**Royal Burgh of North Berwick Community Council**

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

**Tuesday 1st March 2022**

**Present:**

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

**Also present:** Isabel Anderson, Sheila Inglis, Duncan Barbour, Matthew Little, Tony Thomas, 2 residents & 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 fourth Zoom meeting of the Community Council. |  |
| **2 Apologies** | Leona Douglas, Community Warden (late) |  |
| **3 Previous Minutes** | Adoption of the Minutes of the meeting held on 1st February, which had been circulated previously, was proposed by Cllr Moodie and seconded by Cllr Watson. |  |
| **4 Matters Arising** | 4.1 ***5.1*** ***Potholes:*** (a) the potholes in the High Street had been filled/patched on the previous Sunday; and (b) the potholes at the St Baldred’s/Dunbar Roads junction had been permanently repaired a couple of weeks before, as had the pavement in St Baldred’s Road where tree roots had lifted the surface.  4.2 ***8.3 Land at Castleton Farm:*** The Community Council’s position regarding the proposed dog walking arena had been misreported in the local press. It was confirmed that comments on the negative visual impact of the parking spaces and shelter had been lodged with ELC. A concerned resident had also raised concerns about animal welfare which were not considered a planning matter nor something the Community Council should deal with.  4.3 ***14.4 Junior Road Safety Officers:*** Law primary’s JRSOs would now be meeting with the Community Council at the mid month meeting.  4.4 ***14.5 Gregg’s Bins:*** ELC hadmade contact with the right department at Gregg’s HQ and they had undertaken to look at putting the bins back to where they should be at the back of the shop. Apparently the problem had arisen due to a changeover in waste collection companies who did not understand the issues. The yellow bin was supposed to have been removed the previous week but was still there.  4.5 ***14.7 Old Council Chambers:*** No update was available.  4.6 ***14.8 Town projector:*** The projections had been well received. After discussion it was agreed that, as it was a humanitarian rather than political issue, a message in support of Ukraine would be projected the following week. Cllrs Watson & Benson would liaise. |  |
| **5 Vacancies** | 5.1 The Chairman welcomed Andrea Kwek to the meeting. Confirmation of her election to the Community Council was proposed by Cllr Watson and seconded by Cllr Macnair  5.2 Another interested candidate would be interviewed on 22nd March. |  |
| **6 Police Report** | 6.1 This month’s police report, which had been circulated beforehand, was taken as read.  6.2 With regard to last month’s suggestion that the community policeman go into both the Primary and High Schools to speak to the pupils about the egg throwing incidents, the police had responded saying that the police liaison officer had made the schools aware of the anti social behaviour and that it had been covered at the school assemblies. All preventative measures had been looked at.  6.3 It was agreed that the police should be contacted direct with a view to re-instating the CAPP meetings | KES |
| **7 Planning matters** | 7.1 The February 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 –  ***7a Forth Street*** – erection of fences & gate  ***42 Blackadder Crescent*** – extension to house  ***12b Melbourne Road*** – replacement windows and installation of roof window  ***12 High Street (Bella Italia)*** – extension to building  ***47 Glenorchy Road*** – extension to house, erection of fence & gate  ***21 Lady Jane Gardens*** – extension to house  ***Whitehaven, 11 Glenorchy Road*** – renewal of permission for erection of one house & associated works  ***80 High Street (Boots)*** – display of advertisement  ***Land around 26 Victoria Road (Rocketeer)*** – formation of path  ***Walled garden south of Windygates West*** – erection of 1 house & associated works  ***94 High Street (North Berwick Flooring)*** – painting of frontage  ***36 St Andrew Street*** – replacement windows, door, gutter & downpipes  ***Marly Lodge, Marly Knowe, Windygates Road*** – replacement window  7.3 The following new applications were viewed, discussed and commented on as follows –  ***14 Links Road -*** after discussion it was agreed to object to the planning application for alterations, extension to the flat, erection of garage/carport, widening of vehicular access and formation of a hard standing area on the main groundthat the extension was not in character with the buildings, would destroy the integrity of this unique building, and detract from the character of the Conservation Area.  Furthermore, the proposed solar panels would require to be slanted to make the most of the sunlight, would be visible over the new car port and garage from as far as Dirleton Avenue and would contribute further to diminishing the beauty of the existing building.  ***Windyheugh, Netherlaw*** – after discussion it was agreed to object to the planning application for extensions to the house, including the addition of a first floor with balconies and balustrades on the ground that it was not only totally out of character with the surrounding buildings, in particular the B listed Windygates, but it was also over-development of a tiny plot.  7.4 Decisions since last meeting –  ***Carthouse, 4 Redside Farm Steadings, Whitekirk –***internal alterations to building ***-* granted**  ***8 Redside Farm Steadings, Whitekirk –*** alterationto house ***-* granted**  ***8 Westbay Road –*** alterations and extensions to house with balcony with balustrade, formation ofraised platform with wall and steps and erectionofgate – **granted**  ***13 St Baldred’s Crescent –*** formation of dormer, erection of summerhouse, fence, gate and garage/gym/workshop for domestic ancillary use with roof terrace – **granted** subject to private use and screening of roof terrace  ***Castleton Farm, Tantallon -*** change of use of agricultural land for the siting of storage containers to be used for a bakery (class 4), farm offices, formation of car parking area and associated works (part retro) **– granted** |  |
| **8 Major License Variation** | 8.1 An application for a major variation to the License for North Berwick Bowling Club, 17 Clifford Road to include several changes to the operating plan had been viewed. It was agreed not to comment. |  |
| **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 the store; £14.39 for Zoom subscription; £3,500 for the town projector; £78 to the Secretary for 2 months’ Minutes; and £1,020 for *Connect North Berwick* contribution*.* |  |
| **10 Area Partnership/ Spaces for People** | 10.1 Despite ELC agreeing in January to consider NBCC’s suggestions regarding the east end of High Street, develop the proposals further and provide bollard options with an opportunity to discuss thereafter, no such plans or discussions had materialised.  10.2 Instead, without any prior consultation, ELC announced that the planned temporary design for the installation of bollards would commence on 7th March.  10.3 As a result of the numerous objections received, including from the Community Council and the Business Association, ELC decided not to proceed with their plans at this time but would re-engage with representative bodies and the wider community to agree a fully engineered final design.  10.4 At a subsequent on-site meeting between NBCC and the Business Association a consensus was agreed for a way forward and the following proposals were forwarded to ELC –   * High Street returned to pre Covid/Spaces for People arrangement by removing planters and re-instating parking * Rumble strips installed at the beginning of High Street * Rumble strips installed outside Co-op Funerals * Parking opposite Greggs blocked with black planters similar to those on Quality Street and elsewhere in the town * Repairs carried out to pavements and road.   10.5 To date there had been no response. |  |
| **11 Edington Cottage Hospital** | 11.1 Gold Command’s review had taken place on 24th February. It was disappointing that 6 months on the Edington was still at the lowest score possible.  11.2 Following the review on 24th March. Calum Campbell and Alison MacDonald (AM) had offered to meet the Steering Group on 30th March.  11.3 AM had advised the Group to start thinking about ‘what a phased reopening look like’.  11.4 An event recognising the 6 month closure of the hospital was being planned.  11.5 Proposals had been made at the last Steering Group meeting by the East Lothian Health & Social Care Partnership about the Abbey in relation to re-opening the Edington. Consultation on re-provisioning was due to start in May/June. It was agreed that this should be a separate conversation from the re-opening of the Edington. |  |
| **12 Queen’s Jubilee** | 12.1 It was confirmed that the gas fuelled Beacon would be sited at the Harbour and that it should now be ordered at a cost of £490+vat.  12.2 The Secretary would contact ELC’s Event Safety Advisory Group regarding risk assessment requirements.  12.3 It was confirmed that participation in the Beacon Trail should now be registered at a cost of £499.  12.4 The Gospel Choir had agreed to sing ‘A Song for the Commonwealth’.  12.5 North Berwick Pipe Band was keen to participate.  12.5 It was confirmed that a Fete would be held at the Harbour. The Chairman would make enquiries with the Harbour Trust about availability of a marquee.  12.6 A budget needed to be agreed to determine how much was available to spend on bunting, memorabilia etc. |  |
| **13 Correspondence** | The following correspondence had been received –  13.1 An e-mail regarding Area Partnership member training on 24th March 6.30-9.30 pm  13.2 An e-mail from ELC regarding induction training – a webpage would be set up after the last meeting on 15th March with downloads and information on each training session. |  |
| **14 Any other competent business** | 14.1 It was understood that Travelodge was looking to invest in the town.  14.2 Sue Northrop (SN) had reported that the Russell Bequest had received an approach from North Berwick Trust to transfer its funds to it. The trustees were dismayed at the request however decided that the decision would be left to the new trustees as to how the trust should move forward in light of the forthcoming election and the imminent change in the majority of personnel. The 2 ELC Councillors on the Russell Bequest were not seeking re-election but it was agreed that SN should continue for at least a further year to provide continuity. SN would be asked to give a full update on the Russell Bequest at the June meeting  of  14.3 Cllr Watson reported that the tree lights had now been switched off. However, the electric points for the tree at the Strathearn Road junction had been removed when the new street lighting was installed but had not been re-instated. He would contact the contractors involved.  14.4 Concern was expressed at the deteriorating condition of the County Hotel following a neighbouring resident noting the appearance of rats in the beer garden and issues with the guttering. It was agreed that the Chairman would write to the owners. |  |
| **15 Date of Next Meeting** | The date of the next (virtual) meeting would be on Tuesday 5th April 2022 at 7.30 pm. |  |