**Royal Burgh of North Berwick Community Council**

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

**Tuesday 5th July 2022**

**Present:**  Kathryn Smith (Secretary), Christiane Maher (Treasurer), Peter Hamilton, Bill Macnair, Ian Watson, George Johnstone, Mairi Benson & Jacq Cottrell

**Also present:** ELC Cllr Liz Allan, Alison Brown (Volunteer Centre East Lothian) & Gregor Millar (local press)

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| **Agenda item** | **Discussion** | **Action** |
| **1 Welcome** | In the absence of the Chairman on holiday. Cllr Ian Watson opened the meeting by welcoming all to the twenty eighth Zoom meeting of the Community Council. |  |
| **2 Apologies** | Cllrs Judy Lockhart-Hunter, Gordon Moodie & Andrea Kwek and ELC Cllrs Jeremy Findlay & Carol McFarlane |  |
| **3 Volunteer Centre East Lothian** | 3.1 Alison Brown introduced herself as the recently appointed Locality Partner covering North Berwick Coastal and Haddington for the Volunteer Centre East Lothian.  3.2 She explained that they provide support, learning and development opportunities for both individuals and organisations through their volunteering, organisational support, and community teams.  **3.3 Interfaces were created to (a)** provide a single point of access for support and advice for the third sector within their local area and (b) ensure that the third sector is effectively supported and represented at the local level. This includes help with funding, looking for volunteers and advertising.  3.4 Their one mission was to build empowered, resilient communities with a thriving third sector. They promote and encourage informal learning, leadership development and community capacity building across their services. |  |
| **4 Previous Minutes** | Adoption of the Minutes of the meeting held on 7th June, which had been circulated previously, was proposed by Cllr Johnstone and seconded by Cllr Macnair. |  |
| **5 Matters Arising** | 5.1 ***5.1 County Hotel:*** The Chairman was in continued dialogue with Star Inns but there was no progress to report. ELC Cllr Findlay had followed up on the repair request by Peter Hammond. Regarding the blocked drainage, Environmental Health officers would look into whether anything could be done. However, it was part of a bigger public problem of building defects, effective statutory powers and resources to engage in the work. The planning department was to confirm whether they had powers to insist the building be repainted given that it was in a Conservation Area.  5.2 ***15.2 Murals:*** Further information about the art proposal by Tetiana Hurn had been circulated, namely, that the project had received funding from North Berwick Trust. It was felt that the mural should be on the east gable of the building at Lighthouse corner rather than the north which was used for the town projections. It was understood that planning permission was required and that a source for funding the application was being sought. |  |
| **6 Police Report** | 6.1 This month’s short police report, which had been circulated beforehand, was taken as read.  6.2 The Secretary had written to Gullane Area Community Council regarding the re-instatement of the CAPP meetings and is awaiting a reply.  6.3 A letter from the Chief Superintendent for Lothian & Borders Police had been circulated |  |
| **7 Planning matters** | 7.1 The June 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 –  ***Grounds of Chilliwack, Tantallon*** – erection of 1 holiday let unit and associated works  ***3 Dundas Avenue*** – extension to house and formation of raised decked area  ***41 High Street***- replacement widows  ***58 Craigleith Avenue***- extension to house  ***29A Fidra Road*** – erection of wall, gazebo and formation of hard standing area  ***5 Westerdunes Park*** – extensions to house, formation of balconies, decking, hardstanding areas and associated works  7.3 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 |  |
| **8 Treasurer’s Report** | 8.1 The Treasurer confirmed that the following payments had been made during the last month - £13 to Scottish Power for the store; £14.39 for Zoom subscription; £38 to the Secretary for the Minutes; £15 to Signman for posters; £808.83 in re-imbursement for defibrillator items; £514 for the High Street Safari Beacon Trail; £116.96 for ingredients for jubilee tarts; and £180 for Youth Project aprons.  8.2 £10 x 4 had been received from fete stall holders and £40 from the sale of jubilee mugs & bookmarks.  8.3 It was noted that a net sum of £2,034.99 had been spent on the Jubilee.  8.4 The accounts for 2021/22 had been completed and were ready to be independently certified. The Secretary would ask Jake Scott to do this again.  8.5 It was noted that during the year, from a total income of £24,542.91 only £8,858.5 had been spent. It was agreed that further discussion regarding the balance of the Resilience Fund amounting to £4,181.05, currently ring fenced for that purpose, was required.  8.6 The Treasurer presented the budget for the coming year. A total of £25,341.47 would be available and a commitment of £19,012.05 was agreed. |  |
| **9 Area Partnership/ Spaces for People** | 9.1 In connection with the ongoing High Street development proposals, ELC’s Ian Lennock’s e-mail about a new study to review the previous work, examine options and identify a solution that would address concerns and issues over road safety for pedestrians and cyclists and also address equality of access had been circulated beforehand.  9.2 The Business Association had expressed concerns that there was no mention of the impact on local businesses.  9.3 Sue Northrop had agreed to participate in addressing equality of access.  9.4 It was generally agreed that another study was pointless and that a working group should be set up. A study of the drainage problem had already been done, the designs agreed and then changed. The traders needed to be spoken to for their concerns. The problem could be resolved by maintaining the pavements and sorting the road surface.  9.5 Cllr Cottrell offered to draft a response.  9.6 Cllr Benson had attended the Area Partnership meeting on 21st June and had raised the issue that once again NBCC had to abstain from voting as there had not been enough time given from receiving the applications (less than one week) to discuss them. Doug Haig had apologised that, due to illness, he had been unable to circulate them any further in advance. He would endeavour to give the required notice ahead of the next meeting.  9.7 Various presentations had been given, including a general update from the Gullane Business Association which included plans for the community hub.  9.8 ‘Remembering together’ funding had been earmarked across Scotland to produce community Covid memorials.  Phase 1 of the project would be ‘Idea finding’. Group face to face work would be initiated across the ward to discuss ideas on how a Covid memorial could look for East Lothian (a statue/ piece of music/ event etc). This would be open to different community groups, and those that expressed an interest could take forward ideas to phase 2 and creation of a memorial for the ward  9.9 The children and youth project funding allocation of £12k supporting low income families which Jan Gaunt had been supporting  had pretty much gone. Katie Nevans reported that the food pantry demand had increased to 2 referrals a day (and 4 at the start of the week). There were significant concerns about the impact of inflation already.  9.10 It had been proposed and agreed by all to use a further £3k to support the bursary scheme across the ward. (£3k had already been allocated but not specified). |  |
| **10 Edington Cottage Hospital** | 10.1 Both the Friends of the Edington and the North Berwick Group Practice had been appalled by the tone of the Health Secretary’s recent letter and of his and the Scottish Government’s view that the hospital was not closed and people were happy with the services being offered.  10.2 The last update from the monthly reviews was that there had been no change. Paul McLennan MSP had been asked by the Chairman to chase for the documentation which usually went with the review but this was not forthcoming yet.  10.3 ELC Cllr Allan stated that things were moving following a recent meeting of the Steering Group when Murray Duncanson had been asked to write to the Health Secretary on behalf of the Group asking for a meeting and a plan of action for the re-opening of the Edington. The terms of the letter had still to be agreed by all the signatories. It was understood it would also be sent to the *Courier*. |  |
| **11 Re-provisioning Group** | 11.1 There was no update but a meeting was scheduled for the following week. |  |
| **12 Calder & Crawford Cups** | 12.1 The Secretary had written to Liam Mowat of EnjoyLeisure on her return from holiday expressing concern and disappointment that the Community Council was being asked to make a payment for the use of the East Links putting green for the competition which was due to take place on 19th (qualifying) and 21st (finals) July when the courtesy of the green had always been given.  12.2 He responded by saying that there had been a ‘miscommunication’ but he then went off on holiday before further discussion could take place.  12.3 It was agreed that if courtesy of the green was not given the Community Council would meet the cost.  12.4 Discussion followed on the sites for posters, help on the competition days, the provision of a table and chairs and the advertisement board on the starter’s hut. |  |
| **13 North Berwick Traffic Regulation Orders** | 13.1 Proposals to introduce and amend traffic restrictions at various locations (16) had been circulated beforehand.  13.2 Any comments were to be made within 3 weeks of the letter which was dated 17th June but posted on 21st June whilst objections could be submitted once they were advertised. |  |
| **14 20 mph speed limits** | 14.1 Cllr Maher’s letter to the *Courier* had been published.  14.2 It had been decided not to debate further the pros and cons of whether 20/30 mph was better but to raise concerns with ELC about the principle of having criteria laid down by the Scottish Government and not following them. It was agreed to write to ELC with the Community Council’s concerns. |  |
| **15 Correspondence** | The following correspondence had been received –  15.1 An e-mail from a Forth Street resident regarding the state of the Masonic Hall. It was suggested she contact Environmental Health regarding the health hazard from pigeon droppings.  15.2 A query regarding the Old Council Chambers clock chimes. ELC had instructed a clock smith to investigate and repair as necessary.  15.3 A Facebook message regarding the proliferation of graffiti in the town. ELC should be advised where the graffiti is so that it can be dealt with. Apparently ELC is trying to address the problem throughout the county. |  |
| **16 Any other competent business** | 16.1 *Pilmar Smith Pavilion:* The wording for the plaque being donated by the Community Council had been agreed. It was also agreed that it should be unveiled by NBCC and, if appropriate, John Colquhoun would be welcome to deliver a speech at the official opening.  16.2 *Old North Berwick Burgh sign:* Cllr Macnair commented that it had been drawn to his attention that the old sign at the Tantallon Road entrance to the town was obscured by vegetation. As the sign was on his land he would arrange for the vegetation to be cut back. On inspection the sign was also rotten. He explained that ownership of the old burgh signs had been passed to NBCC who were therefore responsible for their upkeep. He and Cllr Watson would inspect all the signs and report back.  16.3 *North Berwick Environment & Heritage Trust:* TheTrusthad asked if the Community Council planning lists could be shared so that they could look at planning in a better way. It was agreed to discuss separately. |  |
| **17 Date of Next Meeting** | The date of the next (virtual) meeting would be on Tuesday 2nd August 2022 at 7.30 pm. |  |

**Minutes of Zoom meeting at 19.30 held on 3rd May, 2022**

**Amendment to item 3**

**Compassionate Neighbours Presentation**

**The Minutes extract:**

3.4 Charli Prime, Compassionate Neighbour Coordinator, explained that Compassionate Neighbours was part of the Health and Wellbeing Association and was training volunteers to be counsellors. In collaboration with St Columba’s Hospice, a training programme had been developed. There were currently 6 specifically trained volunteers to deal with end of life situations. Volunteers were currently being recruited. The aim was that in 12 months they would be able to stand alone from St Columba’s.

3.5 Their website is -[www.nbccommunuityconnections.org](http://www.nbccommunuityconnections.org).

It was noted that –

1. Compassionate Neighbours are not counsellors and are not trained as counsellors.

2. Compassionate Neighbours are not trained to deal with end of life situations and are not expected to deal with end of life situations.

**The Minutes should read -**

3.4 Charli Prime, Compassionate Neighbour Coordinator, explained that the Compassionate Neighbours project was part of North Berwick Coastal Community Connections, working in harmony with North Berwick Compassionate Communities and St Columba’s Hospice. The Compassionate Neighbours team come alongside those living with an end of life diagnosis and offer their time, kindness and company, especially to those who may be feeling lonely or socially isolated. As in befriending, volunteers are matched with people who may share similar interests, hobbies and geography, in the hope of developing genuine, caring friendships. Charli would be looking for Compassionate Neighbours based in the North Berwick Coastal ward, expect to be PVG checked, interviewed and undertake a programme of induction prior to working with those with a terminal diagnosis.

3.5 For more information on the project and volunteer training opportunities, Charli can be contacted at -[compassionateneighbours@nbccommunityconnections.org\_](mailto:compassionateneighbours@nbccommunityconnections.org_)