**Royal Burgh of North Berwick Community Council**

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

**Tuesday 6th April 2021**

**Present:**

Judy Lockhart-Hunter – Chairman, Gordon Moodie – Vice Chairman, Kathryn Smith – Secretary, Christiane Maher – Treasurer, Mairi Benson, Kelly Evans, Nikki Ford, Ingrid Gibson, Bill Macnair, and Ian Watson

**Also present:** ELC Cllrs Jeremy Finlay & Jim Goodfellow, Kirsty Towler, Helen & Morna Mulgray, Sharon Wellwood, Jonathan Best and Emma Duncan (local press)

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| **Agenda item** | **Discussion** | **Action** |
| **1 Welcome** | The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming all to the thirteenth Zoom meeting of the Community Council. |  |
| **2 Apologies** | Cllr Peter Hamilton |  |
| **3 Previous Minutes** | Adoption of the Minutes of the Zoom meeting on 2nd March which had be circulated previously, was proposed by Cllr Evans and seconded by Cllr Moodie. |  |
| **4 Matters Arising** | 4.1 – ***4.2 Dog fouling:*** The Chairman had written to Amenity Services but had received no response*.* She would send a reminder.  4.2 – ***11.1 Representatives on Groups & Societies:*** The Secretary of the Russell Bequest had confirmed that a Trustee did not need to be a *member* of the Community Council but a *representative* for the Community Council so on that basis Sue Northrop would continue and report back to the Community Council when necessary.  4.3 – ***11.2 Beach wheelchairs:*** The Chairman had shared the request for volunteers on social media but was yet to e-mail the Resilience Group volunteers. | JLH  JLH |
| **5 Police Report** | 5.1 This month’s police report, which had been circulated beforehand, was taken as read.  5.2 It was noted that there was a disappointing increase in anti social behaviour amongst youths. |  |
| **6 Planning matters** | 6.1 The March 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 –  ***Managers Office, Dirleton Court* -** erection of 2 stores  ***11 & 11a Beach Road*** – alterations, extension to flats, formation of 1st floor roof terrace  ***The Harbour, Victoria Road*** - display of advertisements  ***59 Forth Street*** - alterations to house and formation of a third floor roof terrace with decking, balustrade and handrails  ***7 Ware Road*** - extension to house  ***22 Fidra Road*** - alteration and extension to house  ***Land South West of Law Primary School*** - erection of an early years centre facility building and associated works  ***Inch Cottage, Dirleton Road –*** extension to house  ***11 Lorne Lane –*** alterations to flat, including formation of 2nd floor terraced area with balustrade  ***1 Ben Sayers Park –*** erection of double garage, fencing & gate  ***22 Gilsland Grange –*** extension to house  ***17 Law Road –*** widening of vehicular access, formation of dormer, decking, extension to house, erection of gates, fencing & pergola and reroofing parts of house  ***1 Dirleton Avenue –*** erection of fencing and gate  ***Meldorf, Dirleton Road –*** extension to house, formation of dormers and heightening of existing dormers  ***12 Quality Street*** – change of use of rear grounds & parking area to form ancillary outdoor eating, seating, drinking areas, erection of storage, toilet buildings and associated works for temporary period of 3 years (retro).  6.3 The following new applications were viewed, discussed and commented on as follows –  ***18-26 High Street [Nisa] –*** after discussion it was agreed to object to the retrospective planning application for the display of the AMT advertisement as the neon green light surrounding the cash point was too bright and out of place in the Conservation Area.  ***Teviotdalale, Abbotsford Road –*** after discussion it was agreed not to comment on the planning application for alterations to the house and formation of a 1st floor balcony with external staircase.  ***Cotgreen, Dirleton Avenue –*** after discussion it was agreed to comment on the planning application for the erection of gates and fencing as follows – (1) there was no justification for putting fencing around the historic woodland; (2) the 1.85 heavy fence and the equally high and heavy electric gates were totally out of character with this part of the street and their erection would result in damage to tree roots; and (3) the application claims erroneously that the eastern approach to Cotgreen is private and the western approach to Cotgreen and Treetops is owned by the applicant with Treetops having access rights only which contradicts longstanding rights of way dating back at least 30 years.  6.4 Decisions since last meeting –  ***Edradour, 1 Strathearn Road –*** replacement window – **granted**  ***5 Tantallon Terrace –*** replacement window, formation of vehicular access, hardstanding area, erection of outbuildings, installation of lighting, electric charging point and associated works - **granted**  ***5 Tantallon Terrace -***  demolition of wall/railing – **granted**  ***11 Macnair Avenue –*** extension to house – **granted**  ***Innisfree, 10 Westerdunes Park*** – painting of house – **granted**  ***12 Westerdunes Park –*** demolition of building – **granted**  ***12 Westerdunes Park –*** erection of house, sheds and associated works – **granted** with series of conditions  ***The Harbour, Victoria Road* –** siting of 2 storage containers for lobster hatchery operations andinterpretative display purposes **- granted** as temporary  ***13 Marmion Road –*** formation of vehicular access, hardstanding areas and erection of bin store – **granted** with a few conditions  ***82 High Street –*** demolition of building, wall & gates; alteration to building and erection of 1 house & associated works – **refused** [*reported last* *month but now on website*] |  |
| **7 Treasurer’s Report** | 7.1 The Treasurer confirmed that £38x2 had been paid to the Secretary for the Minutes.  7.2 A balance of £11,371.91 would be carried forward to the new financial year. It was understood that the local priories and admin fees would be notified by ELC by the beginning of next month and that they were likely to be slightly higher.  7.3 It was suggested that some of the surplus could be used to buy another ‘Big Belly’ bin for the harbour area. It was agreed to discuss this at a future meeting. |  |
| **8 Licensing** | 8.1 ***Provisional license application* *by Catherine Boot*** – this was for an online local delivery service run from the applicant’s residence at 8C Links Road – it was agreed not to object.  8.2 ***Occasional license applications* *for the Rocketeer*** – three applications for the period 26th April to 6th June had been made. A letter of objection had been sent. |  |
| **9 Area Partnership** | 9.1 All applications for funding had been approved at the last meeting apart for one for the flag from Athelstaneford as it was out with the North Berwick Coastal Ward.  9.2 It was confirmed that £13,000 had been awarded by the Scottish Government to address food poverty arising through Covid. |  |
| **10 Spaces for People** | 10.1 The Chairman had received an e-mail from Peter Forsyth on ELC’s current line of thinking regarding parking.  10.2 It was proposed that the 60 minute maximum length of stay no return restriction on the Law Road car park be maintained; a 3 hour maximum length of stay no return restriction in the Glebe car park be provided; and all other car parks be kept as at present i.e. no restrictions in the Imperial and East Road car parks.  10.3 It was disappointing to note that the proposal from NBCC to remove the yellow lines in Quality Street outside NB Fry and in Kirkports to provide 60 minutes parking had not been included.  10.4 It was also explained that utilising the car parks at the Library, Community Centre and High School was not possible; expansion of parking in the recreation park was not supported because of long term damage to the pitches etc; North Berwick Trust land off Haddington Road was being considered for long stay parking; and park and ride from the long stay car park was not a viable option primarily because of a contravention of the competition rules. |  |
| **11 Skate Park** | 11.1 Cllr Macnair commented that ELC had confirmed there would be no objection to upgrading the current skate park.  11.2 He was due to meet with Alex Naughton to discuss his drawings and the costs.  11.3 The pump track people were keen to incorporate their proposal with the skate park but it was agreed that should be a separate project. |  |
| **12 Correspondence** | The following correspondence had been received –   1. An e-mail regarding the deliberate cutting of cages protecting 3 special endangered trees in the Lodge resulting in the trees being damaged by rabbits or similar. The cages had been repaired and would be inspected regularly. 2. An e-mail regarding the speed of traffic in Dirleton Avenue particularly at the traffic lights at South Hamilton Road with a suggestion to change the sequence of the lights to create a 4 way stop. Cllr Maher had suggested to Peter Forsyth a solution might be that when cars approach the traffic lights - whether into or out of town - the signals should not go to green immediately, but with a delay the equivalent of driving at 20mph between the detector and the traffic signal, therefore forcing them to slow down. Although he thought it a sensible idea nothing further had been confirmed. 3. An e-mail expressing concern that people had been seen drinking direct from the water fountain in Quality Street. Scottish Water had confirmed that additional regular deep cleaning, disinfecting and maintenance was being carried out. 4. An e-mail regarding the rubbish strewn on the West beach, much of which was blown out of overflowing bins. An assurance had been received that action as required would be taken by ELC. 5. Confirmation that the public toilets in Quality Street would be open from 9.00 am till 8.00 pm from 1st April. |  |
| **13 Any other competent business** | 13.1 ***VCEL Volunteers Award:*** it was agreed to nominate Sue Northrop for her resilience work during the first lockdown.  13.2 ***Notice boards survey:***it was agreed to discuss Jonathan Best’s survey at the next mid-month meeting.  13.3 ***Calder & Crawford Cups:*** there was doubt about whether this year’s putting competitions would take place.  13.4 ***New football pitch:***the new football pitch at the school would be ready by August  13.5 ***Visitors to Law:*** it was noted that last year there had been 113,000 visitors, an increase of 20,000 on the previous year. |  |
| **14 Date of Next Meeting** | The date of the next (virtual) meeting would be Tuesday 4th May 2021 at 7.30 pm. |  |