**Royal Burgh of North Berwick Community Council**

**Minutes of the 513th Public Meeting held at 19.30 on Tuesday 5th February 2019**

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

**Present:**Cllr Judy Lockhart – Chairman and Treasurer, Cllr Gordon Moodie – Vice chairman, Cllr Kathryn Smith - Secretary, Cllrs Lewis Foster, Peter Hamilton, Bill Macnair, Sue Northrop, Ian Watson, Kelly Evans, Christiane Maher & Audrey Steel

**In attendance:**Geraldine Prince, ELC Cllrs Jane Henderson & Jim Goodfellow, 2 members of the public

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| **Agenda item** | **Discussion** | **Action** |
| **1 Welcome** | Chairman Judy Lockhart opened the meeting and welcomed all to the 513th meeting of the Community Council. |  |
| **2 Apologies** | PCs Deborah Gray & Iain Paterson, Community Warden Mandy Smith & ELC Cllr Jeremy Findlay. |  |
| **3 Information Notice Boards - presentation** | 3.1 The Chairman welcomed Jonathan Best of the North Berwick Environment Trust who gave a slide presentation on the varied and many notice boards, information boards, interpretation panels, notices and signs throughout the town.  3.2 He highlighted the different styles used and suggested that the same style for similar subjects and areas should be followed.  3.3 The question of ownership, who was responsible for maintenance and whether there should be a process of review with production of a common inventory was raised. It was suggested that community service people perhaps could undertake the maintenance of the various boards and panels.  3.4 The Chairman thanked Mr Best for a most informative presentation. |  |
| **4 Previous Minutes** | Adoption of the Minutes of the meeting held on 8th January, which had been circulated previously and amended, was proposed by Cllr Moodie and seconded by Cllr Macnair. |  |
| **5 Matters Arising** | 5.1 ***5.1 Scottish Seabird Centre:*** The Chairman reported that the new CEO of the Seabird Centre would be attending NBCC’s mid month business meeting.  5.2 ***5.2 Emergency Response Plan Review:*** Cllr Northrop reminded members that the next workshop would be taking place on 9th February in the Community Centre between 9.30 and noon. Anyone who feels that they can make a contribution of any kind is very welcome.  5.3 ***5.3 Communications Group:*** The Chairman reported that she and the Secretary would be meeting with the *Courier* the next day to discuss the problems with delivery of the latest edition of *North Berwick Connect* and future collaboration. Everyone present confirmed receipt of the latest edition.  5.4 ***5.10 Station toilets project:*** This was now being dealt with by the Area Partnership (AP) but there was doubt about who is responsible for the project. Discussions continue.  5.5 ***11.3 Request for name to be added to War Memorial:*** No progress had been made yet.  5.6 ***13 Waste Expectations: Trash Talk:*** Cllr Maher had attended the event which had also highlighted how easily recycling material was contaminated by food and therefore not recyclable. She suggested that ELC needed to have an awareness campaign on what had to be washed etc before being put out for recycling. |  |
| **New business** |  |  |
| **6 Police Report:**  **(further details attached separately)** | 6.1 This month’s police report, which had been circulated beforehand, was taken as read.  6.2 Concern was expressed about the break-ins and thefts at the Abbey & Fidra Nursing homes and the alarm caused to staff. Cllr Smith undertook to follow this up with the police.  6.3 In giving his apologies ELC Cllr Findlay noted that he had been discussing with Chief Inspector Steven Duncan of Police Scotland the recent North Berwick News and Views thread about the imminent release of Gordon Sanderson. He confirmed that he is not due for release till June. Mr Duncan would be keen to ensure that NBCC engage with the Police and ELC to find out exactly how these instances are managed and would welcome the opportunity for someone to present to the Community Council on this. The Chairman pointed out that this is the subject for discussion shortly at an Association of East Lothian Community Councils meeting and that an invitation to present should be deferred till the outcome of that discussion is known.  6.4 Community Warden Smith had reported that a number of complaints had been received regarding dog fouling in the town. Additional signage had been put up and patrols carried out. If a member of the public witnesses an incident and can provide details of where the person lives the wardens will issue a fixed penalty notice. Consideration had been given to introducing local by-laws but this could only be done on land where ELC is responsible for maintenance. Unfortunately the two problem areas, the rugby pitches and school playing fields, appear to be managed by an outside agency. It was agreed that ‘naming and shaming’ on Facebook was a bad idea and that complaints should be made to the dog and community wardens.  6.5 Cllr Smith reported that the Community Council had been offered the opportunity to purchase a metal policeman with speed gun for £400. The police would be responsible for positioning and moving it around. It had proved to be very effective tool in Dunbar. It was agreed to reconsider acquiring one when setting the budget for 2019/20.  6.6 The date of the next CAPP meeting is scheduled for 20th February in the Old Council Chambers. [These meetings would now be held on a 6 weekly basis to tie in with the police shift patterns.]  Feedback welcome to -[NorthBerwickCoastalCPT@Scotland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:NorthBerwickCoastalCPT@Scotland.pnn.police.uk) or [deborah.gray@scotland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:deborah.gray@scotland.pnn.police.uk) and [john.paterson2@scotland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:john.paterson2@scotland.pnn.police.uk). | KES  JL |
| **7 Planning Matters** | 7.1 The December planning applications were led by Cllrs Maher & Macnair.  7.2 The following new applications had been viewed beforehand and following a brief discussion no objections were raised –  ***Fidra Cottage, 17 Westerdunes Park*** – alterations, extensions to house & formation of hard standing  ***41 Brodie Avenue*** – extension to house & erection of porch (Passive House)  ***Teviotdale, 3 Abbotsford Road*** – erection of sunroom /extension to building  ***20 Glenorchy Road*** – renewal of planning permission for extension to house  7.3 The following new applications were viewed, discussed and commented on as follows –  ***2 Redside Farm Cottages*** – After discussion it was decided to object to the application for replacement windows and doors and to recommend instead the retrospective approval of the current windows.  ***NBGC Clubhouse, Beach Road*** – After discussion it was agreed not to object to the application for the erection of the retaining wall but to object to the visual impact of the proposed all weather footpath with the recommendation to use grass crete instead.  ***NBGC Clubhouse, Beach Road*** – After discussion it was agreed to object to the application for the erection of golf practice nets and the formation of practice mats on the grounds of visual impact. There would be no objection to a less obtrusive structure which blends into the environment.  ***42 St Baldred’s Road*** – After discussion it was agreed to object to the application for the erection of one house and associated works in the garden on the grounds of overdevelopment of the site.  7.4 The following planning decisions had been made during the last month –  ***15A Cromwell Road* –** alterations to flat **– granted**  ***18 Westbay Road* –** alterations, extension to flat & formation of steps with handrails – **granted** subject to the haffits & faces of the enlarged dormers to be finished in natural slate to preserve the character and appearance of the North Berwick Conservation Area  ***3 Victoria Road –*** alteration, extension to house, erection of storage buildings & formation of hardstanding – **granted**  ***5 Redside Farm Steadings* –** installation of radio receiver antenna **- granted** subject to 3 conditions to safeguard the special architectural or historic interest of the listed building  ***11 Victoria Road* –** replacement glazing in widows & formation of dormers – **refused**  ***Chiselhurst, 4 Westerdunes Park* –** alterations, extension to house & formation of hardstanding as design changes to the scheme of development the subject of planning permission 18/00434/P – **granted** subject to 1 condition to safeguard the privacy & amenity of the neighbouring residential properties to the south east  7.5 **Proposed base station installation at corner of Dundas Road –** Notice of the installation of a proposed base station near the corner of Dundas Road with Couper Avenue by Telefonica UK Ltd and Vodafone Ltd as part of their continued network improvement programme had been received. After discussion it was agreed to object to the proposed installation on the following grounds - (a) there is already a mast and base station on the south side of the road and the proposal would result in an unacceptable significant unsightly and obtrusive proliferation of street furniture in a confined area; (b) Dundas Road is on the safe route to school and further cluttering of the pavements would be a hazard for the children (and pedestrians); and (c) the radiation impact in a residential area is a concern.  7.6 Cllrs Maher & Northrop would lead on the planning applications for March’s meeting. Cllr Maher confirmed that she would be prepared to take the lead role in looking at planning applications going forward. | KES  CM/SN |
| **8 Treasurer’s Report** | 8.1 The Treasurer confirmed that the following payments had been made during the last month - £38 to Cllr Smith for taking the Minutes; £105 to Vote Pedro for website updates. |  |
| **9 Lease with Royal Mail for Telephone Cabins** | 9.1 The Chairman explained that for various reasons there had still been no further progress in confirming the details of the lease.  9.2 Geraldine Prince commented that everything was moving on quickly regarding the Town Arts Group and as a result of a series of house meetings which she had held there were about 40 people across the Coastal Ward interested.  9.3 She had produced a folder of cuttings about visual arts throughout the coastal area which, if applying for funding, was evidence of the interest and different focuses in the area. | JL |
| **10 Re-provisioning of health & social care services in North Berwick –update** | Cllr Northrop reported as follows –  10.1 A meeting had been convened by NBCC earlier that day to provide an opportunity for organisations with a particular interest in re-provisioning to come together and discuss issues and opportunities. It was an opportunity to explore how to work together so the community could be organised to ensure the best possible outcome for local people now and in the future.  10.2 In her view NBCC had an important leadership role to play because it is representative, has diverse and different views and can cover any topic of community interest.  10.3 Three things needed to happen now, viz identifying where things will be built /developed; agreeing how to work together as a community and liaise constructively with the East Lothian Health and Social Care Partnership; and setting up a website for re-provisioning.  10.4 The next meeting would be held at the Abbey Care Home at a date to be confirmed. | SN |
| **11 AEDs** | 11.1 The Chairman pointed out that a meeting to decide responsibility for maintenance of the external AEDs needed to be organised urgently. The need to update the notices and signage would also require to be discussed. |  |
| **12 Reports from Groups & Societies** | * *Town Plan –* Cllr Moodie confirmed that the group would be meeting again shortly. * *CCMT* – Cllr Moodie commented that ‘Scotland’s Coasts & Waters’ would be the themed exhibition for 2020. * *Youth Project* – Cllr Watson commented that there was concern about future funding for their mental health worker * *NBET* – At its recent meeting it had been agreed that the Trust should remain active in its current identity and capacity. * *Christmas Lights –* The Chairman was pleased thatMatt Bond had agreed to take over the task of putting up the lights from Cllr Watson. A ‘Tree of Life’ was being considered instead of a traditional tree. The lighting in two trees needed to be updated. |  |
| **13 Correspondence** | The following documents has been circulated prior to the meeting –   * Consultation by Child Protection Committees Scotland on Hate Crime – deadline 24th February * Survey on community engagement during spatial planning process * Communities Defeat Terrorism information * Local Place Plan Support Survey * Invitation to Great Global Nurdles Hunt – 8th – 17th February |  |
| **14 Any other competent business** | 14.1 It was confirmed that there would a presentation by Fringe by the Sea at next month’s meeting.  14.2 Lilian Pride, the ELC Community Council Liaison Officer who would be retiring at the end of March had accepted an invitation to attend the next meeting. |  |
| **15 Date of Next Meeting** | Tuesday 5th March 2019 at 7.30 pm in the Hope Rooms, Forth Street. |  |