**Royal Burgh of North Berwick Community Council**

**Minutes of Meeting held at 19.30 on**

**Tuesday 6th September 2022**

**in the Community Centre, Law Road**

**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 (via zoom)

**Also present:** ELC Cllrs Jeremy Findlay & Carol McFarlane, Gregor Millar (local press), Doug Haig, Richard Rogers, Alison & Eddie Clark and Jim Goodfellow

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| **Agenda item** | **Discussion** | **Action** |
| **1 Welcome** | The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming all to the first in person meeting of the Community Council for some time. |  |
| **2 Apologies** | Cllr Jacq Cottrell |  |
| **3 Bass Rock Community Group** | 3.1 Richard Rogers gave a presentation about the Group, which, he explained, is a satellite of the Rotary Hub for people, particularly families, wanting to put something back to the community. They enjoy working with other groups in the town and having fun.  3.2 It was a different way to do Rotary with flexibility and a lack of formality. They meet once or twice per month on zoom and have a monthly social. Membership is £10 per month.  3.3 It was an opportunity to develop young people through leadership, commitment and other projects  3.4 Their motto was ‘Service before self’. The four- way test was 1) Is it truthful? 2) Is it fair? 3) Will it build good will? 4) Will it be of benefit?  3.5 Projects still to come in 2022 included Coo’s Green benches; poo bag signs on west beach; beach/hedgerow clean; coffee morning on 17th September; Winter Wanderland 21st-28th October; remembrance cairn at primary school with pARTicipate; wetlands project at bottom of the Law with countryside warden; Santa sleigh with FACE on 16th December; Christmas Boxes for Community Connections. |  |
| **4 Previous Minutes** | Adoption of the Minutes of the meeting held on 2nd August, which had been circulated previously, was proposed by Cllr Moodie and seconded by Cllr Hamilton. |  |
| **5 Matters Arising** | 5.1 ***4.1 County Hotel:*** There was nothing further to report  5.2 ***4.3*** ***Old North Berwick sign:*** Quotes were being obtained for clearing the undergrowth around the Tantallon Road sign. It was suggested and agreed that 1373, being the date of the granting of the Burgh’s Royal Charter, should be included on the refurbished town signs.  5.3 ***12 20 mph speed limits:*** On the Move had decided that the Haddington Road 20 mph speed limit was to be extended to Pilgrim’s Way and were in discussion with ELC.  5.4 ***14.1 Town Arts Group:*** It was confirmed that, as the Group would fall under the North Berwick Environment & Heritage Trust umbrella, Cllr Cottrell who was the Community Council’s representative on the Trust, would update on developments.  5.5 ***14.2 Poppy cascade:*** It was not feasible for Rotary to proceed with the proposal for a cascade on the Auld Kirk in Kirk Ports this year due to a number of complications.  5.6 ***14.4 650th Anniversary of Royal Burgh:*** North Berwick in Bloom thought it was an excellent idea and would put forward the case to have the town coat of arms on the floral bed, providing the pattern was not too intricate. It was also suggested that the anniversary should be the theme for their displays next year.  5.7 ***14.5 North Berwick in Bloom:*** The Community Council was thanked for their best wishes for the Britain in Bloom judging which had taken place on 5th August and had gone well. |  |
| **6 Resignation/ Casual vacancies** | 6.1 Sadly Cllr Andrea Kwek had resigned due to work pressures  6.2 The vacancies had been advertised and to date one application had been received. |  |
| **7 Police Report** | 7.1 This month’s short police report, which had been circulated beforehand, was taken as read.  7.2 The Secretary had spoken with Sgt Rhona Meikle who had updated her on policing in East Lothian which was currently understaffed. Policing in the county was being re-organised and a new community officer would be in place in November.  7.3 It was planned to restart the CAPP meetings again next month. |  |
| **8 North Berwick Pump Track** | 8.1 Alison Clark of the NBHS Parent Council presented concerns about the proposed pump track on the North Berwick Trust land set aside for the expansion of the High School.  8.2 The proposed site was designated NK2 in the East Lothian Local Plan 2018 - ‘secured for educational expansion requirements of the High School’. The pump track was not an educational but a public facility.  8.3 Concerns had been expressed about safety and security around a pump track located within or immediately adjacent to the school campus and next to a planned safe route to school path.  8.4 There had been no consultation with NBHS, Law Primary and the Nursery nor their parent councils.  8.5 It was not clear who would be responsible for safety checks or ongoing maintenance and repairs of the pump track as it was understood it would not be an ELC facility.  8.6 It was also concerning that ELC had committed £50,000 from the Community Intervention Fund without consulting the various bodies affected.  8.7 Although it was agreed that a pump track in general was an exciting proposition for the town, the Parent Council was seeking the support of NBCC in opposing the planning application in its proposed location and would be interested to know more about the Community Council’s suggestion for it to be located in the field at the foot of the Law. |  |
| **9 Planning matters** | 9.1 The August planning applications were led by Cllr Maher.  9.2 The following new applications had been viewed beforehand and, following a brief discussion, no comments were made –  ***3 Kirk Ports*** – erection of CCTV cameras (retro)  ***1 York Road*** – widening of vehicular access, erection of gate and installation of garage door; (CAC) demolition of gates  ***12 Clifford*** ***Road*** – extensions to house  ***22 Macnair Avenue*** – extensions to house, formation of raised terrace with steps  ***21C Belfour Street*** – replacement windows  ***Puffin’s Nook, 63 Dirleton Avenue*** (CAC) - demolition of wall and gate  ***51 Westgate*** – replacement windows  ***53 & 51 Berriedale, Forth Street*** – alterations, change of use of 1 holiday let unit to incorporate into existing flat and associated works  ***Glenorchy House, 15 Glenorchy Road*** – alterations and extension to building  ***26 Forth Street*** – erection of awning  ***Glenquicken, 3 West Bay Road*** – alterations to house, formation of hardstanding area, erection of solar panels, air source heat pump, fencing and gate  ***60A Forth Street*** – replacement hardstanding area including raised levels of part of new paved surfaces, repositioning of steps (retro)  ***35 Melbourne Place*** – alterations to flat/garage and installation of first floor balcony & railings  ***1 Milton Lodge, Strathearn Road*** – alterations to house  ***24 Fidra Road*** – erection of house and associated works – it was noted that an amendment had been made to the original application but required no further comment.  9.3 Decisions since last meeting –  ***Glenorchy House, 15 Glenorchy Road*** – extension to house – **granted**  ***20 St Andrew Street*** – erection of door canopy – **granted**  ***16 Glasclune Gardens*** – replacement windows – **granted**  ***8 Dirleton Avenue*** – alterations to house and formation of decked area/raised planters - **granted**  ***3 Dundas Avenue*** – extension to house and formation of raised deck area - **granted**  ***41 High Street*** – replacement windows – **granted**  ***53 Lochbridge Road*** – change of use of grass verge for formation of vehicular access and hardstanding area – **granted**  ***Carnach, 6 South Hamilton Road*** – extensions to house – **granted**  ***23 & 29 High Street*** – change of use of domestic garden ground to shop use (Class 1) - **granted** |  |
| **10 Treasurer’s Report** | 10.1 The Treasurer confirmed that the following payments had been made during the last month - £13 to Scottish Power for the store; £38 x 2 to the Secretary for the Minutes; and £14.39 for Zoom.  10.2 Two payments of £38.55 & £100 being a refund from the AELCC had been received. |  |
| **11 Area Partnership/ Spaces for People** | 11.1 There having been no meeting recently there was nothing further to report. |  |
| **12 Edington Cottage Hospital** | 12.1 There had been a meeting of the Steering Group on 18th August.  12.2 The staffing issue was worse than a few months ago. It was the crux of the re-opening issue and was not likely to change for some time.  12.3 Fiona Wilson, the new chief officer of NHS Lothian, was willing to meet the Steering Group. The key aspect of the meeting would be to get confirmation from her that her support for re-opening and the return of services could be shared publicly.  12.4 It was noted that the two palliative care beds due to go into the Abbey in July were still not open.  12.5 The Chairman had written a strong letter to the Cabinet Secretary for Health requesting answers to various points which had been raised. |  |
| **13 Re-provisioning Group** | 13.1 There was no update. |  |
| **14 Christmas Lights** | 14.1 Cllr Moodie commented that the committee was discussing with the Business Association if they would take over the switch-on which was scheduled for 26th November. |  |
| **15 Town projector** | 15.1 The Ukrainian mural artist, Tetiana Hurn had asked that the position of the projector be raised so that her mural could be painted on the south gable at the corner of High Street and Quality Street.  15.2 It was confirmed that this was not possible and it was suggested she should use the east gable at the corner instead.  15.3 Cllr Watson had met with an architect and was obtaining a price for producing a framework for the mural. |  |
| **16**  **Correspondence** | The following correspondence had been received –  16.1 E-mail from resident regarding the number of camper vans at The Haugh and Recreation Park. The Secretary explained the past unsuccessful history in trying to introduce a bye-law to reduce the number parking. ELC Cllr MacFarlane commented that ELC was looking into how the issue could be resolved.  16.2 E-mail from resident about the allotments in the Lodge and the fact he had not moved on the waiting list for some years. It was confirmed that the allotments were all being used.  16.3 E-mail from visitor complaining about the parking problems during Fringe by the Sea. It was agreed this needed to be looked at in advance of next year’s event. |  |
| **17 Any other competent business** | 17.1 ***Poppy Scotland:*** There had been a request to participate in Light Up Red for the 2022 poppy appeal. It was agreed to project a poppy from 4th to 13th November.  17.2 ***Freemason’s Hall, Forth Street:*** Work had started on the ground floor clearing shattered glass and boarding up a broken window. Hardboard had been re-affixed where pigeons had been going in. The total work was expected to take till February to complete.  17.3 ***Defibrillator:*** The defibrillator at the fire station had been recalled for repair.  17.4 ***Jim Goodfellow:*** The Chairman took the opportunity to thank Jim Goodfellow for his service to the town during his time as an ELC councillor and wished him well in his recovery. |  |
| **18 Date of Next Meeting** | The date of the next meeting would be on Tuesday 4th October 2022 at 7.30 pm. |  |