**Royal Burgh of North Berwick Community Council**

**Minutes of Zoom Meeting held at 19.30 on**

**Tuesday 6th October 2020**

**Present:**

Judy Lockhart – Chairman, Gordon Moodie – Vice Chairman, Kathryn Smith – Secretary, Christiane Maher – Treasurer, Mairi Benson, Kelly Evans, Peter Hamilton, Bill Macnair, Sue Northrop and Ian Watson

**Also present:** ELC Cllrs Jeremy Findlay & Jim Goodfellow, Sharon Wellwood, and Emma Duncan (local press)

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| **Agenda item** | **Discussion** | **Action** |
| **1 Welcome** | The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed all to the seventh Zoom meeting of the Community Council. |  |
| **2 Apologies** | Cllr Ingrid Gibson |  |
| **3 Previous Minutes** | Adoption of the Minutes of the Zoom meeting on 1st September which had be circulated previously, was proposed by Cllr Macnair and seconded by Cllr Watson. |  |
| **4 Matters Arising** | 4.1 ***4.1 Beach Litter –*** The Chairman had yet to write to the *Courier* to thank the members of the public who had been collecting litter on their walks. It was agreed that the bin men who collected all the rubbish first thing in the morning should be thanked for their sterling work. It was noted that the Scottish Seabird Centre would be organising weekly beach cleans for the public on Fridays.  4.2 ***8.3 Town Centre Support –*** The Spaces for People virtual meeting had gone well. ELC Cllr Findlay commented that until the complaint received from the RNLI about the one way system in Law Road adding minutes to their Muster times had been resolved nothing could be done about the suggested one way system for the adjoining streets. |  |
| **5 Police Report** | 5.1 This month’s police report, which had been circulated beforehand, was taken as read.  5.2 Concern was expressed about the number of anti social behaviour complaints involving youths and what could be done to resolve the problem. Engagement with the Youth Network was suggested. |  |
| **6 Planning matters** | 6.1 The September planning applications were led by Cllr Maher.  6.2 The following new applications had been viewed beforehand and, following a brief discussion, no comments were made –  ***22 St Margaret’s Road –*** erection of garden room, shed and formation of decked area )part retro)  ***22A St Andrew Street –*** alterations, extension to house, formation of decked areas & steps, erection of wall, timber screen & gate  ***25 Blackadder Crescent –*** extension to house  ***11 South Hamilton Road –*** extensions to house  ***Tesco Stores Ltd, Tantallon Road –*** display of advertisements for vehicle charging point (retro)  ***22 Melbourne Road –*** replacement of balustrade  ***1A West Bay Road –*** extension to flat, formation of balcony, steps, vehicle access & hardstanding area and erection of retaining wall  ***14 Williamstone Court –*** extension to house with 1st floor roof terrace  ***6 Netherlaw –*** extension to house  6.3 The following new applications were viewed, discussed and commented on as follows –  ***49 Rhodes Park –*** after discussion it was agreed not to comment on the planning application for an extension to the house  ***Cotgreen, Dirleton Avenue –*** after discussion it was agreed to object to the planning application for the erection of gates and fencing on the following grounds – (1) the three trees which the applicant wants to fell are all protected as they are part of the designated ‘ancient woodland’; (2) there is no justification for fencing the woodland as it is inaccessible to the public. Also there would be the risk of damaging tree roots when digging the holes for the fencing posts; (3) the 1.85 meter heavy fence and equally high electric gates are totally out of character with the area.  The ELC Cllrs were asked to call the application off the list once the planning officer had reported. ELC Cllr Goodfellow noted his interest as he lives in the road.  It was also agreed to bring to the attention of the enforcement officer the unauthorized work which had been carried out to the house.  6.4 Decisions since last meeting –  ***24AYork Road:*** alterations to flat, formation of balcony, pedestrian access, hardstanding area, steps, erection of fencing, railings & gate – **granted** on condition that the single pane door is replaced with one that mirrors the sash window  ***Kennels to west of Sheriffhall, West Gate, Congalton:*** alterations, extension to building to form 1 house, erection of garage and associated works – **granted**  ***Garden ground of 42 St Baldred’s Road:*** variation of condition 2 and removal of condition 3 of planning permission 19/00020/9 to replace mechanical vehicle turntable with turning head and additional hardstanding - **granted**  ***11 & 11A Beach Road:*** alterations, extensions to flats, installation of external staircase and associated works - **withdrawn**  ***5A York Road:*** erection of summerhouse – **granted**  ***Tesco Stores Ltd, Tantallon Road:*** installation of 2 vehicular charging points and associated works (retrospective) – **granted**  ***9 Forth Street:*** reroofing of house **– granted**  ***West Windygate, 2,3, & 5 Netherlaw:*** change of use of vacant land to domestic garden ground– **granted**  ***21 St Andrew Street:*** installation of roof vents – **granted**  ***13C Melbourne Road:*** replacement windows  ***Craigend Cottage, 2ACromwell Road:*** alterations, extension to 1 house to form 2 flats and associated works – **granted** on condition that the privacy of neighbours was safeguarded & parking spaces retained  ***48-52 Dunbar Road (Aldi):*** erection of reverse vending machine unit and associated works – **granted** for operation from 7.00 to 23.00, safe collection and retaining shrubs & trees |  |
| **7 Treasurer’s Report** | 7.1 The Treasurer confirmed the following payments had made during the month - £38x2 to Cllr Smith for Minutes; and £14.39 for Zoom subscription.  7.2 A request had been made for £1,000 from the Resilience Fund for Christmas lights.  7.3 It had been agreed that any payments from the Resilience Fund required approval of the Community Council as the CERT had ceased.  7.4 The Treasurer confirmed that there was £11,147 in the Resilience Fund which included £5,000 for the 5 benches (see item 9). £600 was also to be paid to the Traders’ Association for an advertisement.  7.5 The Chairman confirmed that the recent fundraising for the Christmas lights had raised £1,112.50 in personal donations and £1,138.85 in ‘go fund me’ donations. £5,000 had been included in the Community Council budget for 2020/21. The cost of lighting the three new trees [at the Lodge entrance, Dunbar Road/Lochbridge Road junction & Dirleton Avenue/Strathearn Road junction] including supplying, fitting and power boxes was £12,174 including VAT.  7.6 There was a feeling that as Covid infections were on the rise it may be better to wait till the situation was clearer. However, others felt that the Christmas lights were of huge importance this year, particularly in supporting people’s mental health and providing hope for the future.  7.7 On a vote taken by the members not on the Christmas Lights Committee who were present (i.e. 5 members) a majority of 3 voted in favour of £1,000 from the Resilience Fund being given for Christmas lights. |  |
| **8 Resilience - SPoCs** | 8.1 As Cllr Northrop had stepped down as SPoC a replacement was now being sought.  8.2 Providing he could step down as the Community Council’s representative on the Coastal Communities Museum Trust (CCMT), Cllr Watson volunteered to take on the role.  8.3 It was suggested that a deputy be found from another organisation. It was thought it would be beneficial to have teams set up to allow volunteers to work where their strengths lay e.g. social media for communications etc.  8.4 The Chairman agreed to take over Cllr Watson’s role on the CCMT. |  |
| **9 Towns & BIDS Resilience and Recovery Fund** | 9.1 The Chairman confirmed that the grant of £5,000 for 5 new benches had been received.  9.2 Consultation with other groups was ongoing regarding the best locations for the benches. Consideration was being given to two at Williamstone Court which was on the safe route to school. |  |
| **10 Area Partnership** | 10.1 Sandra King’s successor as the Connected Communities Manager is Doug Haig. He is a highly experienced Community Development Officer who has worked with ELC in the Haddington area for many years.  10.2 It was confirmed that, when there had not been an opportunity to discuss applications etc beforehand, the representatives should vote personally on whatever they thought was best with the proviso that in these cases the Area Partnership should not state that the votes had the support of the Community Council. |  |
| **11 Remembrance Day** | 11.1 Cllr Smith reported that with the current restrictions it was obvious that the usual Church services and Parade could not take place on Remembrance Sunday 8th November this year.  11.2 Having discussed the matter with the Rev Dr Neil Dougall it was proposed that a short commemoration and wreath laying ceremony be held at the War Memorial at 12 noon with one representative from each organisation who would normally lay a wreath present observing social distancing. There had been a positive response from those who had replied so far.  11.3 The Chairman had suggested filming the event for Facebook/YouTube. It was agreed that this was a good idea.  11.4 ELC Cllr Goodfellow pointed out that the event should not be publicised to avoid a crowd gathering.  11.5 Poppy Scotland had asked if the Community Council would participate again in their Light up Red campaign. It was agreed that Cllr Watson would arrange for the poppy to be projected on the High Street/Quality Street gable. |  |
| **12 Annual General Meeting** | 12.1 The AGM was scheduled to be held on Tuesday 3rd November at 7.00 pm via Zoom. It was agreed the public should be invited to attend.  12.2 The Agenda would comprise the Chairman’s Report, the Treasurer’s Report & the Election of office bearers. |  |
| **13 Any other competent business** | 13.1 Congratulations were extended to North Berwick Day Centre and Community Connections who had both been presented with a Community Service Award by North Berwick Rotary Club in recognition of the outstanding work by staff and volunteers supporting the elderly and vulnerable in their community throughout the pandemic.  13.2 A letter had been received from a local resident, Ryan McGregor, who had received a laptop through the Resilience Digital Inclusion project to help support him with his writing. He had now been offered a contract for a book that he had written which would be out next year and was hugely thankful for the Community Council ‘believing in him and taking a chance on him’.  13.3 An e-mail had been received from a neighbour of the County Hotel expressing concern at the state of the building. ELC Cllr Goodfellow had referred him to ELC’s Business Support Department who were chasing the owners.  13.4 At a recent meeting of the Joint Laws Advisory Group Cllr Macnair had suggested providing a ‘bump track’ at the quarry behind the Law but it had been rejected. He had also raised the issue of a safe route to school from the Dandara Estate, across Heugh Road and along by the marsh but this was not well received due to concerns about walking near the marsh and disturbance to marsh habitat and wildlife. |  |
| **14 Date of Next Meeting** | The date of the next (virtual) meeting would be Tuesday 3rd November at 7.30 pm following the AGM at 7.00 pm. |  |