**Royal Burgh of North Berwick Community Council**

**Minutes of the 525th Public Meeting held at 19.30 on**

**Tuesday 4th February 2020**

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

**Present:**Cllrs Judy Lockhart – Chairman, Gordon Moodie – Vice Chairman, Kathryn Smith - Secretary, Christiane Maher – Treasurer, Kelly Evans, Bill Macnair, Sue Northrop, and Ian Watson

**In attendance:**ELC Cllrs Jane Henderson & Jim Goodfellow (part), 6 members of the public, local press (Emma Duncan)

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| **Agenda item** | **Discussion** | **Action** |
| **1 Welcome** | 1.1 The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed all to the 525th meeting of the Community Council. |  |
| **2 Apologies** | Cllrs Peter Hamilton & Ingrid Gibson |  |
| **3 North Berwick in Bloom** | 3.1 The Chairman welcomed Dr Libby Morris, Chairman of North Berwick in Bloom who gave an interesting presentation on the work of North Berwick in Bloom throughout the year.  3.2 She also highlighted the challenges to be faced such as replacing the wooden tubs with recycled plastic ones.  3.3 Fundraising was ongoing though they were in the process of applying to become a charity which should help in future funding applications.  3.4 Improving the area in front of the toilets in Quality was a new project under consideration. A tap in Quality Street to help with watering was sought. |  |
| **4 Previous Minutes** | Adoption of the Minutes of the meeting held on 7th January, which had been circulated previously, was proposed by Cllr Northrop and seconded by Cllr Moodie |  |
| **5 Matters Arising** | 5.1 ***4.1 AEDs:*** Cllr Evans confirmed that she was still to deal with ordering the batteries and pads for the defibrillators which were the responsibility of NBCC. Cllr Macnair commented that there was a shortage FR2 batteries. Cllr Watson had been asked by the Harbour Trust to install the cabinet in its new location at the Harbour.  5.2 ***5.2 Police Report:*** Cllr Smith commented that the incident in the Lodge had been raised at the last CAPP meeting and it was confirmed that it had been an isolated incident and that there had been no reported problems at the youth shelter.  5.3 ***8.4 Christmas Lights:*** The remedial work to the tree at the entrance to the Lodge had still to be done. Cllr Smith confirmed that the fundraising crossword for the Christmas Lights had been in the shops since the beginning of January.  5.4 ***12 AOCB:*** The ELC lighting engineer had completed an inspection of street lighting and reported that there was no problem with the LED lighting which complied with regulations. It was felt that the response did not address the problem of dark spots and the potential risk of falling and the Chairman agreed to follow up. Cllr Maher pointed out that the lighting outside the Health Centre was poor and wondered whose responsibility this would be. | KE  JL |
| **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 Cllr Moodie had attended a Police Scotland Contact Assessment Model Project stakeholders’ event in the Brunton Hall that morning. A new process [CAM] when answering calls would be introduced in East Lothian on 24th March to improve the way each call is assessed so that the best and most appropriate and proportionate response could be provided.  6.3 The date of the next CAPP meeting is scheduled for 4th March 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 [john.paterson2@scotland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:john.paterson2@scotland.pnn.police.uk) and  [peter.bamford@scotland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:peter.bamford@scotland.pnn.police.uk). |  |
| **7 Planning Matters** | 7.1 The January planning applications were led by Cllr Maher.  7.2 The following new applications had been viewed beforehand and, following a brief discussion, no comments were made –  ***Balgone Estate –*** formation of footpaths and erection of bridge (retro)  ***Greymount Cottage, 10A St Margaret’s Road –*** alterations, extension to house, formation of dormer and erection of shed  ***The Harbour, Victoria Road*** – alterations to harbour wall  ***4 St Baldred’s Crescent*** – extension to house and formation of decked area  ***8 Heugh Road*** – extension to house  7.3 The following new applications were viewed, discussed and commented on as follows –    ***Land east of Fidra House, Dirleton Avenue –*** after discussion it was decided to express concern about the revised application for the erection of 4 houses and associated works. A condition of the previous application had been that no alteration of the plans was to be made ‘in the interests of safeguarding the character, integrity and visual amenity of the area and the setting of the listed building of Cheylesmore Lodge’. It was felt that the new application now negatively impacted on the visual amenity of Cheylesmore Lodge and its setting.  ***13a Melbourne Road –*** after discussion it was decided to express concern about the application for the demolition of a gate, the extension to the flat and associated works, as the use of timber cladding was out of character with the rest of the buildings in the street in a prominent part of the Conservation Area.  ***The Harbour, Victoria Road –*** after discussion on the application for the siting of the snack bar (Lobster Shack), erection of a storage cage and canopy with seating area to be in position from November to March each calendar year and repositioning 2 benches, although it was out of character with the harbour, it was agreed not to comment as the Harbour Trust had no objection and it was a popular tourist attraction.  ***3 Castleton Farm Cottages –*** after discussion it was agreed not to comment on the application for the erection of a porch though it did seem to be out of proportion to the rest of the building.    7.4 The following planning decisions had been made during the last month –  ***10 Macnair Avenue*** – first floor extension to house – **granted** - on condition of obscure glazing in east elevation  ***3 Priory Gate*** – erection of fencing, gates & gate pillars – **granted** – on condition of tree preservation  ***11 Stevenson Walk* -** extension to house – **granted -** on condition of heightening fence to protect privacy of neighbours  ***Wall of steps to public toilets, the Harbour, Victoria Road* –** installation ofdefibrillator cabinet **– granted –** on condition it is illuminated internally & externally  ***8 Couper Avenue*** – part change of use of house to child minding business (class 10) – **granted** with several conditions including limited hours of operation, maximum 6 children, must be run by resident of house, use of outdoor space to be reviewed in 1 year.  ***Vila Joya, 69 B Dirleton Avenue* –** extension to house, erection of greenhouse/storage shed, gates and fencing **– granted –** on condition that fence is erected first  ***Balgone Dean –*** extension to house - **granted** | CM  CM |
| **8 Castleton Update** | 8.1 The Chairman confirmed that the planning application for the Castleton care village was now live on the ELC website.  8.2 A public meeting had been arranged at 7.30 pm in St Andrew Blackadder Church on Tuesday 18th February.  8.3 There seemed to be some confusion regarding the deadline for objections but the final expiry date was 9th March.  8.4 ELC Cllr Goodfellow asked, as there had been significant complaints and exaggerated comments regarding the application on Facebook, if he could make a statement at the start of the public meeting to explain that (a) under Scottish planning law, unless it had been submitted and refused before, the Council could not refuse to accept an application and (b) there was a false impression that the town would receive significant planning gain under s.75. Any gain would be little such as improvement to road capacity. There could be a small contribution towards the expansion of the Health Centre but it would be subject to NHS costing of the impact which had never been asked for in the past. It was agreed that he should make a statement |  |
| **9 Treasurer’s Report** | 9.1. It was confirmed that during the last month a payment of £38 had been made to Cllr Smith for taking the Minutes. |  |
| **10 Charrette Implementation Group** | 10.1 Cllr Maher reported positive progress had been made resulting in the production of plans setting out the proposed parking arrangements in the east end of the High Street which had been circulated to members.  10.2 The Implementation Group and ELC were now looking at dates for the trial period.  10.3 It was agreed in the interest of safety that the area outside the police station should be a community space rather than used for parking. |  |
| **11 Transforming Services for Older People** | 11.1 Unfortunately Cllr Evans had been unable to attend the Communities meeting on 14th January at the East Lothian Community Hospital.    11.2 Feedback indicated that there had been no progress to date but from February to June the hub would be gathering the data required to present the business case for funding. Thereafter a project team would be formed.  11.3 Cllr Northrop had contacted Jane Ogden-Smith to discuss how to re-connect. |  |
| **12 VE Day 75 – 8th May** | 12.1 A letter had been received regarding the unique opportunity to pay tribute to the huge contribution of women during the dark days of WW11 with celebrations on VE Day - 8th May.  12.2 It was agreed to defer discussion to a future meeting. |  |
| **13 Reports from Groups & Societies** | 1. *AELCC:* Concern had been expressed by the Association regarding ELC’s apparent change in policy on potholes. ELC Cllr Henderson explained that there was a risk assessing process for each pothole so that repairs could be prioritised. 2. *Christmas Lights:* The committee would be meeting shortly to start the planning process for this year. 3. *Town Plan:* North Berwick Trust would now take forward and fund this idea along with NBCC and the Area Partnership. 4. *FIDRA:* Planting 400 trees between the schools and the Country Park was planned for 14/16 March. 5. *Area Partnership* was to set up a scrutiny group. Cllr Macnair suggested that voting members should be identified with a badge. 6. *Abbey Care Home* had received an excellent CareCommission Report*.* 7. *Health & Wellbeing:* The Association was congratulated on having been chosen as one of the four Compassionate Communities in Scotland as part of the national Truacanta project. |  |
| **14 Correspondence** | The following communications had been received –   * E-mail from Peter Hammond asking if (a) an article could be included in the next North Berwick Connect asking for people to volunteer to keep the Raft Race going otherwise it would cease and (b) anything could be done to address the state of disrepair of the County Hotel. ELC Cllr Goodfellow explained that ELC could do nothing as long as the property was wind and watertight and there was no infestation. * E-mail about a petition to stop felling trees at the Museum of Flight. It was noted that ELC had refused the planning application that day. |  |
| **15 Any other competent business** | There was none. |  |
| **13 Date of Next Meeting** | Tuesday 3rd March 2020 at 7.30 pm in the Hope Rooms, Forth Street |  |