**Royal Burgh of North Berwick Community Council**

**Minutes of the 503rd Public Meeting held at 19.30 on Tuesday 3rd April 2018**

**in The Hope Rooms, Forth Street, North Berwick**

**Present:**Cllr Kathryn Smith - Secretary, Cllr Judy Lockhart – Treasurer, Cllrs Lewis Foster, Gordon Moodie, William Macnair, Lesley Kay, and Sue Northrop

**In attendance:**Peter Hamilton, ELC Cllr Jane Henderson, ELC Cllr Jim Goodfellow, 4 members of the public and local press.

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| **Agenda item** | **Discussion** | **Action** |
| **1 Welcome** | In the absence of the Acting Chairman, Cllr Moodie chaired and opened the meeting and welcomed all present to the 503rd meeting of the Community Council. |  |
| **2 Apologies** | Cllrs T Todd, C Mackenzie, O Owen, G Prince & I Watson, PCs D Gray & I Paterson |  |
| **3 Previous Minutes**  | Adoption of the Minutes held on 6th March, which had been circulated previously, was proposed by Cllr Foster and seconded by Cllr Kay. |  |
| **4 Matters Arising**  | 4.1 ***6.1*** The Consultation on the Council’s draft Transport Strategy had been published on 3rd April. There would be a series of community based local workshops at each of the 6 main towns with the one in North Berwick taking place on 26th April at a time and venue to be confirmed. [*Now* *confirmed as 7.00pm – 9.00pm in the Hope Rooms.]*4.2 ***6.5*** Cllr Macnair confirmed that it had been agreed with ELC that the Elcho Green bollards and chains would be replaced ‘like for like’ over a two year period.4.3 ***8.6***Cllr Smith had written to the telecoms company objecting to the proposed base station but had not had the courtesy of a response – also see item 8.3 below.4.4 ***12.3*** The Chairman had written to the *Courier* thanking all those involved in the recent snow emergency.*4.5* ***13****.****1*** The Minutes of the Joint Laws Advisory Group meeting on 22nd March, which Cllr Macnair had been unable to attend, had been circulated   |  |
| **New business** |  |  |
| **5 Police Report: (further details attached separately)** | 5.1 In the absence of the police Cllr Smith read out this month’s police report which is attached separately. 5.2 The date of the next CAPP meeting is scheduled for 25th April in the Old Council Chambers.Feedback welcome to NorthBerwickCoastalCPT@Scotland.pnn.police.uk or deborah.gray@scotland.pnn.police.uk and john.paterson2@scotland.pnn.police.uk. |  |
| **6 Resilience Update****from Sandy Baptie** | 6.1 Sandy Baptie, ELC’s Emergency Planning & Risk Manager, gave an update on the Resilient Communities initiative which had been set up in 2013/14 so that communities could make their own emergency response plans to ensure that in times of need the public were able to take action in a pre-planned and organised manner. He praised North Berwick who had created a plan which they were able to implement during the recent snow emergency.6.2 He now wanted to promote a new communications process whereby contact could be made to alert of an emergency or to provide re-assurance when the media is scaremongering. He asked that a contact and deputy be identified.6.3 On 26th June a Rest Centre workshop would be held, probably in Haddington, to test the plan and to give training for running a rest centre. On 27th October a Resilient Communities workshop would be held in The Brunton between 8.30 am and 1.30 pm. Cllr Mackenzie would be speaking about the North Berwick experience,6.4 He now also had responsibility for the Safety Advisory Group which introduced new processes to which organisers of community events must adhere and a statutory responsibility for counter terrorism including anti radicalisation.6.5 Cllr Northrop thanked Mr Baptie for all the work carried out by him and his team during the recent emergency. She added that a small working group was now looking into revising and updating the plan in light of their recent experience. It was also agreed to hold an event on 8th June in St Andrew Blackadder to celebrate the community response to the recent snow emergency and to build on the collective experience. |  |
| **7 Scottish Fire & Rescue Service (SFRS) - presentation** | 7.1 Steve Gourlay, Area Manager of SFRS, accompanied by Andy Adams, local Manager for North Berwick, commented that the service was on the cusp of a transformation journey. He explained that firefighters now have to take on a wider role including ambulance provision, supporting the public in the event of terrorism and giving support during severe weather conditions.7.2 He emphasised that the service was committed to training and equipping firefighters and strengthening the retained duty service. 7.3 Mr Adams confirmed that there are currently 11 retained staff in North Berwick with the capacity for 16. He has 5 new trainees.7.4 Mr Gourlay announced that one of the two 17 ton trucks currently in North Berwick would be replaced with a smaller, more flexible rapid response vehicle. It would be the only one in East Lothian.7.5 Finally, he asked for support for the SFRS by responding to the public consultation ‘Your Service … Your Voice’ which is open till 14th May.*Messrs Baptie Gourlay & Adams left the meeting.* |  |
| **8 Planning Matters (attached separately)** | 8.1 The March planning applications were led by Cllrs Macnair and Moodie. 8.2 List A (previously circulated) – no comments.8.3 ***Erection of telecoms mast and base station at junction of Dunbar & Glenburn Roads:*** A member of the public spoke about the effect on health from the electromagnetic rays transmitted from telecoms masts. After discussion it was agreed to object again to the proposed installation on the grounds that (a) it was unsightly, obtrusive and a hazard to pedestrians and children and (b) it created a health risk in the immediate vicinity.8.4 ***26 Victoria Road (Rocketeer):*** After discussion it was agreed to object to the variation to extend the evening opening hours from 8 pm till 10 pm as it would create a late evening disturbance for local residents due to The Rocketeer being isolated from other restaurants and pubs and in a residential area. The evening closing time should remain at 8 pm.8.5 ***6 Church Road:*** After discussion it was agreed that as there were no concerns about the proposed change of use from shop (Class 1) to office (Class 2), the application should be moved to List A. 8.6 ***2 Tantallon Terrace:*** After discussion it was agreed that as there were no concerns to the change to the scheme of development as the alterations are to the rear of the building, the application should be moved to List A.8.7 ***8 Fidra Court:*** After discussion it was agreed to object to the excessive extensions to the property on the grounds of overdevelopment of the site.8.8 ELC Cllr Goodfellow confirmed that no application had been received yet for the proposed Hotel and Care Home on the Mitchell’s Garage site on Tantallon Road.Cllr Moodie and Cllr Northrop will lead on the planning applications for May’s meeting. | KESGMKESGM & SN |
| **9 High Street Murals** | 9.1 As this is an Area Partnership project and because the Community Council is only holding funds on behalf of the Area Partnership as it is an un-constituted body, it was agreed to await clarification from the Area Partnership as to what was happening about completion of the project. | GP |
| **10 West Beach sewage pipe** | 10.1 Cllr Macnair gave the background to his negotiations with ELC and Scottish Water following the 2010 storm and was disappointed by their ‘just wait and see’ attitude. The pipe had been installed in the days of Lothian Region and the pre-existing water board but no-one now seemed to want to take responsibility for dealing with the problem.10.2 The sea front properties in Forth Street were now in danger as the sea wall was being eroded. Erosion did not happen before the pipe was installed. 10.3 A solution would be to clear out the area between the pipe and the wall and to concrete it over. It had taken 2.5 years for the sand to recover in 2010.10.4 ELC Cllr Goodfellow confirmed that the Council’s flood engineer was due to inspect the problem. He was asked if the Council could put pressure on Scottish Water.10.5 It was agreed that the Community Council should write to ELC and Scottish Water and copy in the MSP & Jane McMinn who is a Forth Street resident. | JGKES/WM |
| **11 Consultations** | * Statement of Licensing Policy for 2018-2022 – deadline 30th June
* Licensing (Procedures) (Scotland) Regulations 2007 – deadline 6th June
* SFRS - Your Service … Your Voice – deadline 14th May
* A connected Scotland – Tackling social isolation & loneliness – deadline 27th April
* Adult-wellbeing/growing older – proposals for ‘re- provision’ of Abbey & Edington – deadline 30th June - see item 16.1 below.
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| **12 Treasurer’s Report** | 12.1 There was nothing to report. |  |
| **13 Communications Group** | 13.1 The Group had not met during the last month.13.2 Cllr Mackenzie had had a successful meeting with the Editor of the East Lothian *Courier* when she put forward her proposal for providing local community news for the Courier’s *‘NB Connect’* publication which had been favorably received.13.3 It had been proposed that the Community Council work with the *Courier* on a pilot basis to produce the May issue and if it worked it would be done three times a year.13.4 This proposal would take away the pressure of organising the layout, printing and distribution of a newsletter and would be considerably cheaper at £300 per issue.13.5 It was agreed to proceed on that basis. | CM |
| **14 Reports from Groups & Societies** | 14.1 *St Andrew’s Old Kirk Project:* Cllr Owen had attended the AGM of the North Berwick Environment Trust (NBET) on 29th March at which NBET formally decided to adopt and take forward the Old Kirk Project under the umbrella of NBET. This means that the Working Group will now be a sub-group of NBET which will make it easier to apply for and manage any grants.14.2 *Remembrance Day 2018*: Cllr Macnair reported that the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association was recommending that wherever possible a lone piper should play ‘The Battle’s Over’ at war memorials throughout the country at 6.00 am to commemorate the time at which the First World War ended. It was hoped that North Berwick pipe band would have pipers available to do this. |  |
| **15 Correspondence** | The following communications had been received –15.1 E-mail regarding an inquiry by the Scottish Parliament’s Economy, Jobs & Fair Work Committee into the impact of bank closures on local communities. Due to shortage of time discussion was deferred to the next meeting.15.2 E-mail from a concerned resident regarding members of the public feeding seagulls at the Seabird Centre and the nuisance caused thereby. It was agreed to monitor the situation before considering signage. The issue of gull resistant bins was also raised. This had been discussed many times at the Community Council but there seemed to be no easy solution to the problem. |  |
| **16 Any other competent business** | 16.1 Cllr Northrop commented that a recent paper had been submitted to the East Lothian Integration Joint Board (IJB) with proposals to re-provision *inter alia* the Edington and the Abbey. It was clear that re-provision meant closure with NHS community beds, nursing home care, residential care and residential respite being provided in extra care housing. She was also concerned about the impact on the residents and staff and where the Health Centre fitted in to the plans. After discussion it was agreed to hold a public meeting led by the Community Council and the Area Partnership.16.2 The Community Rail Partnership, in association with North Berwick in Bloom and the Community Council, is organising a memorial planter at the station for Sheila Sinclair.16.3 A planning application for an AED at North Berwick Golf Club was in the pipeline. | SN & LK |
| **17 Date of Next Meeting** | Tuesday 1st May 2018 at 7.30 pm in the Hope Rooms, Forth Street. |  |