**Royal Burgh of North Berwick Community Council**

**Minutes of the 515th Public Meeting held at 19.30 on Tuesday 2nd April 2019**

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

**Present:**Cllr Judy Lockhart – Chairman and Treasurer, 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, PC Iain Paterson & 5 members of the public

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Agenda item** | **Discussion** | **Action** |
| **1 Welcome** | 1.1 Chairman Judy Lockhart opened the meeting and welcomed all to the 515th meeting of the Community Council. |  |
| **2 Apologies** | Cllr Gordon Moodie |  |
| **3 Lodge Loop** | 3.1 In the absence of the organiser of the Lodge Loop, the Chairman explained that this event was taking place fortnightly from 10.00 am on a Saturday morning (originally it was a Sunday). The aim was to have people walk, run or jog round the Lodge up to 3 times providing an opportunity for them to come out, chat with others, get some exercise and make social connections, a little bit like a park run but aimed at promoting inclusion as it is suitable for all ages and fitness levels. As the social aspect was also very important a refreshment station is provided so that people can have a cuppa and chat at the end. The Community Council was happy to support the project. |  |
| **4 Previous Minutes** | Adoption of the Minutes of the meeting held on 5th March, which had been circulated previously was proposed by Cllr Evans and seconded by Cllr Watson. |  |
| **5 Matters Arising** | 5.1 ***3.7 Fringe by the Sea:*** The Forth Street resident had received a positive response from the General Manager to the concerns expressed about litter during the Festival.  5.2 ***5.3 Communications Group:*** The Chairman reported that the *Courier* had offered to discount the cost for production and delivery of *North Berwick Connect* to £750 + vat (the vat should still be recoverable). It was agreed that if we were to continue collaborating with the *Courier* in this publication the number of editions should be restricted to 3 per annum. In the meantime the next edition was due in May. The Chairman and Secretary agreed to produce the text for it.  5.3 ***5.4 Police Report:*** The Secretary had invited Chief Inspector Duncan to speak at the May meeting. In acknowledging the invitation he confirmed he had passed the invitation to his colleague as he had left East Lothian.  5.4 ***12 Correspondence – pigeon infestation:*** The High Street residents had received a response from the ELC Protective Services Manager who had commented that, following a survey and owing to bird behaviours at this time of year, a limited degree of feral pigeon control would be undertaken in the town centre in the coming weeks. An enhanced control programme would be undertaken during the winter months. It was pointed out that the issue at the public toilets was attributed to wood pigeons which would not be targeted. Amenity Services had been approached to tend the trees which it was hoped would have an impact on where the birds rest/roost thus reducing the incidence of guano on the benches/pavements below. | JL & KES |
| **New business** |  |  |
| **6 Police Report:**  **(further details attached separately)** | 6.1 This month’s police report, which had been circulated beforehand, was read out by PC Paterson.  6.2 Geraldine Prince commented that she had been approached by a Forth Street resident about anti social behaviour outside the Auld Hoose at closing time. It was pointed out that this had been a longstanding problem which was being managed by the pub manager but the police were keeping an eye on the situation.  6.3 The date of the next CAPP meeting is scheduled for 3rd April in the Old Council Chambers. [*These meetings are now 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). |  |
| **7 Planning Matters** | 7.1 The March planning applications were led by Cllr Maher.  7.2 The following new applications had been viewed beforehand and, following a brief discussion, no objections were raised –  \****NB Tennis Club*** - resurfacing of courts 1-3  ***12 Westgate*** – extension to house, formation of hardstanding & steps  ***15 St Andrew Street*** – repainting parts of house, gate, erection of garden room & fence  ***21 St Andrew Street*** – resurfacing & formation of hard standing areas, erection of fencing, gate, walls & steps  ***2 York Road*** – replacement of roof tiles with French rather than Scottish slates  ***108b High Street*** – replacement of windows  7.3 The following new applications were viewed, discussed and commented on as follows –  ***17 Fidra Road*** – It was decided not to object to the application for replacement of windows & doors.  ***15-17 High Street******[County Hotel]*** – It was decided not to object to the application for alterations to the building, alterations & change of use of a former garage building to form an additional bar/seating area, formation of a hardstanding area, outdoor seating area, erection of pergola, bin store & associated works, though it was noted that the loss of the period glass in the windows on the front elevation was disappointing.  7.4 The following planning decisions had been made during the last month –  *\*****NB Tennis Club*** resurfacing courts 1-3 - **granted**  ***NBGC***– erection of golf practice nets & formation of practice mats - **granted**  ***20 Glenorchy Road*** – renewal of planning permission – extension to house – **granted**  ***Fidra Cottage, 17 Westerdunes Park*** – alterations, extensions to house & formation of hard standing areas – **granted**  ***19 St Andrew Street*** – replacement windows (retrospective) – **granted**  ***Murray House, 3B West Bay Road*** – alterations, extension to house, formation of 1st floor terrace with balustrade & external staircase – **granted** subject to a 1.5m high obscure glass screen around terrace to protect neighbours’ privacy  ***50 Gilbert Avenue*** – change of use of open public space to domestic garden ground, erection of fencing & gate – **granted**  ***41 Brodie Avenue*** – extension to house & erection of porch – **granted** subject to no windows in east & west elevation  7.5 **Tantallon Road –** It was noted that the planning application for the development of the Mitchell Garage site which had been due to come before the Planning Committee this day had been withdrawn due to the wrong box about ownership of the site being ticked. It was being resubmitted and would be considered at the Planning Committee on 7th May. It was confirmed by the ELC Councillors present that the objections already submitted would be carried forward.  7.6 **Notice of Review –** The Local Review Body would be meeting on 16th May in the Council Chamber, Haddington at 2.00 pm to consider an appeal against the refusal of the planning application for alterations to and change of use from office to hot food takeaway at 43 Quality Street.  7.7 **Proposal of Application Notice for Castleton –** A public consultation meeting would be held on Monday 20th May at North Berwick Community Centre in respect of the proposal for a 60 bed care home and ‘retirement village’ at Castleton. This proposal was on the opposite side of the road from the previous application which had been withdrawn. |  |
| **8 Major Variation of Premises Licence for Signals** | 8.1 Signals Bistro: No 12 Quality Street had applied for a major variation of their premises licence to extend their hours of on consumption for alcohol from 11.00 am currently to 9.00 am to bring non-resident customers in line with resident guests.  8.2 After discussion it was agreed not to object to the proposal. | KES |
| **9 Treasurer’s Report** | 9.1 The Treasurer confirmed that the only payments during the last month had been £38 to Cllr Smith for taking the Minutes and £114 to Zurich Insurance for the Community Council’s insurance cover.  9.2 ELC had confirmed the budget payments for the financial year 2019/20 as follows - Administration: £961 and Local Priorities Scheme: £8,440. The budget allocations would be transferred directly to the Community Council bank account.  9.3 Following Lilian Pryde’s retiral as Liaison Officer, Sharon Saunders and Cait McCorry would be the points of contact at ELC.  9.4 The ELC Cllrs present confirmed their strong support and commitment to the Community Council. |  |
| **10 Lease with Royal Mail of telephone cabins** | 10.1 The proposed Lease between the Community Council and Royal Mail had been circulated previously.  10.2 Concern was expressed that the Community Council would be taking on the responsibilities under the Lease but would have no control as to what was happening on the site.  10.3 It was noted that what had started off as a community project had now developed into something else which was now under the umbrella of the North Berwick Environment & Heritage Trust (NBE&HT).  10.4 It was suggested that in these circumstances NBE&HT enter into the Lease and it was agreed to write to them with the proposal. Their response would determine whether the project would continue or not in its current form. | JL/KE |
| **11 Re-provisioning of health & social care services in North Berwick –update** | 11.1 Cllr Northrop had developed her response to Health and Social Care in the community. The key task "is helping to provide an informed local contact within which appropriate decisions can be made in the public interest." There are 3 strands. First as a statutory planning consultee the Community Council’s role is to represent a broader term local view to set alongside comments of those with a more individual interest.    Second, there is a general responsibility to be a voice for the area; the views of the community must be ascertained and expressed to local authorities and other public bodies and action taken which appears to be in the interests of the community. Finally longer term, there needs to be a link into discussions about the local development plans. Planning decisions are made round the local plan for the area 'unless material considerations indicate otherwise'.  11.2 Funding had been obtained from the Scottish Government for scoping for the Re-provisioning Project. They will work closely with local groups including Area Partnerships and health and wellbeing sub committees bit there was no specific mention of Community Councils.  11.3 Friends of the Abbey next meets on 4th April and then on the first Thursday of the month from 10.30 -12 noon at the Abbey.  11.4 Dementia Friendly would be working across East Lothian to embed dementia in the strategy, including re-provisioning. The main issues in North Berwick were late diagnosis and post diagnostic support.  11.5 Carers Week from 10th to 16th June. Various events were being planned. | SN |
| **12 AEDs** | 12.1 The Chairman reported that all but three defibrillators had been assigned to their relevant businesses on the public register held by the Scottish Ambulance Service. The Sports Centre, Marine Hotel and Tennis Club elected to have their defibrillators removed from the public register. Details have been provided to each should they wish to offer these for public use via the ambulance service again in the future.  12.2 It was confirmed that NBCC would take responsibility for the four new external ones. Cllr Kelly had agreed to carry out the monthly checks.  12.3 Moving the box at the lifeboat shed to near the harbour master’s door was being looked into.  12.4 Notices would require to be updated. | KE |
| **13 Reports from Groups & Societies** | * *Christmas Lights –*The Chairman reported that the Abbey Church would be meeting later in the week to approve (or otherwise) the proposed ‘Tree of Life’ instead of a traditional tree. * *Law & Traprain Advisory Group* – Their Annual Report had been circulated. Duncan Priddle, who leads the Group, would be leaving East Lothian shortly. No replacement had been announced yet. * *NBET* – The Trust had held its AGM on 13th March. Its Constitution had been changed and it was to be re-launched as North Berwick Environment and Heritage Trust. Hilary Smith was its new Chairman. * *CCMT –*The Museum would be opening on 6th April and would include the Youth Project exhibition on youth culture over the years – ‘*Teenage Kicks’*. * *Community Centre* – Cllr Steel reported that (a) the Centre would be closing for 2 weeks for refurbishment to meet fire requirements; (b) the Enjoy Leisure run crèche would be closing as it was underused; (c) distributing from the Kindness Fund more fairly was to be looked at; (d) NB Movies were looking for additional funding for more chairs; and (e) a new website was to be set up. * *Parent Council –* Cllr Kelly reported that Martin Brown & Zoe Lovell were now co-chairs of the Council. They would be looking for funding for a mental health worker and were interviewing to fill the post of teaching support. |  |
| **14 Correspondence** | The following e-mails or communications had been received -   * E-mail asking for support in marking National Parkinson Day on 11th April by taking blue lights to the top of the Law at 6.00 pm * Notice of East Lothian Partnership Spring Health & Wellbeing Forum on 27th April at QMU from 9.00 am – 12.45 pm * E-mail from Lilian Pryde with thanks for retirement gifts * Public Consultation by Scottish Affairs Committee at Westminster on Access to Financial Services in Scotland: Have your say [circulated] – (Deadline 25th March) * Consultation by Planning & Strategy Team in Planning Services from 8th March to 19th April on Sustainable Drainage Systems (SUDS) [circulated] |  |
| **15 Any other competent business** | * Dino of North Berwick Fry had requested if he could hold the keys of the public toilets so that they could be kept open till 8.00 pm rather than 6.00 pm as there was no full time attendant on 4 days. ELC Cllr Goodfellow confirmed that this was being looked into. * Cllr Smith proposed that the Museum should be asked to keep the two World War Books of Remembrance on permanent display in the Museum rather than hidden away in a case in the Old council Chambers and this was agreed. * 4 Cllrs would be visiting Williamstone Farm on 4th April at 2.30 pm. * Cllr Macnair pointed out that as the condition of the roof of the public toilets and the Old Council Chambers was in poor condition a request for funding from the Common Good Fund should be made to the Chief Executive. | JL/KES |
| **16 Date of Next Meeting** | Tuesday 7th May 2019 at 7.30 pm in the Hope Rooms, Forth Street. |  |