**Royal Burgh of North Berwick Community Council**

**Minutes of the 490th Public Meeting held at 19.30 on Tuesday 7th March 2017**

**in The Fire Station, Station Road, North Berwick**

**Present:** Cllr Hilary Smith, Chairman

Cllr Kathryn Smith, Secretary

Cllrs L Cowie, L Kay, J Lockhart, G Moodie, C Mackenzie; W Macnair, O

Owen, S Northrop, T Todd & I Watson

**In attendance:** Peter Hamilton,ELC Cllr J Goodfellow, PCs D Gray & I Paterson, Ewan Fisher, Grace Martin, local press, 8 members of the public.

**1 Welcome:** The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed all present including Judy Lockhart who had been selected to fill the casual vacancy and Peter Hamilton who had been co-opted to represent the Law Residents & Tenants Association.

**2**  **Apologies:** None

**3 Minutes of the Meeting held on 7th February 2017:**

Adoption of the Minutes, which had been circulated previously, was proposed by Cllr Watson and seconded by Cllr Moodie.

**4 Matters Arising:**

4.1 ***4.1 Planning Aid:*** As there was still no training schedule available though the Council, the Chairman would ask Planning Aid direct for training.

4.2 ***4.2 Traffic Wardens:*** It was noted that the traffic wardens appeared to be being rather harsh on delivery vehicles in the High Street, particularly as the drivers had to pay the fines.

4.3 ***4.4 Coastal Erosion:*** Those who had attended the NBGC public exhibition on 15th February had found it both useful and informative. NBGC had also been pleased with the response.

4.4 ***6.1 Harbour Trust Association:*** Following her presentation Jane McMinn had asked the Community Council for a letter of support and this was agreed. There would be a presentation about the Lobster Hatchery at the Seabird Centre on 16th March.

4.5 ***7.2 Planning:*** Cllr Todd confirmed that the Community Council’s responses to planning applications were now on the website.

4.6 ***8.3 Planning Consultation:*** The Chairman confirmed she had written to Scottish Water about the sufficiency of the water supply to the town but had received as yet no reply.

4.7 ***9.1 Communications Group Report:*** Cllr Mackenzie thanked Cllr Moodie for the list of the town’s organisations which his wife had prepared..

4.8 ***10.3 NBCC – Governance:*** Members were reminded that the Report prepared by Cllr Moodie would be discussed at the 22nd March meeting.

4.9 ***13.1 24 hour Defibrillators:*** Cllr Todd discussed installing two externally mounted defibrillators at either end of the town which could be controlled by a keypad. ELC Cllr Goodfellow discouraged this because of the difficulty in getting everyone to know the code and added that he did not anticipate any vandalism problem with an open box. Cllr Todd also highlighted the Scottish Ambulance Service’s registration to resuscitation campaign and undertook to encourage the public places with defibrillators to register so that the public knew where they were in an emergency.

4.10 ***14.1 Casual Vacancy:*** The Chairman thanked the unsuccessful candidates and hoped that they would remain interested in the Community Council.

**5 Police Report:**

5.1 PC Gray gave the Police Report which is summarised as follows:

During the period of the Report there had been several incidents of note which were broken down in terms of the agreed priorities for the ward as follows –

***1. Road Safety***

* On 07/02/17 there was a Report of a vehicle driving through a red light at Station Road. Driver spoken to and provided with suitable advice.
* On 09/02/17 there was a Report of a male driving in High Street whilst under the influence of drink/drugs. Registration number provided however this was incorrect. Police attended, searched area, however no trace of vehicle.
* On 12/02/17 there was a Report of a driver under the influence of alcohol in Dunbar Road. The registration number passed to Police was incorrect.
* On 25/02/17, there was a Report of a driver under the influence of alcohol in the Gilbert Avenue area. No trace of the vehicle in the area and registration number circulated.
* On 27/02/17 there was a Report of a vehicle driving the wrong way on Quadrant Lane and causing an obstruction. Police attended and spoke to the driver, who was renovating a property there and was advised accordingly.
* On 04/03/1 the driver of a vehicle was stopped in West Bay Road and arrested for driving whilst under the influence of alcohol. Matter reported to the Procurator Fiscal.

***2. Antisocial Behaviour***

* On 10/02/2017 there was a Report of vandalism to a vehicle on Grange Road. Crime report taken. No suspects/CCTV.
* On 19/02/2017 there was a Report of loud music being played at a flat in Lochbridge Road. On police arrival music was turned down.
* On 22/02/17 there was a Report of loud music coming from the same flat in Lochbridge Road. Unfortunately, all Police were involved and no sets attended. However, East Lothian Noise Team is now aware of the property and complaints concerned.
* On 26/02/17 there was a Report of loud music coming from a flat in Glenburn Road. Unfortunately, all Police were involved and no sets attended. However, the call was passed to East Lothian Noise Team.
* On 26/02/17 there was a Report of youths causing a nuisance by knocking on doors in Forth Street. Suitable advice was given to complainer.

**3. Housebreaking**

* There had been no reports of any housebreakings in North Berwick over the past month.

***4. Parking***

* On 13/02/17 a Complaint was received of a motorcycle parked over a driveway on Beach Road. After wrong VRM being passed, Police attended where motorcycle was badly parked and vehicle had been issued with a parking ticket.

***5. CAPP***

* The agreed priorities for the month were drug misuse around Craigleith Avenue, anti social behaviour at the bus shelter in Law Road and around Dundas Road, and speeding on the A198/B1345.
* The date of the next CAPP meeting is on Wednesday 29th March 2017, 1930 hours, Council Chambers North Berwick.

***6. Other Incidents of note***

* On 10/02/17 there was a Report of a theft of fuel from Dalrymple Service Station. CCTV available; further enquiries to be made.
* On 19/02/17 there was a Report of a male beggar outside St Andrew Blackadder Church making people feel uncomfortable. Male spoken to and moved on by Community Police. Police also liaised with Church elders regarding the issue.
* On 20/02/17 there was a Report of a child being slapped on face and leg. Extensive search of the area completed with a negative result. Media also made aware. Enquires still ongoing
* On 21/02/17 there was a theft by shoplifting from the Co-op. CCTV obtained; further enquiries to be made.
* On 04/03/17 a female was charged with a theft by shoplifting from Tesco, after she was seen by Police in the store to secrete items within her handbag. A report had been submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.

**6a** **Home Energy Scotland:**

6a1 Ewan Fisher of Home Energy Scotland, the free advice service funded by the Scottish Government and managed by Energy Savings Trust, gave a brief overview of what they do and drew attention to an event they were holding in North Berwick on Thursday 23rd March from 6.00 pm to 7.30 pm in the Hope Rooms. The event, called ‘Re-energise your old home’, would bring together a range of industry experts to help people reduce heat loss in older homes and explain the benefits of renewable energy.

6a2 **He emphasised that Home Energy Scotland does not carry out cold calling.**

**6b Scottish Seabird Centre:**

6b1 Grace Martin, Project Director leading the development and delivery of the National Marine Centre, gave an update on the project which would enable the Centre to expand the current education and conservation programme as well as enhancing the overall visitor experience.

6b2 Funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund had been obtained but a further £2m is to be raised.

6b3 Simpson & Brown, who had worked on the original Seabird Centre building, had been appointed architects for the project.

**7 Planning Matters:**

7.1 The following new applications had been viewed beforehand and no objections had been raised -

**5 Castleton Farm Cottages:** Extension to house and erection of porch.

**37 Lochbridge Road:** Extension to house.

**Ware House, Ware Road:** Extension to house, change of use of open space to domestic garden ground, erection of wall and gate

**5 Fidra Court:** Replacement windows.

**26 Stair Park:** Extension to house.

**11 Glenorchy Road:** Extension to house and formation of pf dormers.

7.2 The following new application was viewed, discussed and commented on as follows –

**The Green, West Bay Beachfront:** Erection of building for restaurant (class 3) use with covered decked area and associated works. Following a general discussion on *inter alia* the adverse impact on the iconic view on entering the town, it was agreed that, as it was felt that the Community Council could not comment without consulting the public, an extension to the deadline for comment should be requested.

**8 Planning Consultation:**

8.1 The Chairman thanked those who had attended the Association of East Lothian Community Council’s meeting on 28th February when Planning Aid had given a presentation, the feedback from which had been generally positive.

8.2 The Chairman undertook to co-ordinate the Community Council’s response, the deadline for which was 4th April.

**9 Licensing Applications for Variation:**

9.1 ***North Berwick Golf Club***had applied for a major variation of their licence to amend their on sales commencement licensing hours from 11.00 am to 10.00 am 7 days a week and to include the ground floor Club Room in the description of the premises. No objection was raised.

9.2 ***The Grange, 35 High Street*** – An application for a major variation of the licence had been made on behalf of the prospective new owner of the premises and included extending the footprint of the licensed premises to add the rear garden and amending the terminal hour on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights to 1.00 am and on Sundays to 24.00. It was agreed that, because of the proximity of residential properties and the noise and possible anti social behaviour resulting from the amended hours and extension of the footprint, an objection would be submitted to the Licensing Board.

**10 Community Asset Transfer – Lime Grove:**

10.1 Cllr Kay reported that around 40 people had attended the follow up meeting on 27th February when what should be said to the landowner of the site had been discussed.

**11 Emergency Responses:**

11.1 The Chairman noted that a recent call out to a fire in the town had come from East Linton. She wondered, with the growth of the town, when a retained fire service became a full service and undertook to write to the Scottish Fire & Rescue Service to enquire.

**12 Reports from Groups & Societies:**

12.1 **St Andrew’s Old Kirk Project:** A Progress Report on the conservation of the ‘picturesque ruin’ had been circulated before the meeting. Cllr Owen sought approval for the proposed information leaflet which had also been circulated and this was given.

12.2 **Resilience Plan:** Cllr Northrop had met with Sandy Baptie about revising and updating the town’s Plan.

12.3 **Coastal Communities Museum:** Cllr Moodie reported that the museum would be opening with the ‘Treasured Memories’ exhibition with a RLS theme on 1st April.

12.4 **Law Residents & Tenants Association:** Peter Hamilton reported that the 20’s Plenty speed limit had been passed by ELC but was advisory only. The AGM of the Association would be held in the Sports Centre on 30th March.

12.5 **Christmas Lights:** Cllr Macnair reported that the ‘old’ committee had met on 15th February to finalise the accounts for the year. He pointed out that the physical side of installing the lights was beginning to take its toll and that steps were being taken to find a local electrician to take on the task. He commented that he and Cllr Watson were prepared to continue on the new committee and that Cllrs Cowie, Moodie, Mackenzie, Lockhart and Mrs Anna Lockhart would be added for 2017. Those who had stepped down were thanked.

12.6 **Youth Project:** Cllr Watson confirmed that a mental health worker was now in post working in the school and would also deal with GP referrals.

12.7 **Area Partnership:** Cllr Kay confirmed that consultants had been appointed for the charrette and that there would be a press release soon.

**13 Correspondence:**

The following communications had been received –

* An invitation from 132 (NB) Sqn ATC to attend the Maritime Air Trust & CCMAA Service of Commemoration at the Seabird Centre memorial on Sunday 7th May at 14.00 hours. The Chairman would attend.
* A letter from Iain Gray MSP drawing attention to the Planning Consultation.
* Notice from Spokes of an Edinburgh Council Hustings on Thursday 6th April.
* An e-mail reminder from PAS for the discussion forum on 14th March for community councils to hear views on the Planning Consultation. [circulated]
* An e-mail invitation from the Rotary Club to attend the ‘unveiling’ of the new ‘Rotary Way on Elcho Green’ signs on Wednesday 8th March at 3.00 pm. [circulated]
* Draft Local Police Plan with a 17th March deadline for comments. [circulated]
* An e-mail from Dr Clare Cavers, Research Officer at Fidra, the environmental charity based in North Berwick, seeking the involvement of the Community Council in a public meeting about how North Berwick deals with waste.

**14 Any other competent business:**

14.1 A number of complaints had been received regarding the chaos caused by the long term traffic control at Tantallon Road/The Heugh.

14.2 It was noted that Quality Street was to be resurfaced beginning on 20th March.

14.3 The next Community Council ‘Meet & Greet’ session would be taking place outside St Andrew Blackadder Church on Saturday 18th March from 10.00 am.

14.4 Complaints had been received about the increase in heavy traffic along Grange Road. It was suggested that a letter should be sent to Walker Homes with a copy to ELC.

14.5 A resident raised his concerns about the long term impact of the Exmoor ponies on North Berwick Law. He pointed out that there was a significant level of erosion and 2 landslides on the north east face which he felt had been caused by the ponies. Cllr Macnair agreed and stated that the Law should be grazed by sheep. The Chairman undertook to write to Duncan Priddle, Countryside Officer with ELC about the issue.

**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 April 2017 at 7.30 pm.