**Royal Burgh of North Berwick Community Council**

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

**Tuesday 5th October 2021**

**Present:**

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

**Also present:** ELC Cllr Jim Goodfellow, Kirsty Towler, George Johnstone and Carol McFarlane

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| **Agenda item** | **Discussion** | **Action** |
| **1 Welcome** | The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming all to the nineteenth Zoom meeting of the Community Council. |  |
| **2 Apologies** | Cllr Ingrid Gibson & Community warden Donna Montgomery |  |
| **3 Previous Minutes** | Adoption of the Minutes of the Zoom meeting on 7th September which had be circulated previously, was proposed by Cllr Moodie and seconded by Cllr Watson. |  |
| **4 Matters Arising** | 4.1 – ***4.5 Skate Park Project***: Cllr Macnair had attended the public consultation meeting at Steampunk on 18th September and had been impressed with the amount of support for the project. The Youth Project was holding funds.  4.2 – ***16 AOCB – Edington Cottage Hospital:***  ***(a)*** The ***Campaign Commissioning Group*** comprising NBCC, Friends of the Edington (FotE) and the Health & Wellbeing Association (H&W) would be interviewing Fairground Communications Ltd the following day with a view to appointing them to lead a PR campaign for 3 months. A budget of £10,000 had been agreed with NBCC providing £500, H&W £500 and the FotE the balance.  ***(b)*** Cllr Moodie had attended the first ***Steering Group*** meeting, a cross party group under the chairmanship of Paul McLennan, MSP, comprising all local MSPs, the three ELC councillors, a local GP, FotE, H&W, NBCC and Sue Northrop. There would be a meeting on 12th October with Unison and the NHS to determine the re-opening criteria. In the meantime Messrs McLennan and Hoy had secured a debate at Holyrood on a date to be confirmed. |  |
| **5 Police Report** | 5.1 This month’s police report, which had been circulated beforehand, was taken as read. |  |
| **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 –  ***3 Marmion Road –*** alterations to flat, widening vehicular access, formation of hard standing steps, erection of walls, garden stores, fencing, heightening of wall with fencing  ***Ryvra, 3 Fidra Road –*** erection of garden building for ancillary residential accommodation  ***14 Rhodes Cottages, Lime Grove –*** internal alterations, erection of door and formation of decking  ***9 Pattle Court –*** alterations to flat and formation of decked area  ***Land south of 4 Rhodes Holdings –*** extension and conversion of existing building to form holiday let accommodation and associated works  ***Dinghy Park by Harbour, Victoria Road –*** erection of storage shed (class 6) for temporary period of 5 years  ***42 Moffat Place –*** erection of flue (retrospective)  ***28 Macnair Avenue –*** enlargement of balcony and erection of balustrade  ***1 Marmion Crescent –*** extension to house and formation of access ramp with covered porch  6.3 The following new applications were viewed, discussed and commented on as follows –  ***29A Fidra Road***  – after discussion it was agreed not to comment on the planning application for alterations, extension to flat, installation of solar panels, formation of 2nd floor balcony with handrails, erection of gate, gate pier, fence, wall and heightening of wall.  ***17 Victoria Road*** – after discussion it was agreed not to comment on the planning application for alterations and extensions to flat  ***51 St Baldred’s Road*** – after discussion it was agreed to object to the planning application for an extension to the house on the grounds that it was (1) too industrial in character; (2) far too noticeable from the street; and (3) totally out of character and unsympathetic with the surrounding properties. It was noted that the garage may be a permitted development.  6.4 Decisions since last meeting –  ***The Chalet, Tantallon*** – extension to house and formation of decked area with balustrade – **granted** with 3 conditions  ***Engine Cottage, Abbotsford Road*** – extension to house and car port and formation of hardstanding area – **granted**  ***Sheriffhall Farm –*** change of use of agricultural land for erection of a stables block for horses, formation of arena and associated works – **granted** on condition not to be used for business and no floodlights  ***1 Dall Hollow –*** change of use of open space to domestic garden, extension to house and erection of fencing – **granted** but change of use withdrawn  ***1 Balfour Street –*** erection of summer house – **granted**  ***17 Moffat Place –*** erection of garden room and fence – **granted**  ***1 Westgate Court –*** installation of gas meter box, pipe work and flue – **granted**  ***North Berwick Delivery Office, 2 Westgate –*** installation of doors on cabins and painting of building – **granted**  ***65 Old Abbey Road –*** installation of windows as change to scheme of development – 20/01279/P – **granted**  ***8A Melbourne Road –*** like for like replacement windows – **no** **permission needed**  ***Parkend, 18A Westgate –*** extension to flat, erection of gate, installation of windows and formation of hard standing – **granted** (not harmful but complementary)  ***26 Victoria Road (The Rocketeer) –*** display of advertisements (retrospective) - **granted** |  |
| **7 Major variation of premises license** | 7.1 An application to amend the existing license for Tantallon GC to permit the sale of alcohol for consumption off the premises as ‘off sales’ was approved. |  |
| **8 Treasurer’s Report** | 8.1 The Treasurer confirmed that the only payments made during the month were for 2 subscriptions of £14.39 for Zoom and 3 payments of £38 to the Secretary for taking the Minutes. |  |
| **9 Area Partnership/ Spaces for People** | 9.1 Cllrs Maher and Macnair had had a very constructive meeting about the plans for the east end of the High Street with Graeme Brown, who was in listening mode. A further meeting was planned nearer the implementation time on site to discuss the finer detail of what was going to be implemented.  9.2 The basics confirmed were:   * Parking as per the new plans plus loading bay in front of the police station.  Single yellow line gone, but traffic wardens were to be instructed to allow drop off and pick up of people and goods in the loading bays except the one in front of Nisa.  The Covid intervention could be regarded as a pre-trial. * Maximizing pedestrian space in front of Greggs was still under discussion. The principle was accepted, but the safety audit engineers had issues with the lack of pavement width in front of L'Argenette.  There would be further discussion on site to find the best compromise. * Although it was accepted that the planters were nice, they reduced pedestrian space, so again any compromises were be decided on site before final implementation. |  |
| **10 Remembrance Sunday** | 10.1 The Secretary would be attending a Safety Advisory Group (SAG) meeting the following day to confirm the arrangements for 14th November.  10.2 It was understood that ELC may charge for putting up the barriers. It was agreed that ELC should provide the barriers.  10.3 Cllr Watson confirmed he had 12/15 hi-viz jackets which would be required for the stewards.  10.4 George Johnstone had agreed to be chief marshal.  10.5 The poppy would be projected on the gable end of the building at the east end of the High Street for the CORE period of 5th to 14th November. |  |
| **11 Community Council Elections** | 11.1 As there were 10 applications for the 12 places there would be no election this year.  11.2 The Roll Call meeting would be held virtually on 19th October and would be chaired by ELC Cllr Henderson.  11.3 It was agreed to co-opt Mairi Benson at the November meeting as she had been unable to apply due to her temporary address out with the town pending completion of her new house. |  |
| **12 Correspondence** | There had been none. |  |
| **13 Any other competent business** | 13.1 Because of the restrictions required by SAG, the Christmas Lights Switch-on would be virtual again this year.  13.2 It was confirmed that the Christmas shop window display competition would be taking place.  13.3 ELC Cllr Goodfellow confirmed that the external work to the Old Council Chambers was expected to start at the end of October.  13.4 At the conclusion of the business of the meeting the Chairman gave a short Report on the current term of the Community Council which is attached below. |  |
| **14 Date of Next Meeting** | The date of the next (virtual) meeting would be Tuesday 19th October 2021 at 7.30 pm. |  |

**CHAIRMAN’S REPORT on 2016-2021 TERM**

It has been an interesting term on the Community Council. The term began in 2016 and today, we see Kathryn, Bill, Ian and Gordon as the only remaining personnel from the original elected line up. I would like to thank each of them for sticking with the Community Council throughout the whole period. This is my first term and I certainly hadn’t realised the amount of time required to serve as a member so I think it is testament to your commitment that you all got this far, particularly as most of you have already impressive service records. I think it is worth noting that Sue Northrop who was also originally elected served the entirety of the original term length of 4 years, stepping down at our AGM last year after an extraordinary summer of resilience efforts which she led on behalf of the town. The rest of us, have been elected to the Community Council by current members in order to fill vacancies along the way, I was first to join, followed by Peter, Christiane, Mairi, Ingrid and most recently, Nikki. It wasn’t quite as straightforward as that in reality, as a number of our replacements left and some of us were actually filling a previously replaced spot, but let’s not worry about the detail. There are many challenges that come with so many personnel changes as it adds a greater burden to the rest of us; however we have reached the end of term with only two vacancies which is fantastic.

Other significant challenges we have faced include having to enact our emergency plan twice for Beast from the East as well as more recently, for the Coronavirus pandemic which also extended our term by a year. Most recently, we have embarked upon a fight to reinstate all services within the Edington. Whilst these periods have been challenging, they have also brought us closer together as a community and shone a light on how hard members of the Community Council work on behalf of the town. You should all be very proud of your efforts and what we have achieved this term.

Everyone sitting here this evening has contributed hugely to the success of the Community Council. When I was preparing these notes, I had planned to call out some key achievements by each member but what struck me, was that on almost every task I came up with, there was more than one person involved. We really work together as a great team; so sincere thanks to each one of you, for all you have done for the town. Together, we attend a huge variety of groups and associations, lead with action as required supporting commonly heard views and concerns amongst fellow residents, as well as planning numerous events over the course of each year. This work would not be carried out if it was not for us, this group, all working together and putting in the time.

There are two roles though which no one else has a look in on and I didn’t think it would be right not to mention them. Those roles are held by Christiane and Kathryn. The effort that Christiane puts in every single month on the planning section is incredible and the time spent on Castleton and understanding the detail well enough to explain it to the rest of us, never mind hundreds of furious residents and the applicants themselves, was quiet something. And Kathryn, is basically my right hand women - she diligently prepares the agenda, arranges and minutes every meeting as well as reminding me as we go along everything that I have forgotten. The role of chairman would be significantly harder without Kathryn and I often thank my lucky starts that we have her.

Thank you to our elected members for all their support during the term and to East Lothian Council and particularly our Connected Communities Manager.

It has been a privilege to serve with you all this term and whilst all good things must come to an end, we look forwards to the new NBCC which will begin later this month with a mixture of new and old faces and along with those leaving, we wish them all the very best of luck.

Judy Lockhart-Hunter, Chairman