**Royal Burgh of North Berwick Community Council**

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

**Tuesday 1st February 2022**

**Present:**

Judy Lockhart-Hunter (Chairman), Gordon Moodie (Vice chairman), Kathryn Smith (Secretary), Christiane Maher (Treasurer), Mairi Benson, Peter Hamilton, Carol McFarlane, Bill Macnair, George Johnstone and Ian Watson

**Also present:** Jane McMinn (Harbour Trust), Kirsty Towler, Colin Ley, Jacqueline Cottrell, ELC Cllr Jeremy Findlay & Gregor Millar (local press)

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| **Agenda item** | **Discussion** | **Action** |
| **1 Welcome** | The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming all to the twenty third Zoom meeting of the Community Council. |  |
| **2 Apologies** | None |  |
| **3 Previous Minutes** | Adoption of the Minutes of the meeting held on 4th January, which had been circulated previously, was proposed by Cllr Moodie and seconded by Cllr Benson. |  |
| **4 Harbour Trust** | 4.1 Jane McMinn, Chairman spoke about the Trust’s vision for the future.  4.2 Because space and amenities are sparse because of the popularity of the area, the Trust wants to make best use of it and would be rolling out its ideas to the community for consultation.  4.3 The old changing rooms are made of old concrete and rebar which is metal to re-enforce the concrete. It is badly rusted through so is not fit for future use.  4.4 To make more community space it would propose knocking down the changing rooms to create a space for tables & chairs and a landscaped area with a wind barrier. There would be a wheelchair lift and accessibility to the old pier.  4.5 At the other end there is a crack in the old sea wall which it is proposed should be taken down and rebuilt with community units, toilets etc.  4.6 The Trust would like to work with the Scottish Seabird Centre and amongst other things refurbish the old sun lounge to form a restaurant. If the SSC extended the decking the area below could provide additional facilities for the lobster hatchery and rowing club.  4.7 Refurbishment of the toilets was a priority.  4.8 This would obviously be a long term project and would require to meet peoples’ needs. |  |
| **5 Matters Arising** | 5.1 ***8.3 Potholes:***  (a) The Secretary commented that the Team Manager for carriageway repairs at East Lothian Council had been forwarded the complaint about the number of potholes in the High Street but it was also pointed out *‘that a number of defects appear at this time of year due to the weather and it was difficult to keep on top of everything given the resources available.’*  (b) It was confirmed that the potholes at the St Baldred’s Road/Dunbar Road junction was programmed to be permanently repaired soon. In the meantime a temporary repair had been carried out as the state of the junction was hazardous. |  |
| **6 Resignation / Vacancies** | 6.1 The Chairman reported that, unfortunately, Nikki Ford had resigned from the Community Council as she had moved to Edinburgh to be nearer her work. This meant that there were now 2 vacancies to fill.  6.2 Although there was some interest, the vacancies had to be advertised and a piece would appear in the *Courier* in the next possible issue. |  |
| **7 Police Report** | 7.1 This month’s police report, which had been circulated beforehand, was taken as read.  7.2 Concern was expressed at the amount of anti-social behaviour in the town, particularly egg throwing at vehicles and houses. It was suggested that the community policeman go into both the Primary and High Schools to speak to the pupils about this issue.  7.3 ELC Cllr Findlay commented that CAPP meetings were unlikely to start again anytime soon. |  |
| **8 Planning matters** | 8.1 The January planning applications were led by Cllr Maher.  8.2 The following new applications had been viewed beforehand and, following a brief discussion, no comments were made –  ***Carthouse, 4 Redside Farm Steadings, Whitekirk –*** internal alterations to buildings  ***1 Carlekemp, Abbotsford Road –*** change of use of flat to holiday let accommodation (retro)  ***9 Quadrant –*** part re-roofing of building and garage  ***66 Gilbert Avenue –*** extension to house and erection of porch  ***23 St Baldred’s Crescent –*** formation of raised terrace, access ramp, handrails and resurfacing of driveway  ***Walled Garden south of Windygates West, Windygates Road –*** erection of building, piers, fencing, formation of hardstanding areas, demolition of buildings, walls and piers [note: this is an application for listed building consent]  8.3 The following new applications were viewed, discussed and commented on as follows –  ***12 Westerdunes Park -*** after discussion it was agreed to object to the dark brown cladding of the upper floor of the planning application for the erection of 1 house and associated works on the grounds that it was too prominent and did not enhance the character of the surrounding area.  ***Land at Castleton Farm, Tantallon*** – after discussion it was agreed to object to the planning application for change of use of agricultural land and grass verge to a dog walking facility, formation of vehicular access and associated works on the ground of negative visual impact resulting from the elevated position of the 12 parking spaces and shelter  8.4 Decisions since last meeting –  ***Land southwest of Law Primary School –*** erection of an early years’ centre facility building and associated works - **granted** with a condition about bird protection  ***Redside Farmhouse, Whitekirk –*** erection of conservatory, garage, & outbuilding and change of use of part of the paddock to form new vehicular access – **granted** with conditions about bat and tree protection  ***29A Fidra Road –*** alterations, extensions to flat, installation of solar panels, formation of 2nd floor balcony with handrails, erection of gates, gate pier, fence, wall and heightening of wall – **granted**  ***1-6 Carlekemp, Abbotsford Road*** – alterations to building - **granted**  ***23 Dundas Road –*** extension to house **– granted**  ***7 Marmion Road –*** alterations and extensions tohouse **– granted**  ***Seaworthy Cottage, 1A Tantallon Terrace –*** replacement windows – **granted**  ***10 Links Road –*** painting of window surrounds and re-pointing of stonework – **granted**  ***31 St Andrew Street –*** replacement windows and door (part retro) – **granted**  ***7 Forth Street –*** erection of shed (retro) – **granted**  ***31 Old Abbey Road –*** erection of antenna – **granted**  ***The Doocot, Rockville –*** erection of garden room – **granted**  ***8 Heugh Road –*** extension to house as design changes to scheme of development subject of planning permission 20/00017/P – **granted**  ***7A Forth Street –*** replacement doors and erection of log store – **granted** |  |
| **9 Treasurer’s Report** | 9.1 The Treasurer confirmed that the following payments had been made during the month - £6.02 to Scottish Power for store; £252.26 to Vote Pedro for fee for administering website; and £14.39 for Zoom subscription. |  |
| **10 Area Partnership/ Spaces for People** | 10.1 ***East end of High Street*:** At the Area Partnership meeting on 25th January option 2, which included the installation of bollards, was confirmed as the preferred option although it was noted there appeared to be no more aesthetically pleasing style of bollard available. It was disappointing to note that despite being told that ELC would consider NBCC’s suggestions, develop the proposals further and provide bollard options in January with an opportunity to discuss thereafter, no such plans or discussion had materialised.  10.2 ***Haddington Road Traffic proposal:*** At the recent Area Partnership meeting the suggestion of a rumble strip on Haddington Road had been objected to vehemently because of the noise which it would create. It had been agreed, however, that the transport budget was to be spent on safety measures including flashing lights and speed signs. Apparently there was an existing application for a speed table at the Law/Lochbridge Roads junction. |  |
| **11 Edington Cottage Hospital** | 11.1 The Steering Group had met virtually with Humza Yousaf, MSP, Health & Social Care Secretary, on 17th January.  11.2 The meeting had gone better than had been expected though the Cabinet Secretary did point out he would not overrule NHS Lothian.  11.3 He was disappointed with the way matters had been dealt with and would make sure NHSL responded to the FOI requests and that reviews would take place monthly  11.4 As the proposed carol singing with the Gospel Choir outside the Edington had been cancelled due to the Omicron variant it was hoped to arrange another event. |  |
| **12 Queen’s Jubilee** | 12.1 The Secretary had circulated the link to the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee Beacons Guide which details the events planned for 2nd June.  12.2 She suggested and it was agreed that –  (a) A gas fuelled Beacon should be purchased at a cost of  £490+vat. The deadline for orders was 18th April. It was agreed that putting it on the Law would be problematic and that another site would have to be identified.  (b) The Gospel Choir should be asked to sing ‘A Song for the Commonwealth’.  (c) NBCC should participate in the Beacon Trail. The cost would be £499 and the deadline for signing up was 7th April.  (d) North Berwick Pipe Band would be invited to play ‘Diu Regnare’.  12.3 A fete at the harbour was also proposed by the Chairman. | KES  JLH  MB/JLH  KES |
| **13 Correspondence** | The following correspondence had been received –  13.1 An e-mail from a Rhodes Park resident regarding the speed of the traffic entering the town via Tantallon Road. The response from ELC’s Road Manager was that they were proposing a 40 mph speed limit from Tantallon Caravan Park to the Tesco roundabout and then 20 mph thereafter. It was felt that the speed limit from the caravan park should be 30 mph.  13.2 Application for major variation to License for Aldi, 48-52 Dunbar Road to include click and collect service and on line sales/deliveries during and outwit core hours and an increase in the permanent and seasonal display capacity. It was felt more details of click and collect were required.  13.3 An e-mail from a Ben Sayers Park resident about the lack of grit bins who had been informed by ELC that the area did not meet the criteria for a grit bin. It was agreed to follow up as to why it did not meet the criteria when falls were happening. |  |
| **14 Any other competent business** | 14.1 ***AELCC Rotating Chair –*** the Chairman explained that the Association of East Lothian Community Councils was considering introducing a 6 month rotating chair. It was agreed to support the initiative.  14.2 ***Connect North Berwick –*** the next edition was scheduled for distribution in the last week in April. The deadline for editorial/advertising was still to be confirmed. Due to increased production costs the cost will increase to £850 + vat. It was agreed to contribute to this edition but to review the position for further editions.  14.3 ***Christmas Lights –*** assuming normality had returned, the Christmas Lights switch on would take place on 26th November.  14.4 ***Junior Road Safety Officers –*** Law Primary School had been in touch to see whether their Junior Road Safety Officers could be involved in some way with works going on around the town to support Road Safety. NBCC, On the Move and ELC were meeting on Thursday morning in the school grounds to look at road safety in the immediate area. It was agreed that the Junior Road Safety Officers would be invited along for their input. An offer would also be made to send either Community Councillor Maher or Macnair into the school to answer pre submitted questions on the Community Council’s work to support road safety across the town. It was also agreed to ask the Junior Road Safety Officers along to the next meeting to find out more about what they were up to and to give them the opportunity to publicise their good work.  14.5 ***Gregg Bins –*** Libby Morris of NBiB had proposed that the unsightly bins currently outside the police station be re-sited in the first parking space in the Law car park. Although this would mean losing a parking space it was agreed that this seemed to be the only solution to the problem.  14.6 ***EV Chargers –*** NBCC followed up with East Lothian Council on the situation regarding the new Electric Vehicle charging points in the Glebe. ELC confirmed that incorrect signage had been erected and parking tickets given in error. Any car, regardless of how it is powered, is allowed to park in the spaces in the Glebe with charging points. The spaces are normal spaces available to all with the added benefit of having a charging point for those who need it.  14.7 ***Old Council Chambers –*** concern was expressed as to when the refurbishment work which had been scheduled for February would be carried out. ELC Cllr Findlay undertook to find out.  14.8 ***Town Projector –*** it was noted that the ‘Five in a Row’ achievement was being projected. It was agreed it should run for a week. |  |
| **15 Date of Next Meeting** | The date of the next (virtual) meeting would be on Tuesday 1st March 2022 at 7.30 pm. |  |