**Royal Burgh of North Berwick Community Council**

**Minutes of Meeting held at 19.30 on**

**Tuesday 7th February 2023**

**In the Community Centre, Law Road**

**Present:**  Kenny Miller (Chairman), Judy Lockhart-Hunter (Vice chairman by zoom), Kathryn Smith (Secretary), Christiane Maher (Treasurer), Peter Hamilton, Bill Macnair, Ian Watson, Jacq Cottrell, Don McKee & Liz Martin

**Also present:** ELC Cllrs Jeremy Findlay, Carol McFarlane & Liz Allan, Doug Haig, Jasper Cottrell (NBHS), Christopher & Natalie Pyrkosz, Stefan Aalten-Voogd, 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 fourth in person meeting of the Community Council. |  |
| **2 Apologies** | Cllrs George Johnson & Mairi Benson (late) |  |
| **3 East Lothian Climate Action Network** | 3.1 Unfortunately, Ian Malcolm, ELCAN’s coordinator was ill and could not attend. |  |
| **4. Previous Minutes** | Adoption of the Minutes of the meeting held on 3rd January, which had been circulated previously, was proposed by Cllr Hamilton and seconded by Cllr Cottrell |  |
| **5 Matters Arising** | 5.1 ***3.1 High School playing fields:*** Eamon John, ELC Service Manager, Sport, Countryside & Leisure had confirmed that NBHS would be getting beyond optimum levels of sports pitch provision linked to national guidance. He also advised that topographical studies on site were being developed, as were the associated drawings to take through the planning process. He also confirmed that he had personally engaged with NBHS in a number of ways. Cllr McKee commented that ELC was not doing what the Scottish Government recommends, namely consult before the planning application.  5.2 ***5.1*** ***Old North Berwick sign:*** A quote from Signman was still awaited.  5.3 ***5.3 Cricket Club container:*** It had been confirmed by ELC that as the siting of the container constituted a permitted development under the legislation no planning permission was required.  5.4 ***10.3 Area Partnership – parking consultation:*** The ELC Councillors had not managed to meet with Peter Forsyth. A report was expected in March.  5.5 ***14 North Berwick Connect:*** The *Courier* had confirmed that the Community Council could do one edition or any number and the fee would be the same for each edition - £2,500. Cllr Lockhart-Hunter was hoping to have quotes for other options for the next meeting |  |
| **6 New Member** | 6.1 The Chairman was pleased to welcome new member, Liz Martin.  6.2 Confirmation of her appointment was proposed by Cllr Macnair and seconded by Cllr McKee. |  |
| **7 Police Report** | 7.1 As PC Dalziel had been taken away to an ongoing incident in the Scottish Borders she had been unable to complete a report.  7.2 The next CAPP meeting would be on 1st March.  7.3 The current priorities were speeding throughout coastal areas, dangerous/obstructive parking and plans for summer events. |  |
| **8 Planning matters** | 8.1 The January planning applications were led by the Cllr Maher.  8.2 The following new applications had been viewed beforehand and, following a brief discussion, no comments were made –  ***15 Glasclune Gardens –*** replacement of garage doors  ***56 High Street (Greggs) –*** alterations to building  ***Land south of Anchor House –*** alterations and extension to house as changes to scheme of development – planning permission 21/00593/P  ***7 Victoria Road -*** erection of raised decking with glass balustrade/trellis and step  ***21 St Baldred’s Crescent –*** extension to house, installation of flue and erection of fencing  ***33 Ben Sayers Park –*** extension to house, formation of dormer windows and decked area  ***19 & 19a Melbourne Road –*** alteration to flats  ***56 High Street(Greggs) –*** change of use of shop (class 1) to café (class 3) and change of use of café to shop  ***8 Melbourne Place –*** replacement windows and doors  ***3 Dundas Avenue –*** extension to house (part retrospective)  8.3 The renewal of permission for **7 houses at Gin Head,** which was on the February list, was flagged up as no deadlines had been given. The Community Council had not commented on the last application.  8.4 Decisions since last meeting –  ***90E High Street –*** renewal of planning permission 19/00642/P for extension to top flat for a further 3 years – **granted**  ***1A Dirleton Avenue –*** alterations to domesticoutbuilding to form ancillary residentialaccommodation (retrospective)– **granted**  ***Balgone Dean, Kingston* –** change of use of agricultural land to form domestic vehicular access (retrospective) – **granted**  ***The Lodge, 1 Westerdunes Park and The Fairways, Abbotsford Road* –** extension to house, installation of flue, enlargement of first floor balcony with balustrade, erection of garden room, heightening of walls with fencing and formation of hard standing area (part retrospective) – **granted**  ***18 Eeles Mount*** – change of use of open space to domestic garden ground, extension to house and erection of fencing – **granted**  ***Lower Seton, 8A Marine Parade –*** change of useof flat to short term holiday let (retrospective) – **granted**  ***Pointgarry House, 20A West Bay Road –*** alterations to house – **granted**  ***55 High Street* –** replacement windows and doors - **granted**  8.5 ***12 Westgate*** – Following the previous month’s meeting when it was decided not to comment on this application as there had been no representations from neighbours, several letters of objection were received. A request for a further extension of the deadline to allow further discussion was requested but denied. The main objections by neighbours were – (a) an incongruous new infilldevelopment in a prominent position - predatory/intrusive building squeezed between Grade 2 listed buildings; (b) change of use Class 2 to Class 3 - noise, odours, vents etc; and (c) active overlooking (privacy concerns for 12b and 14 Westgate).  8.6***48-52 Dunbar Road*** *–* ELC Cllr Findlay confirmed that he had written to Keith Dingwall regarding the residents’ complaints that conditions were not being complied with but he had not had a response. He would follow up. |  |
| **9 Treasurer’s Report** | 9.1 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; and £38 for Minutes. |  |
| **10 Area Partnership/ Spaces for People** | 10.1 The Chairman reported that at the last meeting he & Cllr Benson had supported a request from North Berwick in Bloom to become voting members.  10.2 Of the 8 applications for funding considered, 6 were successful and 2 were deferred. This would mean that the previous application from the Coastal Communities Museum which had been deferred till the end of March would likely be granted.  10.3 Concern had been expressed that the £34,000 agreed by the Area Partnership (AP) to fund the works at the east end of the High Street had been used by ELC to fund another survey, without consultation, instead of being reallocated to another AP project.  10.4 The Chairman of the AP would write to ELC to strongly express concern that there had been no partnership working in the decision making which had been made without consultation and to ask for their comments.  10.5 Cllr Martin had agreed to be the second Community Council deputy representative. |  |
| **11 Local Place Plan** | ***Local Place Plan***  11.1 This was very much work in progress but the Chairman had met with North Berwick Trust and was waiting to hear whether (1) they would be part of the process and (2) they would make a financial contribution.  11.2 Cllr McKee had been in touch with Planning Aid to ask for help and guidance. He had also asked Keith Dingwall to share information.  11.3 There was to be a Community Map Scotland webinar on 10th February and an ELC training session on 15th March.  ***Development Plan Scheme***  11.4 ELC wanted to publish an Evidence Report to the Scottish Government in November and to have Local Place Plans produced alongside it.  11.5 The Participation Statement element of the updated DPS was the subject of a consultation by ELC with a deadline of 27th January. An extension had been granted until 12th February.  11.6 Cllr McKee had drafted a response to the consultation which had been circulated prior to the meeting.  11.7 It was agreed that Cllr McKee’s response should be submitted to ELC. |  |
| **12 Edington Cottage Hospital** | 12.1 There was no further update. |  |
| **13 East Lothian Community Benefit Plan** | 13.1 The Chairman commented that the Association of East Lothian Community Councils (AELCC) was considering the establishment of a county wide Community Benefit Fund as a mechanism for handling monies offered by onshore and offshore wind farm companies.  13.2 He described the proposal as remarkable and detailed how the fund could pay out large sums annually to local communities for many years.  13.3 He was on the AELCC sub group looking into the proposal and it was agreed that the proposal should be explored further.  13.4 In the meantime he asked members to consider 3 priorities in the town which could benefit from the fund. |  |
| **14 Big Belly Bins** | 14.1 Cllr Lockhart-Hunter reported that Sustaining North Berwick had raised £27,138 towards the total cost of £29,790 for 6 bins and relevant artwork which left a shortfall of £2,652.  14.2 It was agreed that the Community Council would donate a further £1,000 towards the shortfall. |  |
| **15**  **Correspondence** | 15.1 ***Glasclune Shelter –*** e-mail from a resident about the state of the shelter. It was agreed that it needed to be restored. Cllr McKee agreed to take up the matter with Johnn Stevens. |  |
| **16 Any other competent business** | 16.1 ***Mural:*** Tetiana Hurn had come up with another proposal whereby the size of the mural had been reduced. She was seeking support from the Community Council again to put it on the north gable. After discussion it was agreed that the proposal could not be supported but there would be no problem with it being on the east gable as previously suggested. The Chairman would inform North Berwick Trust of the Community Council’s objection to the proposal.  16.2 ***Footprint signs***: The beach signs would require to be looked at as the condition of several had deteriorated and would require to be replaced.  16.3 ***Coronation:*** Notwithstanding that Buckingham Palace had confirmed that there would be no beacon lighting ceremony, the Chairman and Secretary were still being asked if anything similar was being planned. The Secretary would ask the Lord Lieutenant if anything was being planned in the county. In the meantime, a Volunteers’ Coffee Morning on the Monday was being proposed to which it was agreed a contribution could be made. It was also suggested that a contribution could be made to the Beacon, Scone Café and similar for a more special community lunch. |  |
| **17 Date of Next Meeting** | The date of the next meeting would be on Tuesday 7th March 2023 at 7.30 pm in the Community Centre. |  |