**Royal Burgh of North Berwick Community Council**

**Minutes of Meeting held at 19.30 on**

**Tuesday 6th December 2022**

**in the Community Centre, Law Road**

**Present:**  Judy Lockhart-Hunter (Chairman), Kathryn Smith (Secretary), Christiane Maher (Treasurer), Peter Hamilton, Bill Macnair, Ian Watson, George Johnstone, Kenny Miller & Don McKee

**Also present:** ELC Cllr Jeremy Findlay, Doug Haig, Jim Goodfellow, Lloyd Samuel & Phil Pritchett, Barbara Dew & member of public

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| **Agenda item** | **Discussion** | **Action** |
| **1 Welcome** | The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming all to the third in person meeting of the Community Council. |  |
| **2 Apologies** | ELC Cllrs Carol McFarlane & Liz Allan, Cllrs Gordon Moodie, Mairi Benson & Jacq Cottrell, Kirsty Towler and Sandy Bain (NBHS)[late] |  |
| **3 (a) Carlekemp Development** | 3(a).1 Phil Pritchett, planning consultant acting for the Carlekemp owners, as a matter of courtesy prior to submitting the planning application, gave a short presentation on a proposal to build a single house in the grounds.  3(a).2 He explained that an Arboricultural Report of the plantation obtained by the owners concluded that there were a number of trees within the centre of the plantation which were either dead or dying and could not be replaced due to the extremely dry ground conditions and the shifting of the water table.  3(a).3 The proposal was to develop the site of the cleared trees with a single low rise house nestled into the topography of the site without line of sight to Carlekemp.  3(a).4 There would be a replanting regime with a maintenance and management plan for the site in perpetuity thereafter. |  |
| **3 (b) Parking Consultation** | 3(b).1 The Community Council had received no positive feedback from residents and businesses to the consultation proposals. In fact the opposite was the case and a number of concerns had been received.  3(b).2 The Business Association had carried out a survey of local businesses the result of which clearly showed that 90% of businesses believe the proposals would have a detrimental impact on their businesses and 86% felt the footfall in the High Street would be reduced.  3(b).3 Some of the specific concerns raised were – there was no requirement for year round restrictions, June-August being the busiest period; the free parking for 30 minutes was insufficient - at least 90 minutes are required; there had been no consultation with traders; people would be discouraged from coming to the town; charges would affect recruitment of staff; residents parking permits would not guarantee a space and no permits were proposed for residents in the Quadrant and Melbourne Road; loss of parking to the east end of the High Street was of deep concern to traders and shoppers alike; commuter parking around the station would be lost to residential permits; the Churches had noted that members of their congregations unable to walk to church would be forced effectively to pay to worship.  3(b).4 It was agreed that the Chairman would work with Cllr Maher to prepare a detailed letter commenting on the proposals to send to Peter Forsyth, Project Manager – Growth and Sustainability, at East Lothian Council. |  |
| **4 Previous Minutes** | Adoption of the Minutes of the meeting held on 1st November, which had been circulated previously, was proposed by Cllr McKee and seconded by Cllr Miller. |  |
| **5 Matters Arising** | 5.1 ***5.2*** ***Old North Berwick sign:*** A quote from Signman was still awaited.  5.2 ***14 Remembrance Sunday:*** The Secretary reported that everything had gone well on the day and there had been an excellent turnout of organisations and the public. Parade Marshall Colour Sgt Gear, chief steward Cllr Johnston and all volunteer stewards had been thanked as had the organisations who had participated.  5.3 ***15.1 Bins at Market Street/Forth Street Junction:*** The Secretary reported that ELC Cllr McFarlane had contacted waste management and they would be keeping an eye on the situation. It had been confirmed, however, that ELC would not provide a large business bin for the site.  5.4 ***15.3 County Hotel sign:*** It was pleasing to note that the dangerous sign had been dealt with quickly and that the windows of the building had been tidied up. |  |
| **6 Police Report** | 6.1 This month’s short police report, which had been circulated beforehand, was taken as read.  6.2 An explanatory e-mail from T/Police Inspector Dougie Wardell regarding queries raised around the current lack of detail in reports to community councils had been circulated beforehand.  6.3 It was agreed to raise the issue of response times and the increase of graffiti in the town at the next CAPP meeting which would be on 7th December. However, it was pointed out that the graffiti issue was being addressed. |  |
| **7 Planning matters** | 7.1 The November 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 –  ***Balgone Dean –*** change of use of agricultural land to form domestic vehicular access (retrospective)  ***The Lodge, 1 Westerdunes Park & The Fairways, Abbotsford Road –*** extension to house, installation of flue etc  ***47 Craigleith Avenue –*** extension to house, erection of fence and formation of raised deck  ***31 Rhodes Park –*** renewal of planning permission 19/00960/P – extension to house (delayed due to Covid)  ***Lower Seton, 8A Marine Parade –*** change of use of flat to short term holiday let (retrospective)  ***1 Teviotdale, Abbotsford Road –*** modification of planning permission 12/00510/P to permit the permanent let of the flat above the garage  ***18 Eeles Mount –*** change of use of open space to domestic garden ground, extension to house and erection of fencing  7.3 The following new application was viewed, discussed and commented on as follows –  ***17 Beach Road –*** after discussion it was agreed not to comment on the planning application for alterations, extension to house, formation of hard standing area, dormer with balcony/balustrade and erection of gates  7.4 Decisions since last meeting –  ***12 Glasclune Gardens –*** replacement windowsanddoors ***–* granted**  ***25 Balfour Street –*** replacement widows ***–* granted**  ***3A York Road –*** alterations to flat ***–* granted**  ***3 Victoria Road -*** alterations and extension tohouse ***–* granted**  ***Seaholm, 14 Westerdunes Park –*** repaintingpartsof house and garage ***–* granted**  ***48 Gilbert Avenue –*** extensions to house ***–* granted**  ***55 High Street –*** replacement windows and doors – **withdrawn**  ***35 Melbourne Place –*** alterations to flat/garage and installation of first floor balcony withhandrails **– granted**  ***Garden Ground of 24 Fidra Road –*** erection of 1house and associated works **– granted** with a series of more formal conditions |  |
| **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 which was then refunded; £14.39 for Zoom; and £5,000 transfer to Christmas Lights’ account (*see item 12.3*). |  |
| **9 Area Partnership/ Spaces for People** | 9.1 It had been agreed with Doug Haig, Connected Communities Manager that he would send Area Partnership (AP) funding applications for review by the Community Council as they came in rather than waiting for all applications to be discussed at the next AP meeting before sending them all out together. It was hoped that this would enable discussion by community councillors prior to AP meetings for most applications and allow the Community Council’s representatives to partake in the AP votes. |  |
| **10. Pumpkin Patch Nursery** | 10.1 The Parent Council was grateful to the Community Council for its support but they could not afford to pursue a legal case against ELC and therefore could not accept the Community Council’s offer of a donation of £2,000 from its resilience fund towards costs.  10.2 As part of any future £1140 funding decision, ELC required Pumpkin Patch to have a new satisfactory Care Inspectorate Report. Their case was not considered to be a priority as the nursery already had a good CIR.  10.3 The Parent Council and the Community Council had asked ELC for more information on why this was required, noting the potential for an inspection not to be carried out next year and the continued detrimental impact this would have on childcare options for parents in the town, but to date, ELC had refused to answer. |  |
| **11 Edington Cottage Hospital** | 11.1 The Chairman had met with David Robertson, the new interim Chairman of the Friends of the Edington, and Hilary Smith, Chair of the Area Partnership but there had been no further progress to report.  11.2 As Sky had deemed the proposed advertisement to be political it had not been broadcast.  11.3 It had been decided not to spend any more money on the campaign in the meantime. |  |
| **12 Christmas Lights** | 12.1 As a question had arisen about public liability insurance cover for a crowd of 400-1,000 people, the Chairman had spoken to Zurich Insurance and it had been confirmed that an additional premium of £143.44 making a total of £288.89 would be due if the increased cover was required. It was unclear if this was for all large events. The Chairman would investigate further.  12.2 The tree climbers would be repairing the storm damaged lights in the trees in Dirleton Avenue, Lochbridge Road and the aviary car park the following Thursday.  12.3 It was agreed to transfer £5,000 to the Christmas Lights account to cover on-going maintenance and other costs. |  |
| **13**  **Correspondence** | The following correspondence had been received –  13.1 ***Tetiana Hurn mural proposal* -**a furtherproposal regarding the mural on the north wall at the lighthouse at the corner of High Street/Quality Street. After discussion it was agreed regretfully that the Community Council could not support the proposal because of the impact it would have on the town projections on that wall.  13.2 ***Sustaining North Berwick bins –*** e-mailconfirmation thatwith funding from St Andrew Blackadder, North Berwick Trust and NBCC agreed, Johnn Stevens was now looking at potential sites for the bins.  13.3 ***Enchanted Festival at Balgone –*** this event would be taking place from 2nd to 23rd December.  13.4 ***Anonymous complaint –*** an anonymous complaint against the Chairman. As ELC was not prepared to help, the matter had been referred to the police. It was agreed that any future complaints received of an aggressive or intimidating nature would also be referred to the police.  13.5 ***Christmas Cheer –*** it was agreed to make a donation of £500 from the resilience fund.  13.6 ***North Berwick Connect –*** e-mail confirming thatthe Courier was struggling to get adverts for the next edition. The Chairman would follow up.  13.6 ***Local Place Plan –*** notice of a virtual briefing by Keith Dingwall on 14th December.  13.7 ***No12, Quality Street –*** an application for a major variation of the license for No12 to (a) change the name of the company to No12 Hotels Ltd; (b) change the name of the premises to No12 Hotel & Bistro; and (c) commence sales from 9am each day for customers having breakfast only. It was agreed to make no comment.  13.8 ***Kirk Ports & Glebe car parks –*** notice of East Lothian Council’s proposed introduction of new time limited waiting restrictions. It was noted that formal objections were not invited at this stage. |  |
| **14 Any other competent business** | 14.1 It was agreed that a laptop and speakers for Community Council use at meetings should be purchased.  14.2 Comments had been made that the cricket club container at the Recreation Park was in the wrong position. Further investigation would be required. |  |
| **15 Chairman & Vice chairman** | 15.1 It had been agreed at the AGM that Judy Lockhart-Hunter would step down as Chairman at the end of this meeting and Gordon Moodie would step down as Vice chairman at the next meeting.  15.2 Kenny Miller was proposed as Chairman by George Johnston and seconded by Don McKee.  15.3 Judy Lockhart-Hunter was proposed as Vice chairman by Kenny Miller and seconded by Christiane Maher.  15.4 Cllr Macnair paid tribute to the retiring Chairman for her hard work and all that she had achieved during a very busy term of office. |  |
| **16 Date of Next Meeting** | The date of the next meeting would be on Tuesday 3rd January 2023 at 7.30 pm via zoom as the Community Centre would be closed. |  |