**Royal Burgh of North Berwick Community Council**

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

**Tuesday 7th June 2022**

**Present:**

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

**Also present:** ELC Cllrs Jeremy Findlay, Carol McFarlane & Liz Allan, Kirsty Towler, Rhona Hartley & Kirsty McIntosh (SOLE), Kirsty Towler, Isabel Anderson, Tina O’Rourke, resident, & 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 seventh Zoom meeting of the Community Council. |  |
| **2 Apologies** | Cllr Andrea Kwek |  |
| **3 Supporting Our Local Economy**  **presentation** | 3.1 Rhona Hartley from SOLE (Supporting Our Local Economy) and her colleague Kirsty McIntosh gave a presentation explaining that SOLE is a website where local businesses, community groups and other local organisations can set up a profile and advertise their services.  3.2 [www.scole.scot/northberwick](http://www.scole.scot/northberwick) is their web address.  3.3 There will be a PR campaign over the summer to encourage engagement with the website. The website has sections such as where to shop and where to eat and drink. It also has a ‘what’s on’ section which contains details of upcoming events.  3.4 Businesses are able to sell goods and tickets via the website for a 10% fee. Aside from these fees, the site is free to use. The website relies on the individual groups/business/etc to update their details and continually add their events.  3.5 SOLE plans to create trails which will be uploaded onto the site. A trail would be something like a suggested walking route.  3.6 SOLE has been set up with grant money from the UK Government. |  |
| **4 Previous Minutes** | Adoption of the Minutes of the meeting held on 3rd May, which had been circulated previously, was proposed by Cllr Watson and seconded by Cllr Macnair. |  |
| **5 Matters Arising** | 5.1 ***5.3 County Hotel:*** (a)The Chairman had spoken to Star Inns again and as they were not being helpful regarding the leaking gutters etc affecting the neighbour’s property, she had passed the matter to ELC Cllr Findlay to follow up. (b) North Berwick in Bloom had asked if the windows could be cleaned and posters put up prior to the judging in August but again they had not been helpful.  5.2 ***5.4 20 mph speed limit:*** Cllr Maher commented that she had not heard anything further from Ian Lennock at ELC in response to her query as to how the circulated documents and maps fit together.  5.3 ***14.4 Bins:*** The Chairman had contacted ELC but had received no reply. ELC Cllr McFarlane had undertaken to pursue with ELC. Apparently Sustaining North Berwick was also looking into this matter. It was agreed that both groups should meet with a view to taking the matter forward. |  |
| **6 Resignation; new member** | 6.1 Following her election to ELC on 5th May Carol McFarlane had resigned from the Community Council. The Chairman congratulated her on her election and thanked retiring ELC Cllrs Jane Henderson & Jim Goodfellow for their service to the community.  6.2 The Chairman welcomed Jacq Cottrell to the meeting. Confirmation of her election to the Community Council was proposed by Cllr Moodie and seconded by Cllr Maher. |  |
| **7 Police Report** | 7.1 This month’s police report, which had been circulated beforehand, was taken as read.  7.2 The Secretary had not yet contacted Gullane Area Community Council to discuss the re-instatement of the CAPP meetings but hoped to do so shortly. |  |
| **8 Planning matters** | 8.1 The May 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 –  ***Balgone House –*** change of use of agricultural land for the formation of a footpath.  ***Pointgarry House, 20B West Bay Road –*** replacement windows and doors  ***51-53 Forth Street –*** re-render of wall  ***Flat 5, 8 Quality Street***  - replacement glazing in windows  ***48***-***52 Dunbar Road*** – display of advertisements (retrospective)  ***Whitecroft, 2 Glenorchy Road –*** extension to house and formation of dormer windows  ***22 Warrender Court –*** extension to house  ***Carnach, 6 South Hamilton Road –*** extension to house  ***Flat 3, The Walled Garden, 40 Dirleton Avenue –*** formation of roof windows  ***8A Melbourne Road –*** replacement door with glazed panel  ***35-37 Westgate*** – internal alterations to building  ***14 Links Road*** – demolition of gates  8.3 The following new application was viewed, discussed and commented on as follows –  ***37 Westgate*** – after discussion it was agreed not to comment on the application for change of use of shop (Class1) to office (Class 2)  ***14 Links Road*** – after discussion it was agreed to object to the planning application for alterations and extension to the flat, erection of garage/carport, widening of vehicular access and formation of hard standing areas on the grounds that (a) the new extension was not in character with the surrounding buildings; (b) although in the new version it no longer wrapped around the building, it would still be very dominant and would destroy the integrity of this unique building; and (c) its overall appearance would detract from the character of the Conservation Area.  Furthermore, the proposed solar panels were not shown on the elevations.  ***Land at the Heugh*** – after discussion it was agreed to object again to the planning application for the erection of 1 house and associated works on the same grounds as the previous application, all relating to the visual impact of the development.  8.4 Decisions since last meeting –  ***6 Gilsland Grange –*** Certificate of lawfulness for extension to house - **granted**  ***13B Melbourne Road –*** formation of velux windows – **granted**  ***12 Quality Street –*** section 42 application to vary condition 2 of planning permission 21/00162/P to increase the opening hours of outdoor seating area – **granted** for 1 year on condition of no outdoor entertainment  ***19 Dirleton Avenue –*** erection of fencing, gate and formation of hardstanding area – **granted**  ***4 Arkwright Court –*** extension to house – **granted**  ***12 Westgate –*** alterations and change of use of bank to form 1 flat – **refused**  ***32 Moffat Place –*** extension to house – **granted**  ***2 Mains Cottages, Gilbert Avenue –*** extension to house as design changes to the scheme of development of planning permission 21/00768/P – **granted**  ***Eelburn House, 11 Westerdunes Park –*** siting of motor home and caravan for living accommodation for a temporary period of 12 months – **granted**  ***19A Melbourne Road*** – alterations to flat – **granted**  ***Unit 1, Castleton –*** change of use of agricultural building to taxi office (sui generis) (retrospective) – **granted**  ***31 Dirleton Avenue –*** alterations, extension to flat, heightening of walls with railings and erection of gates - **granted**  ***14 Links Road –*** demolition of gates – **withdrawn**  ***14 Links Road –*** alterations, extension to flat, erection of garage/car port, widening of vehicular access and formation of hard standing areas – **withdrawn**  ***19 St Andrew Street –*** formation of vehicle access, hardstanding area, erection of wall and installation of electric vehicle charging point – **granted**  ***36 St Andrew Street –*** replacement windows, door, gutter and downpipes – **granted**  ***9 Macintyre Park –*** extension to house – **granted**  ***4 Rhodes Cottages, Lime Grove –*** alterations and extension to house **granted** on condition of obscure glazing on balcony right and left after size of upstairs extension has been reduced |  |
| **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; £38 to the Secretary for the Minutes; £167 to ELC for the market license; and £157.50 to Vote Pedro for his website management fee.  9.2 The Administration Budget of £981 and Local Priorities Scheme Budget of £8,690 had been received from ELC; £10 x 4 had been received from market stall holders. |  |
| **10 Area Partnership/ Spaces for People** | 10.1 It was noted that new flashing warning lights had been installed on the approaches to the school campus. Further traffic alterations would be carried out during the school summer holidays.  10.2 In support of ELC’s intention to enhance the forecourt of the police station as a local amenity area, Police Scotland had approved ELC’s intention to prevent parking on it. To do this it was proposed to relocate a couple of planters from the High Street to the forecourt at the back of the pavement to prevent vehicular access whilst maintaining pedestrian access along the pavement and to the seating in the forecourt. NBCC had requested that ELC should not consider this change permanent and include the area as part of the future strategy for the East End of the High Street. ELC had agreed in principle but confirmed the area was owned by Police Scotland and ultimately, the future of the area would be their decision.  10.3 It was noted that Graeme Brown had moved from East Lothian. The Chairman commented that he should be thanked for his help in trying to resolve the High Street issues. |  |
| **11 Edington Cottage Hospital** | 11.1 There was nothing further to report. |  |
| **12 Reprovisioning Group** | 12.1 There had been no meeting to date. |  |
| **13 Common Good Fund & s.75 payments update** | 13.1 ELC Cllr Findlay explained that the Common Good Fund was for the benefit of the North Berwick community within the old boundaries of the burgh.  13.2 At present the Fund had a balance of £1.653 million which included a mix of assets such as land and buildings as well as investments. The rental income generated was £42,000 per annum.  13.3 Cllr Macnair asked if money from the Fund could be spent on the interior of the Old Council Chambers.  13.3 There was still £286,000 s.75 money left for North Berwick. |  |
| **14 Queen’s Jubilee** | 14.1 The Harbour Fete had been a great success and had created possibilities for the future.  14.2 The Beacon Lighting had gone very well and it was pleasing to see the large turnout for the event.  14.3 Everyone who had contributed to the success of the day was thanked.  14.4 It was suggested that a separate sub-group of volunteers for such events should be set up to spread the onus of organising. |  |
| **15 Correspondence** | The following correspondence had been received –  15.1 E-mail from a resident about the irresponsible camper van parking on Tantallon Terrace/Haugh Road. Members were reminded that a number of years ago the ELC/NBCC attempt to introduce a by-law against camper van parking had got as far as the Scottish Government where it was thrown out. It was agreed that this issue had to be addressed at Scottish Government level. In the meantime ELC Cllr McFarlane would look into having the ‘no overnight parking’ sign re-instated.  15.2 E-mail from a Ukrainian artist asking for support for murals at the lighthouse corner and police station gable. Although support for the project was agreed in principle it would require to be investigated further.  15.3 E-mail from locality partner with Volunteer Centre East Lothian covering both Haddington & North Berwick asking to attend a meeting to introduce herself. |  |
| **16 Any other competent business** | 16.1 ***Hope Rooms***: ELC did not have a janitor to open the Hope Rooms for any groups other than the Youth Project. Apparently they were having trouble recruiting janitors and cleaners throughout the county.  16.2 ***Face to face meetings:*** As it was felt that face to face meetings should start again another venue would require to be found. The fire station was suggested as a possibility again. The Secretary would investigate further.  16.3 ***WW Scott Estate:*** The Secretary briefly explained the background to this case. The Chairman & Secretary of both the Community Council and the Friends of the Edington had been appointed executors and trustees under Mr Scott’s Will. It had reached the stage where a decision had to be taken as to the way forward and the Friends had suggested a joint meeting to discuss further. It was agreed that the Chairman, Secretary and Cllr Macnair should meet with representatives from the Friends as soon as convenient to all. |  |
| **17 Date of Next Meeting** | The date of the next (virtual) meeting would be on Tuesday 5th July 2022 at 7.30 pm. |  |