cllr Berry advised that, under Government guidelines, it was not possible to purchase street names.

8 Community Rail Partnership

- 8.1 Cllr Sinclair, Chairman, provided a written report on a recent meeting and reminded Councillors that Abellio would take over on 1 April. A new noticeboard was in production to replace the upside down map at the station and Scotrail was providing two frames for tourist

information. Working groups were visiting all stations to finalise the audit while a line guide was being prepared highlighting areas of interest in the vicinity of each station, onward routes etc. Community Rail Partnerships were being asked to provide Board representation. The Chairman had volunteered as she already represented NB in Bloom and the Community Council interests.

9 Car Sharing Club

- 9.1 The Chairman's report confirmed that the town would have two cars. One, a manual KIO RIO, would be parked temporarily at the Library while a permanent location is sought. Organisers are hopeful that Abellio will allocate a space at the station. An electric car is on order and ELC are looking to provide a charging point in the Imperial car park. An allocated space would be required but that was proving problematic. ELC Cllr Berry confirmed that it was not possible to allocate a space for a specific purpose and that two named spaces at present were not legal. Cllr Watson identified a potential site near the handcart at the Lodge Car Park, where power was available. Further details on the car sharing initiative can be found at cowheelseastlothian@gmail.com.

10 Planning Matters

- 10.1 **The Rockateer:** Cllr Hall noted that there had been some local objections to the proposed temporary developments at the Rockateer. Following discussion, the Community Council confirmed its position that no objection would be raised.

Ferrygate: Although the second application had been rejected, a further application was considered likely.

Aldi Store: Cllr Hall had learned that the Planners were still in discussion and decisions regarding opening hours would be taken at the next planning meeting. To date, they had found no problem with the change of colour and aluminium would continue to be used for the windows. There was an intent to retain as much greenery as possible. Cllr Ritchie was concerned that the noise report sent by Aldi had been measured at the wrong place. Cllr Hall stated that the Planners were aware of the need to monitor noise.

Planning schedule: ELC Cllr Berry reported that the Planners were now meeting their schedule.

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

14 Victoria Road EH39 4JL: Alterations, extension to house, formation of decked area and erection of shed. No objection was raised.

9 Forth Street EH39 4HX: Reroofing of house. No objection was raised.

Land adjacent to 6 Forth Street EH39 4HX: Erection of one flat and carport. Cllr Hall advised that the previous application had been withdrawn. It was agreed to raise an objection to the current proposals on grounds of overdevelopment of the site and the fact that neighbouring properties would be overlooked.

East Grange, Grange Road EH39 4QT: Erection of gates and railings. No objection was raised.

4a and 4b Grange Court Road EH39 4LN: Alterations to flats, formation of first floor balcony, erection of wall and garage. No objection was raised.

2 Eastfield Court Marine Parade EH39 4LD: Formation of window openings. No objection was raised.

Lower Garden, Gordon Bank, Fidra Road: Renewal of planning permission in principle 11/00209/PP. Erection of one house. No objection was raised.

Grange Road (Walker Group): Erection of sales cabin and associated works for a temporary period of 12 months. No objection was raised.

1A West Bay Road EH39 4AW: Installation of roof window. No objection was raised.

34 Ben Sayers Park EH39 5PT: Extension to house. No objection was raised.

3 Dundas Road EH39 4EG: Extension to house. The timber finish of the building would be queried as it did not appear to be in keeping with the building.

45 St Baldred's Road EH39 4PU: Extension to house. No objection was raised.

6A – 6F Market Place: Reharling with colour change and painting of walls. No objection was raised.

Shipka Lodge, Abbotsford Road: Alterations to house. No objection was raised.

22 Lime Grove EH39 5NH: Erection of shed and formation of hardstanding area (retrospective). No objection was raised.

11 Reports from Groups and Societies

11.1 **Coastal Communities Museum:** Cllr Watson reported that during February, when the Museum was open only at weekends, 144 adults and 39 children had visited. The next exhibition, featuring the artist Henry Scott Tuke, would start in April. Cllr Ritchie added that signup sheets for anyone wishing to volunteer were held in the Museum.

11.2 **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 at 7pm. Details had been advertised.

11.3 **Kirk Ports Project:** Cllr Kellock was disappointed to report that this project had failed to attract funding from Viridor which had gone instead to the East Fortune Museum which he understood had demonstrated greater community engagement. In response to a query from Cllr Scott, he confirmed that this was the end of funding opportunities at Viridor for the present. ELC Cllr Berry commented that the application might have been more favourably received if more use within the community could be shown; restoration in itself was not enough. Cllr Kellock believed that, ultimately, it could be part of tourism attractions but, for now, the priority had to be restoration of the walls, on safety grounds.

11.4 **Beach Wheelchairs:** Cllr Ritchie reported that the Open Day had proved a great success, giving pleasure to adults and children. The project would require a budget of £13,000 which Cllr Ritchie anticipated would come from Lottery funding of £10,000, sponsorship and individual contributions. Cllr Danks was assured that the budget took account of maintenance and insurance matters. Cllr Ritchie was optimistic that local businesses and groups would wish to contribute. Sponsorship could be acknowledged, for example, through names / logos on the wheelchairs.

- 11.5 **Dementia Friendly Town:** Cllr H Smith drew attention to an open meeting to be held on 27 March in the Community Centre, indicating that some money was available to develop a community project, linking with other initiatives e.g. Resilient Communities, Befrienders, and Good Neighbours.
- 11.6 **Support Group:** On Thursday 5th March a meeting would be held at the Community Centre to discuss the formation of a support group for people in crisis. Cllr H Smith described this initiative as “Emotional First Responders” with a focus on people experiencing mental health problems.
- 11.7 **Duke of Edinburgh Award:** Cllr H Smith drew attention to the fundraising Coffee Morning to be held in the Hope Rooms 10am - 12noon in support of those participating in the Duke of Edinburgh Awards.
- 11.8 **Community Centre Manager:** Cllr H Smith expressed her concern about the impact of the secondment of the Community Centre Manager to the Area Partnership as there was no guarantee of a replacement. This would have a major impact on the coordination of the Resilience Plan and removed an anchor point for information and contact point within the Community. Cllr Watson among others supported this opinion, noting the key role played in the Youth Forum and the Arts Centre project. The Community Centre Management Committee had written to ELC asking when the position would be filled and Cllr H Smith requested that the Community Council write in a similar vein. This was agreed.
- 11.9 Cllr Ritchie asked who paid the salary during the secondment and Cllr H Smith stated that the current salary went with the secondee. ELC Cllr Berry commented that the funding for Area Partnerships was not new money but was diverted from other sources and suggested that the Community Council requested Cllr T Day to speak to members about this. Cllr Scott agreed with this invitation, if ELC Cllr Day had a key role. Cllr Danks noted that Area Partnerships appeared to obtain funding, whatever the objections and that the question would be raised at the next Area Partnership meeting. She noted that staff reductions in Landscape and Countryside at ELC meant more activities being diverted to In Bloom volunteers. In response to Cllr Ritchie’s request that ELC Cllr Day attend a Community Council meeting with a public record of the discussion, Cllr Danks, indicated that it would be discussed further at the mid-month meeting.
- 11.10 **Budgets:** Cllr Scott reported that there was £3,400 in the Local Priorities budget at the end of February. A surplus of £2,800 had been increased by £600 as a grant had been obtained for the new noticeboards. He requested approval to transfer £1000 to the Christmas Lights Fund and carry over £2400 to next year. The Community Council approved the request.

12 Correspondence

- 12.1 Councillors confirmed that they had received the details of the proposed changes to waste recycling, forwarded by the Secretary.
- 12.2 **East Lothian Tenants and Residents Panel:** The Secretary had received details of an anti-social behaviour survey. It was agreed to discuss at the mid-month meeting.

She also shared Information on a play focusing on road safety “Better late than Dead on Time” to be held in the Brunton Hall on 23 March 6.30pm to 8pm.

Estate Inspection Training would feature at the Brunton Hall on 16th March 6-8pm and on 19th March at the Star Room, John Gray Centre 10am-12 noon

12.3 **Day Centre:** The Day Centre would be celebrating its 10th Birthday and the arrival of the new bus on Saturday 21st March 10am-12noon. All were welcome to join in the celebrations.

13 **Any other competent business**

13.1 **Toilets at the Harbour:** Cllr Macnair asked if there were any plans to upgrade the toilets at the Harbour as they were in a really poor condition. ELC Cllr Berry replied that, despite raising this matter on a number of occasions, there were no plans to upgrade them. He expressed embarrassment that North Berwick had toilets in that state. Cllr Macnair was supported in his request that the Community Council write again as a matter of urgency, given the start of the new sailing/ tourism season. The Vice Chairman agreed to this request.

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 7th April 2015 at 19.30.

ACTION POINTS

Resilient Communities: Identification of Coordinator to be discussed at mid-month meeting.

- ✓ **Street Names: Secretary to write recommending Marr, Miller and Tweedie.**

Planning Applications:

1) An objection to be raised re land adjacent to 6 Forth Street

2) Query to be raised regarding timber finish to extension at 3 Dundas Rd

- ✓ **Community Centre Manager: CC to write to ELC requesting information as to when the vacancy would be filled.**
- ✓ **Area Partnership funding: ELC Cllr Day to be invited to mid-month meeting**

Budget: Transfer £1000 from the Local Priorities budget underspend to the Christmas Lights fund.

EL T and R Panel: Antisocial behaviour survey to be discussed at mid-month meeting

- ✓ **Toilets at Harbour: CC to write to ELC requesting support for an upgrade as a matter of urgency.**

