**Royal Burgh of North Berwick Community Council**

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

**Tuesday 5th April 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:** Jackie Shuttleworth, ELC Cllr Jeremy Findlay, Jacq Cottrell, Vanessa Aalten-Voogt, Natalie Pyrkosz, Colin Ley, Tony Thomas, & 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 fifth Zoom meeting of the Community Council. |  |
| **2 Apologies** | Cllr Andrea Kwek, Leona Douglas, Community Warden |  |
| **3 Friends by the Sea** | Jackie Shuttleworth, General Manager, gave an update on the plans for the 2022 Festival.   * The Festival Hub – the big top, second stage and kids’ zone - would be situated in the Lodge grounds from 5th to 14th August. * There would be other pop-up events around the town in the Scottish Seabird Centre, Library, Steampunk and other venues – 150-200 events in total. * There would also be a makers market and a writer in residence in recognition of ‘The Year of Scottish Stories’. * She was grateful to the sponsors for their support. * A management plan was being developed to minimize noise. An investment in equipment had been made and maximum noise levels agreed from 9am till 11pm. A noise management engineer would monitor and records would be available during the event for inspection. Neighbouring residents would be given a phone number to register complaints. * The ELC Safety Advisory Group meeting would be taking place on 12th April after which affected residents would be updated. |  |
| **4 Previous Minutes** | Adoption of the Minutes of the meeting held on 1st March, which had been circulated previously, was proposed by Cllr Moodie and seconded by Cllr Watson. |  |
| **5 Matters Arising** | 4.1 ***4.2 Land at Castleton Farm:*** The Chairman and Cllr Maher had had a constructive meeting on site with the owners who were mitigating the impact on the views by planting trees and building an earth bund. The shelter would also be moved. The plans were to be re-submitted.  4.2 ***4.3 Junior Road Safety Officers:*** The meeting with the JRSOs was to be re-scheduled. In the meantime NBCC was happy to pay £50-60 for a banner. The Police had been asked to put out the pop-up policeman but there was a problem with the padlock which would require to be rectified.  4.3 ***4.4 Gregg’s Bins:*** ELC would speak to the shops about the green bins whilst the Police, who own the area in question, would speak to Greggs with a view to removing their bins to the back of the building. [*It was noted that* *this had now happened*.] The Police had undertaken to clean and paint the windows and doors of the police station in May so that North Berwick in Bloom could re-instate window boxes. It had been suggested that there should be signage about not putting bins in the area.  4.4 ***4.5 Old Council Chambers:*** There appeared to have been no progress on the refurbishment work which had been agreed some time ago. ELC Cllr Findlay said it would be pursued after the local elections in May.  4.5 ***14.4 County Hotel:*** The Chairman had contacted Star Inns who had said the building was uninhabitable though it was understood some work had been done at the back of the building. In the meantime an e-mail from a neighbour had been received highlighting various issues regarding the property. The Chairman agreed to write to Star Inns again regarding the issues raised. |  |
| **6 Vacancies** | 6.1 The Chairman confirmed that Jacq Cottrell had been interviewed and would be invited to join the Community Council after the May elections if not elected. |  |
| **7 Police Report** | 7.1 This month’s police report, which had been circulated beforehand, was taken as read.  7.2 The Secretary had contacted Sgt Meikle regarding re-instatement of the CAPP meetings and was awaiting a response. |  |
| **8 Planning matters** | 8.1 The March 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 –  ***19 St Andrew Street –*** formation of vehicle access, hardstanding area, erection of wall and installation of electric vehicle charging point  ***14 Links Road –*** demolition of gates  ***31 Dirleton Avenue –*** alterations, extension to flat, heightening of walls with railings and erection of gates  ***Unit 1, Castleton –*** change of use of agricultural building to taxi office (sui generis) (retro)  ***2 Mains Cottages, Gilbert Avenue –*** extensions to house as design changes to scheme of development subject of planning 21/00768/P  ***Eelburn House, 11 Westerdunes Park –*** siting of a motor home and caravan for living accommodation for a temporary period of 12 months  ***9 Macintyre Park –*** extension to house  ***32 Moffat Place –*** extension to house  ***7 Milsey Court –*** replacement windows and door  ***Sandacres, 19 Westgate –*** formation of hardstanding area (retro)  ***Leuchie House, Tantallon –*** erection of railings  ***1 Marmion Road –*** installation of air source heat pump and formation of solar panels  ***4 Arkwright Court –*** extension to house  ***Williamstone Farm Cottage, Gasworks Lane –*** alterations and extension to building  8.3 The following new applications were viewed, discussed and commented on as follows –  ***19A Melbourne Road –*** after discussion it was agreed not to comment on the planning application for alterations to the flat.  ***12 Westgate*** **–** after discussionit wasdecided to object to the planning application for alterations and change of use of the bank building to one flat on the ground that it should remain a commercial property and had not been advertised for sale as such adequately.  ***42 Ibris Place –*** after discussion it was decided to object to the retrospective planning application for change of use of one flat in the block of flats to short term holiday let accommodation on the grounds of (a) loss of amenity for the neighbours in the 21 other flats in the block as a result of the entrance being shared with ever changing new visitors, and (b) loss of security through visitors and cleaners having keys to the communal entrance door.  ***2 Westbay Apartments, 7 Station Hill –*** afterdiscussion it was decided toobject to the retrospective planning application for change of use of a flat to holiday let accommodation on the grounds of (a) loss of amenity for the neighbours through the communal entrance and garden being shared with ever changing new visitors, and (b) loss of security through visitors and cleaners having keys to the front door.  ***15 Westbay Apartments, 9 Station Hill –*** after discussion it was agreed to object to the retrospective planning application for change of use of a flat to holiday let accommodation on the grounds of (a) loss of amenity for the 11 neighbours in the same block of flats through the communal entrance being shared with ever changing new visitors, and (b) loss of security through visitors and cleaners having keys to the front door.  8.4 Decisions since last meeting –  ***12 High Street (Bella Italia) –*** extension to building ***-* granted**  ***Land around 26 Victoria Road (Rocketeer) –*** formation of path – **granted** on condition of use of specified sandstone and work being overseen by an archaeologist.  ***Marly Lodge, Windygates Road –*** replacement window – **granted**  ***23 St Baldred’s Crescent –*** formation of raised terrace, access ramp, handrails and resurfacing of driveway – **granted**  ***9 Quadrant -*** part re-roofing of building and garage – **withdrawn**  ***1 Carlekemp, Abbotsford Road –*** change of use of flat to holiday let accommodation – **granted** for 1 year with limit of 8 persons per rental  ***12 Westerdunes Park –*** erection of 1 house and associated works – **granted** with several conditions including approval of full details of finishing materials  ***94 High Street –*** painting of frontage – **granted**  ***Grounds of Chilliwalk, Tantallon –*** erection of 1 holiday let unit and associated works – **refused** on 3 grounds |  |
| **9 Treasurer’s Report** | 9.1 The Treasurer confirmed that the following payments had been made during the last month - £6.02 to Scottish Power for the store; £14.39 for Zoom subscription; £143.44 for insurance premium; £76 to Secretary for 2 months’ Minutes; £43.59 for Jubilee Party Bundle. |  |
| **10 Area Partnership/ Spaces for People** | 10.1 The following applications had been submitted for consideration at the last meeting –  *Every Story Counts (Fringe by the Sea)* – more information requested with revised application; *Aviation Preservation Society of Scotland* – deferred as there were many questions and concerns raised; *North Berwick Skate park* – approved; *Gullane Recreation Hall (Digital* *Inclusion)* – approved; *Stepping Out (Digital* *Inclusion)* – approved; *North Berwick Youth* *Project* *(Youth Work)* – approved  10.2 The balance of the Roads Budget allocation of £36,000 for the east end of the High Street had been lost but ELC was to be asked to allow it to be rolled over into the current year’s budget.  10.3 It was understood that the X5 bus would be in service again in time for the Scottish Open in July.  10.4 There was a vacancy for co-chair of the Health & Wellbeing Association.  10.5 The Walking Festival was planned to take place again in August.  10.6 It was agreed to support the Scottish Seabird Centre’s application for funding for cameras at Dunbar.  10.7 The new Pavilion at the school playing field was now finished. Details for the sign which NBCC had agreed to provide were awaited. |  |
| **11 Edington Cottage Hospital** | 11.1 Gold Command’s review had taken place on 31st March. It was disappointing that there had been no change in the previous position and that the services remain under significant pressure.  11.2 Following the review Alison MacDonald was to meet Drs Dolden & Flynn on 12th April.  11.3 There had been no further progress on the suggestion of a phased reopening.  11.4 The Steering Group was meeting every Wednesday. Health Secretary, Humza Yousaf was willing to meet the 3 MSPs again.  11.5 A ‘Hands around the Edington’ Parade was planned for Sunday 24th April to keep the issue in the public eye. |  |
| **12 Proposal for Re-provisioning Group** | 12.1 Re-provisioning of health and social care services in the town was being looked at again.  12.2 The Group comprised representation from the Health & Wellbeing Association, Dementia Friendly, the Day Centre, Friends of the Edington and NBCC.  12.3 Cllr Benson agreed to be the Community Council’s representative. |  |
| **13 Queen’s Jubilee** | 13.1 The Secretary confirmed that a site at the harbour for the Beacon had been identified. The Beacon had been ordered and would be delivered to Cllr Macnair who would test it beforehand and oversee its erection.  13.2 Sir Hew Dalrymple, DL would be invited to light it at 9.45 pm.  13.3 As it is being lit the Gospel Choir would sing ‘A Song for the Commonwealth’.  13.4 At 9.35 pm Lyle Crawford of North Berwick Pipe Band would play ‘Diu Regnare’, perhaps accompanied by a drummer.  13.5 A bugler or cornet player was yet to be identified to play the unique Bugle Call ‘Majesty’ at 9.40 pm. It was suggested Monktonhall Brass Band should be contacted.  13.6 After the lighting a piece of Jubilee Tart would be offered to attendees. It was agreed to ask the Youth Project if they would help with making the tarts.    13.7 Participation in the Beacon Trail had been registered and further action was awaited.  13.8 At 2.00 pm a Royal Proclamation would be read, hopefully by a DL, once the Fete was opened.  13.9 The Chairman had ordered Jubilee mugs and bookmarks with the NBCC crest on them.  13.10 Both the Rotary Club and Bass Rock Community Group were keen to help on the day. |  |
| **14 Correspondence** | The following correspondence had been received –  14.1 An e-mail from Parkinson UK asking for help in raising awareness of World Parkinson Day on 11th April. It was agreed to project their message but that future projections should be restricted to local charities.  14.2 An e-mail from a resident about restricting dogs on the beach. It was pointed out that this matter had been discussed on a number of occasions before but there appeared to be nothing that could be done.  14.3 E-mails from various residents about the leaking boating pond. After bombarding ELC with e-mails the Chairman was advised that the local East Lothian Ranger had linked in with AG Thomson to initiate the repair though it would have to fit in with the current volume of works for a suitable date. |  |
| **15 Any other competent business** | 15.1 ***Town projector*** – Muirfield Riding Therapy had asked if their fundraising Barn Dance on 4th June could be advertised. Although this was a worthy charity it was felt the projector should be used only for North Berwick events.  15.2 ***Youth Project*** – Cllr Watson reported that various funding streams had raised £100,000 which was sufficient to fund a youth worker for 3 years.  15.3 ***20 mph speed limit*** – Following a heated discussion on the apparent imposition of a 20 mph speed limit throughout the town, it was agreed that Cllr Maher would write to Keith Scott at ELC to enquire how the circulated documents and maps fit together but that no formal objection should be submitted till the consultation period opens.  15.4 ***David Portway*** – The Chairman was sad to announce that Rotarian David Portway had died the previous weekend. He had been a great supporter of the Community Council during the Covid lockdown. |  |
| **16 Date of Next Meeting** | The date of the next (virtual) meeting would be on Tuesday 3rd May 2022 at 7.30 pm. |  |