**Royal Burgh of North Berwick Community Council**

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

**Tuesday 7th September 2021**

**Present:**

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

**Also present:** ELC Cllr Jim Goodfellow, Kirsty Towler, Peter Fairbrother, Ruth Hunter Pepper, Shona Queen, Donna Montgomery 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 eighteenth Zoom meeting of the Community Council.  |  |
| **2 Apologies** | There were none |  |
| **3 Playlist for Life** | 3.1 Peter Fairbrother, local organiser for East Lothian for Playlist for Life, gave a presentation on the charity which had been founded by Sally Magnusson.3.2 The charity supports and encourages music as a therapeutic intervention for dementia sufferers by connecting to families and memories.3.3 His role was to raise awareness of the benefits of musical playlists for those living with dementia, support folk in creating their own, and develop a local network of 'Help Points' comprising community groups and organisations who would be happy to share the Playlist approach and distribute their free booklets and materials. |  |
| **4 North Berwick Skate park Project** | 4.1 Ruth Hunter Pepper (with Shona Queen) gave a presentation on the skate park revamp proposal.4.2 The group now had a constituted committee and was applying for a bank account which would enable them to apply for funding.4.3 The plan was to revamp the existing skate park footprint and provide skateboarders, bladers and scooter users with a modern and safe recreational area. 4.4 The idea was to engage with the community and to give a sense of ownership to the skaters.4.5 There would be a public consultation meeting at Steampunk on 18th September from 5.00-6.30 pm.4.6 Cllr Macnair was impressed with the plan. He suggested it should be kept simple and within the footprint of what was there and that ELC should be kept on board to avoid any bumps on the road. He asked to be kept in the loop. |  |
| **5 Previous Minutes**  | Adoption of the Minutes of the Zoom meeting on 3rd August which had be circulated previously, was proposed by Cllr Watson and seconded by Cllr Maher. |  |
| **6 Matters Arising** | 6.1 – ***3.1 Bass Rock Community Group:*** The Chairman reminded everyone about the Group’s Window Wanderland project from 3rd to 10th October.6.2 – ***5.3 Rocketeer:*** The Chairman had written to ELC Councilor Henderson. The chairs had now been removed.6.3 – ***5 Camper vans:*** It was noted that camper vans were parking overnight in the Rugby Club car park. The Secretary would check if this was permissible.6.4 – ***6.2 Police Report:*** PC Kerr had confirmed that the youths were escorted from the beach and on to trains back to Edinburgh. One youth was taken home. It would appear that it had been a mix of local youths and youths from elsewhere.6.5 – ***15.1 Correspondence:*** Kylie Reid of Egg who was keen to engage with the community about protecting the environment had been invited to give a presentation but had not yet confirmed. |  |
| **7 New Community Warden** | 7.1 Donna Montgomery introduced herself as the new community warden for the town. This was her 5th week in post and she was still finding her feet.7.2 Her responsibilities include dealing with anti social behaviour, noise and neighbour complaints and dog fouling.7.3 Her contact details are -dmontgomery1@eastlothian.gov.uk or cwt@eastlothian.gov.uk |  |
| **8 Police Report** | 8.1 This month’s police report, which had been circulated beforehand, was taken as read.8.2 ELC Cllr Goodfellow reported that ELC Cllr Henderson was keen to resume the CAPP meetings. They had met with the community police officers and were looking into finding a suitable venue so that face to face meetings could resume. |  |
| **9 Planning matters** | 9.1 The August planning applications were led by Cllr Maher.9.2 The following new applications had been viewed beforehand and, following a brief discussion, no comments were made – ***18-26 High Street –*** installation of ATM machine (retro) and display of advertisement (retro)***14 Sainthill Court –*** formation of access stair and door***49 St Baldred’s Road –*** 1st floor extension and formation of dormer***59 Westgate –*** extension to flat***9a Marmion Road –*** extension to flat***Redside Formhouse, Whitekirk –*** internal and external alterations to building, erection of conservatory, garage and outbuildings***8a Melbourne Road –*** replacement windows***9 East Road –*** alterations and extension to flat***26 Victoria Road –*** display of advertisements (retro)***80 Lochbridge Road –*** formation of vehicular access and hardstanding area***8 Fidra Court –*** erection of domestic fitness studio building, walls, widening of vehicular access and formation of hard standing9.3 The following new applications were viewed, discussed and commented on as follows – ***4 Stair Park*** – after discussion it was agreed not to comment on the planning application for an extension to the house and the heightening of the fence.***Parkend, 18A Westgate*** – after discussion it was agreed to object to the planning application for an extension to the flat, erection of a gate, installation of windows and formation of hardstanding on the grounds that it would neither enhance the appearance nor make a positive contribution to the Conservation Area and was also highly visible.9.4 Decisions since last meeting –***Land at The Heugh –*** erection of 1 house and associated works – **withdrawn*****48-52 Dunbar Road* –** allow Aldi deliveries 7 days a week from 5.30 am instead of 7.00 am – **granted for 1 year with set noise level limit***Note: residents nearby should log complaints with ELC if they are disturbed by the earlier deliveries.****Garden flat, 18 Fidra Road –*** installation of en-suite and dressing room in master bedroom – **granted*****24 Victoria Road –*** installation of satellite dish – **granted*****Marly Lodge, Windygates Road –*** alterations to building – **granted*****41 St Baldred’s Road –*** extension to house – **granted*****Drift, Tantallon –*** extension to building and associated works (part retro) – **granted*****3 Whitecross Bow –*** extension to house – **granted*****17 Glasclune Gardens –*** installation of solar panels – **granted*****3 The Stables, Greenheads Road –*** replacement windows to house and extension to garage to form summerhouse/workshop – **granted*****4 Tantallon Terrace –*** formation of vehicular access and hardstanding area, installation of electric charging point and solar panels – **granted*****Land at Upper Kaimend –*** erection of 1 house and associated works – **granted with 7 conditions*****Fidra Cottage, 17 Westerdunes Park –*** extension to house – **granted*****2 Mains Cottages, Gilbert Avenue –*** change of use of open space to domestic garden ground, extensions to house, formation of external staircase to first floor balcony, erection of summerhouse/home office and fencing (part retro) - **granted subject to hand digging for fence posts*****1 Quality Street –*** display of advertisements (retro) – **replaced by new application without lighting** |  |
| **10 Treasurer’s Report** | 10.1 The Treasurer confirmed that the only payment made during the month was for 2 subscriptions of £14.39 for Zoom.  |  |
| **11 Area Partnership** | 11.1 The Chairman had proposed writing to ELC and the Area Partnership regarding political neutrality on groups but it was agreed to discuss the matter at the mid month business meeting first.11.2 It was understood that at the last Area Partnership meeting there had been a vote for a governance change to give each primary school a vote. |  |
| **12 Spaces for People** | 12.1 A revised layout for the east end of the High Street had been circulated.12.2 Although the Community Council had indicated at a previous meeting that the planters were a hindrance and that the original charrette layout should stay, it was disappointing to note that the planters were to remain in the revised layout which apparently met with the approval of the traders.12.3 After further discussion members voted 5-4 in favour of the original charrette layout.12.4 The way in which ELC had dealt with the matter was disappointing.12.5 ELC Cllr Goodfellow reminded members that this plan would be a one year trial. |  |
| **13 Remembrance Sunday** | 13.1 The Secretary commented that ELC had confirmed that Remembrance Sunday events could more or less return to normal this year.13.2 Remembrance Sunday was on 14th November and it was agreed that the service would be held in St Andrew Blackadder Parish Church.13.3 It had been agreed that the Community Council would participate again in Poppy Scotland’s Light Up Red campaign by projecting a poppy on the gable end of the building at the east end of the High Street for the CORE period of 5th to 14th November. |  |
| **14 Community Council Elections** | 14.1 Members were reminded that the deadline for submitting nomination forms to the Returning Officer at John Muir House, Haddington was 4.00 pm on 16th September. |  |
| **15 Correspondence** | The following correspondence had been received –1. A considerable number of e-mails had been received congratulating Fringe by the Sea on the success of the event. There had, however, also been comments about the noise level at a number of the venues and that was something which would have to be addressed in the future.
2. The pump track group had e-mailed asking for the Community Council’s support for a funding application but as no details had been given and there was no time to discuss before the deadline, the request was declined.
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| **16 Any other competent business** | **16.1 *The Edington Cottage Hospital:***The Chairman had attended an Emergency Meeting of the Friends of Edington Hospital (FEH) on Monday 6th September; also in attendance were Dr Flynn and Dr Dolden from the GP Surgery in North Berwick. From 13th September, the in-patient facility at the Edington was to close and the minor injuries clinic would no longer operate out of hours or at weekends. These changes were to last for 12 weeks at which point there would be a review. Peter Murray (Board member, NHS Lothian) had made it clear to Murray Duncanson (Chairman of FEH) that there was no guarantee the facilities would re-open. During the 12 week period, the Edington would be run by Care Treatment and Care (CTAC) nurses who can offer injections and wound dressings but are not able to provide primary wound management or prescribe antibiotics like the current nurses. Concerns had been raised that this would increase the workload at the GP surgery, district nurses and hospices. Everyone at the meeting confirmed that they were unhappy with the proposals and the lack of consultation.Questions were raised regarding the validity of the imposed decision – 1. It is unknown how the NHS came to run the Edington and who owns it. It is understood that the hospital was a gift to the town from Miss Edington.  2. Is there a contract or SLA between the NHS and FEH given that FEH pay the wages of a staff member at the hospital and also own a large amount of equipment?  3. What about the requirements of the patients currently receiving care, was it right to move them? It was agreed that legal advice would be sought and HR contacts would be reached out to. Everyone who attended the meeting agreed that the proposed closures were unacceptable to the town and advice would be sought to fight the decision. The Chairman would ask NBCC whether they would like to assist in the campaign.Councillor Jim Goodfellow suggested that one of the reasons for the closure of facilities related to staff vacancies with 25% of nursing posts across the county being vacant and around 35 staff members currently off sick.NBCC members shared the concerns the FEH meeting had raised and what that would mean for the town. Members voted unanimously in favour of supporting FEH in a campaign against the decision to remove any facilities at the Edington Hospital. ***16.2 Emma Duncan:*** Emma reported that this would be her last meeting as she would be leaving the *Courier* at the end of this month to join DC Thomson in Perth. She was thanked for her support and members wished her well in her new job. |  |
| **17 Date of Next Meeting** | The date of the next (virtual) meeting, the last of the current community council, would be Tuesday 5th October 2021 at 7.30 pm. |  |