**Royal Burgh of North Berwick Community Council**

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

**Tuesday 2nd August 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 and 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 ninth Zoom meeting of the Community Council. |  |
| **2 Apologies** | Cllr Andrea Kwek and ELC Cllr Liz Allan |  |
| **3 Previous Minutes** | (a) Adoption of the Minutes of the meeting held on 5th July, which had been circulated previously, was proposed by Cllr Watson and seconded by Cllr Hamilton.  (b) Adoption of the Amendment to item 3 of the Minutes of the meeting held on 3rd May, which had been circulated previously, was proposed by Cllr Maher and seconded by Cllr Macnair. |  |
| **4 Matters Arising** | 4.1 ***5.1 County Hotel:*** The Chairman was in continued dialogue with Star Inns but there was no progress to report. ELC was reluctant to be involved at this stage. Access for North Berwick in Bloom had been facilitated. The ‘For Let’ sign had been taken down and posters were being put up in advance of the Britain in Bloom judging.  4.2 ***8 Treasurer’s Report:*** Jake Scott had been asked to undertake the independent certification of last year’s accounts but there had been no response to date.  4.3 ***16.2 Old North Berwick sign:*** Cllrs Macnair & Watson had looked at the Tantallon Road sign which was rotten and needed to be replaced. It was suggested it would be worth moving it further out clear of the undergrowth. Quotes for various options, including refurbishing the Haddington Road and Dirleton Road signs, were being obtained.  4.4 ***16.3 North Berwick Environment & Heritage Trust:*** It was agreed that the planning lists would be shared with the Trust. |  |
| **5 Police Report** | 5.1 This month’s short police report, which had been circulated beforehand, was taken as read.  5.2 The Secretary had written to the Chairman of Gullane Area Community Council regarding the re-instatement of the CAPP meetings. He was expecting a positive response and would confirm. |  |
| **6 Planning matters** | 6.1 The July planning applications were led by Cllr Maher.  6.2 The following new applications had been viewed beforehand and, following a brief discussion, no comments were made –  ***13B Melbourne Road –*** installation of roof windows x 2  ***Glenorchy House, 15 Glenorchy Road –*** extension to house  ***20 St Andrew Street –*** erection of door canopy  ***10 Warrender Court –*** extension to house  ***The Harbour Wall, Victoria Road –*** installation of mural  ***16 Glasclune Gardens –*** replacement windows  ***8 Dirleton Avenue –*** alterations to house and formation of decked area/raised planters  ***24A St Andrew Street –*** renewal of planningpermission 19/00324/P for alterations, extension and change of use of workshop to 1 house and associated works  ***25 Quality Street –*** replacement windows  ***8 West Bay Road –*** demolition of gates (CAC); alterations, extension to house, widening of vehicular access, erection of gates, shed, formation of hardstanding area, planters, installation of balustrading as changes to scheme of development the subject of planning permission 21/01501/P  ***53 Lochbridge Road –*** change of use of grass verge for formation of vehicular access and hardstanding areas  6.3 The following new applications were viewed, discussed and commented on as follows -  ***Puffin’s Nook, 63 Dirleton Avenue –*** after discussion it was agreed to object to the planning application for alterations, extension to the flat, formation of vehicular access and parking area on the ground that the "brilliant" white render proposed for the southern wall of the new extension was a stark and unnecessary contrast to the traditional stone work in this and the neighbouring houses, and in no way enhances the Conservation Area.  ***26 Victoria Road (Rocketeer) –*** after discussion it was agreed not to comment on the retrospective planning application for the installation of the LED strip lighting along the gutters, etc. of the building.  ***15A Melbourne Road –*** after discussion it was agreed to object to the planning application for the extension to the building and erection of metal railings on the ground that, although the proposed metal railings would be a significant improvement to what was there, unless it was extended over the entire length of the wall, it would only serve to show off the contrast to the remaining wall.  6.4 Decisions since last meeting –  ***13B Melbourne Road –*** replacement windows and installation of roof window – **granted**  ***58 Craigleith Avenue –*** extension to house – **granted**  ***Whitecroft, 2 Glenorchy Road –*** extension to house and formation of dormer windows – **granted**  ***22 Warrender Court –*** extension to house – **granted**  ***29A Fidra Road –*** erection of wall, gazebo and formation of hardstanding area – **granted**  ***Land at The Heugh –*** erection of one house and associated works – **refused**  ***35-37 Westgate –*** internal alterations to building – **granted**  ***37 Westgate –*** change of use of shop (class 1) to office (class 2) – **granted**  ***14 Links Road –*** demolition of gates - **granted**  ***14 Links Road –*** alterations, extension to flat, erection of garage/carport, widening of vehicular access and formation of hard standing areas – **granted** subject to replacing any trees which die within the next 10 years  ***Balgone House, Balgone Estate –*** change of use of agricultural land for formation of a footpath – **granted**  ***51-53 Forth Street –*** re-render of wall - **granted**  ***4 Glasclune Gardens –*** replacement windows – **granted**  ***1 Marmion Road –*** installation of air source heat pump and formation of solar panels – **granted** subject to monitoring noise levels  ***48***-***52 Dunbar Road (Aldi) –*** display of advertisements (retrospective) – **granted**  ***48-52 Dunbar Road (Aldi) –*** installation of lighting column, cameras and cabinet (retrospective) – **granted**  ***Sandbanks, 4 Westerdunes Park –*** erection of home office building, landscaping works, formation of balustrade and erection of flue as design changes to scheme of development subject to planning permission 18/01074/P (retrospective) - **granted** |  |
| **7 Treasurer’s Report** | 7.1 The Treasurer confirmed that the following payments had been made during the last month - £13 to Scottish Power for the store; £38 to the Secretary for the Minutes; £12 to St Andrew Blackadder for printing Jubilee quiz; and £35 & £38.94 for gifts to retiring ELC Councillors Henderson & Goodfellow.  7.2 £45 had been received from the sale of Jubilee mugs. |  |
| **8 Area Partnership/ Spaces for People** | 8.1 There was no update on the Area Partnership as it had not met since 21st June.  8.2 A Community Engagement Consultation Event would be taking place at the Abbey Church on 16th August from 15.00 - 19.00 to discuss ‘creating a safer, more accessible and more attractive High Street that meets the needs of all users …’.  8.3 It was generally agreed that another study was a pointless exercise and a waste of money. A working group should be set up. A study of the drainage problem had already been done, the designs agreed and then subtly 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 Edington Cottage Hospital** | 9.1 There was no further update.  9.2 The next meeting of the Steering Group would be on 16th August.  9.3 The Chairman was disappointed that Murray Duncanson’ letter to the Health Secretary had been toned down although she confirmed that she had agreed to sign it on behalf of NBCC along with other steering committee representatives. It was agreed that NBCC must promote a hard line to the reopening of the Edington and the Chairman would raise this with the steering committee. She would also write a letter to the Health Secretary asking for clarity on key points to his last letter following a lack of reply to date, to our June letter. |  |
| **10 Re-provisioning Group** | 10.1 There was no update but a meeting was scheduled for the end of the month. |  |
| **11 Calder & Crawford Cups** | 11.1 It had been confirmed eventually by EnjoyLeisure that the courtesy of the East Links putting green would be given for the competition.  11.2 The turnout for both the Calder Cup and the Crawford Cup had been poor which was disappointing, particularly as there had been only one entrant for the Crawford Cup. However, the Calder Cup final had been excellent with Gareth Pugh beating Gary Queen on the first extra hole.  11.3 It was agreed that attention would have to be given to refocusing on improving the turnout and encouraging support for the finals next year.  11.4 In the meantime Cllrs Smith & Johnstone were thanked for organising the competition. |  |
| **12 20 mph speed limits** | 12.1 Ian Lennock of ELC had confirmed that a resource intensive statutory process involving consultation and the consideration of objections must be completed before the expiry of the emergency legislation in September 2022. As set out in the cabinet reports, once the order was made there would then be a monitoring period of no less than 12 months.  12.2 The consultation period was questioned as there had only been 55 responses, some from out with the town.  12.3 It was emphasised again that complying with the Scottish Government criteria was more important. |  |
| **13 Correspondence** | The following correspondence had been received –  13.1 E-mail from a Marine Parade resident about the damage being caused by rabbits on Coo’s Green and the eastmost putting green. The Secretary had met Johnn Stevens of Ground Care Services by accident that morning and he confirmed that pest controllers were looking into the matter.  13.2 TTRO’s for the Highland Games & Fringe by the Sea. There had been a comment on Facebook about the situation in Lady Jane Road and it was agreed to ask for an extension to restrict the parking in that street.  13.3 E-mail from a visitor to the town regarding problems encountered in the Lodge car park when the parking meter was not working. It was agreed to contact the Scottish Seabird Centre for clarification. |  |
| **14 Any other competent business** | 14.1 ***Town Arts Group:***Geraldine Prince was proposing reconvening a Town Arts Group (TAG) as a useful forum through which multi-agency art activities could be considered and had asked if the Community Council would like to nominate someone to join a steering group. (a) As it was understood that the group would fall under the North Berwick Environment & Heritage Trust, Cllr Cottrell, NBCC’s representative on the Trust, would report back and she was happy to do so. (b) It was felt that TAG should broaden awareness by looking to engage as much as possible with other art related groups in the town making them aware of what TAG was about as well as the opportunities to get involved with public art projects. (c) It was also agreed that TAG would be an appropriate forum to contribute to the ‘Remembering Together’ arts project.  14.2 ***Poppy cascade:*** The Rotary Club was seeking the Community Council’s support for their proposal for local craft makers to produce handmade poppies which would cascade from the tower of the Old Kirk in Kirkports for Remembrance. It was agreed to support the project but the matter of whether planning permission would be required would have to be investigated.  14.3 ***Food poverty in the town:*** Cllr Allan had highlighted how bad food poverty was in the town. Foodbank referrals had tripled in the last week. At a recent meeting it had been suggested that a working group be set up to discuss an action plan. It was agreed that this was not something with which the Community Council should be involved. It was ELC’s responsibility as they were receiving funding from the Scottish and UK governments. ELC Cllrs Findlay & McFarlane agreed to submit a motion to the next full council meeting on the subject.  14.4 ***650th anniversary of Royal Burgh:*** During a recent conversation with the Secretary, Lyle Crawford had pointed out that next year would be the 650th anniversary of the granting of the Royal Charter to North Berwick and wondered if anything was planned to celebrate this mile stone as nothing had been done to celebrate the 600th anniversary. He had suggested the town crest could be planted in the carpet bed in the Lodge and it was agreed that it would be a good idea. The Secretary would contact NBiB to ask if this would be possible. It was agreed to discuss the matter further at a future meeting once more information had been obtained.  14.5 ***North Berwick in Bloom:*** The Secretary would write to the Chairman with the Community Council’s best wishes for the Britain in Bloom judging which was due to take place on 5th August.  14.6 ***Defibrillators:*** Cllr Hamilton confirmed that all the AEDs were now up and running for which he was thanked. |  |
| **15 Date of Next Meeting** | The date of the next meeting would be on Tuesday 6th September 2022 at 7.30 pm. |  |