**Royal Burgh of North Berwick Community Council**

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

**Tuesday 1st December 2020**

**Present:**

Judy Lockhart-Hunter – Chairman, Gordon Moodie – Vice Chairman, Kathryn Smith – Secretary, Christiane Maher – Treasurer, Mairi Benson, Ingrid Gibson (part), Peter Hamilton, Bill Macnair, and Ian Watson

**Also present:** ELC Cllr Jim Goodfellow, Kirsty Towler, Doug Haig 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 ninth Zoom meeting of the Community Council. |  |
| **2 Apologies** | Cllr Kelly Evans; ELC Cllr Jeremy Findlay |  |
| **3 Doug Haig** | 3.1 The Chairman welcomed Doug Haig who had taken over the role of Connected Communities Manager from Sandra King.  3.2 He gave a brief outline of his background and what the position involved.  3.3 He undertook to support and work with the Community Council on issues. It was agreed that communication had been a problem in the past.  3.4 He was happy to attend meetings regularly. |  |
| **4 Previous Minutes** | Adoption of the Minutes of the Zoom meeting on 3rd November which had be circulated previously, was proposed by Cllr Watson and seconded by Cllr Maher. |  |
| **5 Matters Arising** | 5.1 ***11 Remembrance Sunday:*** Cllr Smith confirmed that the modified wreath laying ceremony at the War Memorial which had taken place had been a success. A small socially distanced crowd had gathered. |  |
| **6 Police Report** | 6.1 This month’s police report, which had been circulated beforehand, was taken as read.  6.2 Concern was expressed again about the continuing number of anti social behaviour complaints involving youths in the Lodge and what could be done to resolve the problem.  6.3 ELC Cllr Goodfellow commented that the problem was with 14-24 year olds. Normally the older youths would be in pubs which were closed at present and it was concerning that younger children were joining them to drink.  6.4 Doug Haig commented that he along with the Community Warden and the police were trying to do something about it. |  |
| **7 Planning matters** | 7.1 The November 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 –  ***18 Cromwell Road*** – internal alterations to building  ***48-52 Dunbar Road*** (Aldi) – extension of Sunday opening times from 19.00 to 20.00  ***83 Rhodes Park*** – erection of garden cabin  ***26 Glenorchy Road*** – extension to house and reroofing part of house  ***8 Creel Court*** – erection of bike shed  ***Cedarwood, 8a Hamilton Road*** – alterations to house and formation of dormer  ***3****-****5 Station Road*** - alterations to building to form one house  ***10a Couper Avenue*** – reroofing of house, formation of external stairs/steps with handrails and balcony with balustrade  ***1 Stair Park*** – extension to house  ***41 Brodie Avenue*** – material changes to house (retro)  7.3 The following new applications were viewed, discussed and commented on as follows –  ***26 Forth Street*** – after discussion it was agreed not to comment on the planning application for alterations to the house, formation of dormer, erection of a fence and formation of a terraced area with balustrade & steps  ***11 Victoria Road*** – after discussion it was decided to object to the planning application for the formation of dormers. Although there was not an issue with the beach facing dormer, the setting of the east facing dormer was out of character and overbearing for two reasons - (1) it would not be subservient to the small cottage, but dominate the whole building and (2) it would be out of character with the style of roofs and windows on that side of the street.  ***Garden ground of 51 St Baldred’s Road*** – after discussion it was agreed that the changes made from the previous application were not material enough to change the Community Council’s view on the resubmission of the planning application for the erection of one house & associated works and it was agreed to object to the application on the grounds that (a) the planned house was a clear case of overdevelopment and (b) the appearance of the upper floor, namely the zinc cladding, was not appropriate for St Baldred’s Road and would be totally incongruous from any perspective.  7.4 Decisions since last meeting –  ***Dulnain, 6a St Margaret’s Road***: extension to house – **granted**  ***6 Netherlaw:*** extension to house **– granted** subject to no windows overlooking no. 5  ***22 Melbourne Road:*** replacement of balustrade – **granted**  ***14 Williamstone Court:*** extension to house with first floor roof terrace – **granted** subject to no additional windows  ***1a West Bay Road:*** extension to flat, formation of balcony, steps, vehicle access and hardstanding area and erection of retaining wall – **granted**  ***Tesco Stores Ltd, Tantallon Road:*** display of signage for vehicle charging point (retrospective) – **granted for 5 years**  ***Garden Ground of 51 St Baldred’s Road:*** erection of one house and associated works – **no decision notice** [see above]  ***Windygates, Windygates Road:*** painting of building and installation of roof window - **granted** |  |
| **8 Treasurer’s Report** | 8.1 The Treasurer confirmed the following payments had made during the month - £38 to Cllr Smith for Minutes; £210 to Vote Pedro for updating website; and, from resilience fund, £630 to Meg Maitland for adverts. |  |
| **9 Christmas Lights** | 9.1 The Chairman reported that, despite a technical hitch which had delayed the start, the virtual switch-on of the Christmas lights on Saturday 28th November had been a great success with several thousand ‘likes’.  9.2 She thanked Steve Pereira who had put in more than 20 hours of work in producing the video.  9.3 She thanked the traders and local businesses for their support in what had been a difficult year.  9.4 At the switch-on Cllr Moodie had also thanked Elaine Smith for her fund-raising crosswords; Mathew Bond and his team for testing and installing the lights; North Berwick Pipe Band for providing a piper; the Abbey Church for allowing the Christmas tree to be put up; the church choir led by Marion Goodfellow and the Gospel choir who contributed to the film; all the groups in the town which raised money for the lights, particularly, the Baptist Church; and all the residents who had donated to the GoFundMe page.  9.5 The new lights on the tree at the Lochbridge/Dunbar Road junction would be installed on 7th/8th December.  9.6 She was pleased to report that the company whose vehicle had damaged the tree at the corner of Quality Street and Melbourne Place had paid for the damage.  9.7 Cllr Maher commented that all of the donation of £500 from the Stella Moffat Trust to NBGC for jingle bags may not be required. It was agreed that any surplus should be passed to the Community Centre for other gifts. |  |
| **10 Area Partnership** | 10.1 The Chairman commented that members had been asked to vote on the various applications by e-mail after further details of the applications had been received. She did not know yet if the Christmas Lights application had been successful.  10.2 Cllr Maher indicated that she wanted to stand down as a Community Council representative but had been encouraged by Chairman, Hilary Smith ‘to stick with it’ in the meantime. |  |
| **11 Spaces for People** | 11.1 Cllr Maher commented that she and Hilary Smith had made a plan for where the planters which were replacing the bollards should go in the High Street but apparently the bin lorries could not get through so there was no change to what had been put in place which she found extremely frustrating.  11.2 She had also asked that parking in the Law Brae car park be changed to 60 minutes and the Glebe car park to 3/4 hours but Meg Maitland had said it should remain at 90 minutes.  11.3 It was also noted that there appeared to be no enforcement of the parking restrictions in the Glebe and the Chairman undertook to write to Peter Forsyth about that and also about extending the time limit in the Glebe car park.  11.3 Cllr Watson asked if the traffic sequence at the Clifford/St Baldred’s Road junction could be changed so that the north/south sequence was staggered. |  |
| **12 Any other competent business** | 12.1 ***Skate park:*** A paper to Cllr Macnair from a young person putting forward the arguments for upgrading/replacing the skate park at the Recreation Park had been circulated beforehand. Cllr Macnair queried whether there was any s75 money left which could be put towards this project but ELC Cllr Goodfellow commented that all these funds had been spent. He did point out that an application for a pump track had been submitted to the Area Partnership for consideration in next year’s budget and that perhaps both projects could work together. Cllr Macnair undertook to speak to the young person again about it as it was agreed that the younger teenage group was not being catered for.  12.2 ***CCMT:*** At their last meeting a discussion had taken place about providing a computer facility at the reception desk in the Museum. The Chairman had offered, subject to the approval of the Community Council, to provide 3 tablets which were surplus to the requirements of the Resilience Group. It was agreed to donate three.  12.3 ***PC Iain Paterson:*** It was understood that the community police officer was due to retire imminently. It was agreed to write to him thanking him for his service to the community.  12.4 ***Safe route to school:*** Cllr Macnair was due to have a meeting with the various parties involved about the proposed safe route to school that would run behind Lochbridge Road and in front of the Law.  12.5 ***Saltire Radio Shout-out:*** An e-mail had been received asking for support for a ‘shout out’ to thank those who had volunteered during the emergency response. It was agreed not to participate as the Resilience Team had been thanked already and were unlikely to be listeners of Saltire Radio. |  |
| **13 Date of Next Meeting** | The date of the next (virtual) meeting would be Tuesday 5th January 2021 at 7.30 pm. |  |