**Royal Burgh of North Berwick Community Council**

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

**Tuesday 3rd January 2023**

**Present:**  Kenny Miller (Chairman), Judy Lockhart-Hunter (Vice chairman), Kathryn Smith (Secretary), Peter Hamilton, Bill Macnair, Ian Watson, George Johnstone, Mairi Benson, Jacq Cottrell, Don McKee & Gordon Moodie

**Also present:** ELC Cllrs Jeremy Findlay & Carol McFarlane, Eddie Clark and Gregor Millar (local press)

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| **Agenda item** | **Discussion** | **Action** |
| **1 Welcome** | The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming all and wishing them a Happy New Year. The meeting was on Zoom as the Community Centre was closed. |  |
| **2 Apologies** | Cllr Christiane Maher |  |
| **3 High School playing fields** | 3.1 Sharon Wellwood, Acting Chair of NBHS Parent Council, gave a lengthy explanation of the problems the Parent Council was having in trying to engage with East Lothian Council regarding the details of the proposed expansion of the playing fields at the High School.  3.2 A number of questions had been asked but no satisfactory response had been received.  3.3 ELC Cllr Findlay proposed that the 3 councillors meet the officers concerned to ask the questions the Parent Council had been asking.  3.4 Cllr McKee pointed out that as this was a community issue there should be a proper consultation with the community and those affected before the planning application was made.  3.5 It was agreed that the Chairman should write to ELC asking for more detailed drawings to be produced and more transparency and dialogue with the schools.  3.6 It was made clear that the Community Council could not comment further at this stage. |  |
| **4. Previous Minutes** | Adoption of the Minutes of the meeting held on 6th December, which had been circulated previously, was proposed by Cllr Lockhart-Hunter and seconded by Cllr Johnstone. |  |
| **5 Matters Arising** | 5.1 ***5.2*** ***Old North Berwick sign:*** A quote from Signman was still awaited.  5.2 ***12.1 Christmas Lights:*** It had been confirmed that the increase in the insurance premium was in respect of only one gathering of more than 400.  5.3 ***14.2 Cricket Club container:*** As no planning application for the siting of the container could be found on ELC’s planning portal, it was agreed that the Chairman would write to Keith Dingwall to enquire whether Planning Consent was required, and if it had been applied for, whether the container was correctly positioned. |  |
| **6 Casual Vacancy** | 6.1 As Cllr Moodie would be resigning from the Community Council at the end of this meeting, the vacancy would be advertised in the following week’s *Courier.*  6.2 There was already one person interested in applying to join. It was hoped the vacancy could be filled fairly quickly. |  |
| **7 Police Report** | 7.1 This month’s short police report, which had been circulated beforehand, was taken as read.  7.2 The next CAPP meeting would be on 18th January.  7.3 Anti social behaviour, graffiti and speeding were the current priorities.  7.4 The Local Police Plan had been circulated. Members were asked to read it with a view to considering the Community Council’s response at next month’s meeting. The deadline for submissions was 12th February. |  |
| **8 Planning matters** | 8.1 In the absence of Cllr Maher the December planning applications were led by the Secretary.  8.2 The following new applications had been viewed beforehand and, following a brief discussion, no comments were made –  ***55 High Street –*** replacement windows and door  ***Gilsland Caravan Site –*** s42 application to vary condition 1 of planning permission 16/00636/P to replace the strip of bunding with a row of mixed native trees  ***118 Lochbridge Road –*** extension to house  ***Pointgarry House, 20A West Bay Road –*** alterations to house  ***Windie Edge, Abbotsford Road –*** alterations to house, formation of hardstanding, installation of canopy and balustrade  ***1A Dirleton Avenue –*** alterations to domestic outbuilding to form ancillary residential accommodation (retrospective)  8.3 The following new applications were viewed, discussed and commented on as follows –  ***18 Trainers’ Brae –*** after discussion it was agreed not to comment on the planning application for an extension to the house, formation of steps and dormer with roof terrace  ***18 Cromwell Road (Marine Hotel) –*** after discussion it was agreed not to comment on the planning application for the installation of external lighting although it was agreed that it appeared to be extensive  ***12 Westgate –*** after discussion, and as there had been no representations from neighbours, it was agreed not to comment on the planning application for alterations, extension and subdivision of the building and part change of use to form 2 class 2 units and a class 3 cafe  8.4 Decisions since last meeting –  ***31 Rhodes Park –*** renewal of planning permission 19/00960/P – extension to house - **granted**  ***47 Craigleith Avenue –*** extension to house, erection of fence and formation of raised deckedarea **– granted**  ***17 Beach Road*** – alterations, extension to house, formation of hardstanding area, dormer with balcony/balustrade and erection of gates – **granted**  ***Flat 3, 8 Quality Street –*** change of use of flat to short term holiday let (retrospective) – **refused**  ***6 Forth Street –*** replacement doors (retrospective) – **granted**  ***14 Rhodes Cottages, Lime Grove –*** erection of garden room and formation of decked area (retrospective) – **refused** due to it being too large  ***48-52 Dunbar Road –*** s42 planning application for variation of condition 1 of planning permission 21/00564/P to alter delivery hours from 0700 to 2300 hours Mondays to Sundays to 0530 to 2300 hours Mondays to Sundays – **granted** assuming mitigation measures in the acoustic report are being complied with at all times –  *It was* *noted that residents had complained that conditions were not being complied with. ELC Cllr Findlay would follow up with Keith Dingwall and enforcement measures would be taken if necessary.*  ***Arngask House, 6B St Margaret’s Road –*** erection of fencing – **granted**  ***11 Millar Gardens –*** erection of fencing (retrospective) - **granted** |  |
| **9 Treasurer’s Report** | 9.1 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; £129.97 for Zoom (annual); £38 x 2 for Minutes; and £500 to Christmas Cheer from Resilience Fund. |  |
| **10 Area Partnership/ Spaces for People** | 10.1 Cllrs Lockhart-Hunter and Maher had prepared a detailed letter commenting on the parking proposals which had been sent to Peter Forsyth, Project Manager – Growth & Sustainability, at East Lothian Council.  10.2 It had been acknowledged with the comment that objections were not being considered at the present time but only comments.  10.3 The three ELC Councillors were to meet with Peter Forsyth to discuss what was to happen next. |  |
| **11 Local Place Plan** | 11.1 Cllrs Miller, Cottrell, & McKee had agreed to form a sub group to consider the preparation of the Local Place Plan.  11.2 There had been a virtual meeting on 14th December with Keith Dingwall, ELC Planning Services Manager, who had explained the process.  11.3 The Plan was to be prepared by local community groups. It would be a huge task and would cost from £10,000 to £30,000.  11.4 Keith Dingwall would provide a town map and housing proposals but not much more.  11.5 It was felt that the Community Council should produce a plan in collaboration with North Berwick Trust (NBT) which might be beneficial to both parties.  11.6 It was agreed that the Chairman would approach NBT to discuss further and that Cllr McKee would approach Keith Dingwall for more details.  11.7 There would be a training session in March. |  |
| **12 Edington Cottage Hospital** | 12.1 There was no further update. |  |
| **13 D-Day 80th Anniversary** | 13.1 It had been confirmed that there would be no Beacon Lighting ceremony for the coronation of the King.  13.2 It had been decided, however, that Beacons should be lit on 6th June 2024 as a commemoration of D-Day 80, the 80th Anniversary of the D-Day landings in Normandy.  13.3 The official guide to taking part would be circulated in the New Year but in the meantime it was agreed in principle to participate. |  |
| **14 *North Berwick Connect*** | 14.1 It had been confirmed that the cost of producing the booklet had increased to £2,500 per issue due to a drop in advertising revenue.  14.2 It was agreed to find out if contributions could be reduced to 1 or 2 issues per annum but in the meantime other options such as *Local Life* and *Toun Cryer* should be looked at. |  |
| **15**  **Correspondence** | 15.1 There was none. |  |
| **16 Any other competent business** | 16.1 ***Draft Development Plan Scheme:*** Planning legislation requires all Local Authorities to prepare a Development Plan Scheme (DPS) which sets out the programme for preparing, reviewing and implementing the Local Development Plan and includes a Participation Statement. The aim of the consultation, which runs until 27th January, is to seek views from the public as to how they would like to engage in the Local Development Plan process. The Chairman would ask for an extension in view of the tight deadline.  16.2 ***Veterans:*** A group of veterans was investigating whether the WW2 names, currently on a plaque on the wall in the memorial garden, could be added to the main war memorial. In the meantime arrangements would have to be made to remove the seat and planter in front of the plaque so that wreaths could be laid on Remembrance Sunday.  16.3 ***Gordon Moodie:*** Cllr Lockhart-Hunter paid tribute to Cllr Moodie who was stepping down from the Community Council after over 7 years service. |  |
| **17 Date of Next Meeting** | The date of the next meeting would be on Tuesday 7th February 2023 at 7.30 pm in the Community Centre. |  |