**Royal Burgh of North Berwick Community Council**

**Minutes of Meeting held at 19.30 on**

**Tuesday 4th April 2023**

**In the Community Centre, Law Road**

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

**Also present:** ELC Cllrs Carol McFarlane & Liz Allan, Kirsty Towler, Jackie Shuttleworth & Rory Steel (FbtS) 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 sixth in person meeting of the Community Council. |  |
| **2 Apologies** | Doug Haig |  |
| **3 Fringe by the Sea** | Jackie Shuttleworth, General Manager accompanied by Festival Director, Rory Steel, gave an update on plans for the 2023 Festival.* The Festival Hub would again be situated in the Lodge grounds and would run from 4th to 13th August.
* The ELC Safety Advisory Group meeting would be taking place later that week after which affected neighbours would be updated.
* In 2022 there had been 250 events, 57,000 tickets had been sold, 95% rated it as excellent or very good and 99.9% would return. There had been a £6.5m boost to the local economy.
* A diverse programme was being planned with big names and community events.
* There would be free Fringe events sponsored by the Area Partnership; the Lighthouse live stage; and a Coulters Makers Market.
* Sustainability would be centre stage - reducing the impact of the event and responsible waste management.
* Consideration was being given to (a) noise with an 11pm curfew and a dedicated phone line for complaints; (b) traffic with improvements to flow/congestion and promoting public transport; (c) improved toilet facilities; (d) a letter to frontline residents; (e) an accessible seating area in the big top; and (f) 24 hour security.
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| **4 Previous Minutes** | Adoption of the Minutes of the meeting held on 7th March, which had been circulated previously, was proposed by Cllr Lockhart-Hunter and seconded by Cllr Martin. |  |
| **5 Matters Arising** | 5.1 ***4.1 North Berwick Connect:*** Cllr Lockhart-Hunter confirmed that Local Life had quoted a fee of £1,400 inclusive of vat for a 9 pages spread per edition. 5.2 ***4.4 Glasclune Shelter:*** A response was still awaited from ELC who seemed to be having trouble confirming ownership5.3 ***13 Beach footprint signs:*** The signs had been ordered and would be delivered shortly.5.4 ***15.3 Community Champions –*** The Chairman had put forward Rebekah MacRobert for the Coronation Champion’s Award for inspiring volunteers. It was agreed she should also be put forward for Craig Hoy’s Community Champions Award.5.5 ***16.1 NBFC football pitch –*** ELC had resolved the difficulty with the contractors and the pavilion would be opening soon. However, EnjoyLeisure would not take ownership till the snagging had been finished. |  |
| **6 Police Report** | 6.1 This month’s abbreviated police report, which had been circulated beforehand, was taken as read.6.2 The next CAPP meeting would be on 12th April at which the Secretary intended raising the issue of the current format of the police reports and why Dunbar CC could advertise its meetings.  |  |
| **7 Planning matters** | 7.1 The March planning applications were led by the Cllr Maher.7.2 The following new applications had been viewed beforehand and, following a brief discussion, no comments were made – ***4 Westbay Road –*** alterations to flat***121, 121A High Street –*** replacement windows and erection of shed***5 Douglas Marches –*** extension to house***25D Melbourne Place –*** replacement windows***1-3 Westgate (The Herringbone)*** – installation of air conditioning units, fans, vents and repainting frontage of building (retrospective); display of advertisements (part retrospective) – *it was noted there had been problems during the renovation works with increased noise levels****Lime Grove Community Garden –*** erection of summerhouse, pergola, sheds, raised beds and formation of hardstanding area (part retrospective)***12 Lady Jane Gardens –*** extension to house***17 Beach Road –*** alterations, extension to house, formation of hardstanding area, dormer with balcony/balustrade and erection of gates***1-6 Carlekemp, Abbotsford Road*** – alterations to building (roof repairs)***29A Fidra Road*** – changes to scheme of development subject of planning permission 21/01137/P***45 Westgate*** – Certificate of lawfulness for existing use as short term holiday let***4 Inchgarry Court, Links Road & Inchgarry Mews, 4A Inchgarry Court*** – change of use of flat to short term holiday let (retrospective)7.3 The following new applications were viewed, discussed and commented on as follows –***Land to west of Carlekemp -*** after discussion it was decided not to comment on the application for planning permission in principle for the erection of 1 house and associated works***12 Quality Street –*** after discussion it was decided not to comment on the application for change of use of the rear grounds and parking area to form ancillary outdoor seating etc7.4 Decisions since last meeting –***51-53 Forth Street –*** s42 application to vary condition 2 of planning permission 01/00279/FUL – **granted*****Marine Lodge, 21A Westgate –*** certificate of lawfulness for an existing use – short term holiday let – **granted*****3C Church Road –*** change of use of flat to short term holiday let – **granted** with no consideration given to the impact on permanent residents of 3A Church Road***West Links Golf Course, Abbotsford Road –*** erection of storage shed and associated works - **granted*****1 Glen House, Tantallon Terrace*** *–* change of use of flat to short term holiday let – **granted*****Grantchester House, 12A Strathearn Road***  - alterations to house – **granted*****3 Dundas Avenue –*** extension to house (part retrospective) – **granted*****The Lodge, 1 Westerdunes Park –*** replacement windows – **granted*****33 Ben Sayers Park –*** extension to house, formation of dormer windows and decked area– **granted*****7 Victoria Road* –** erection of raised decking with glass balustrade/trellis and step – **granted*****18 Trainers Brae*** – extensions to house, formation of steps and dormer with roof terrace – **granted*****Land south of Anchor House, 1 Ware Road –*** alterations and extension to house as changes to the scheme of development the subject of planning permission 21/00593/P – **granted*****15 Glasclune Gardens –*** replacement of garage doors – granted***7 Kirk Ports –*** erection of fencing, gate, shed, summerhouse, change of use of open space to form vehicular access and hardstanding area - **granted** |  |
| **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; £38 to the Secretary for the Minutes; £325.14 for defibrillator items; £35 to BWF for website update; £48.47 for gift; and £2,500 to ELC being contribution towards cost of big belly bins |  |
| **9 Area Partnership** | 9.1 The next meeting would be on 2nd May which clashed with the next NBCC meeting. The Chairman would discuss with Doug Haig.9.2 At the last meeting 5 applications for funding, which had been held back till the end of the financial year, were granted. |  |
| **10 Local Place Plan** | 10.1 The Chairman reported that things were moving forward slowly.10.2 He confirmed that North Berwick Trust would be joining the project.10.3 The sub group had attended a meeting in Musselburgh when what to do in preparing the Place Plan was discussed. It was also confirmed that there would be an extension of 6 months to the period within which the Plan was to be completed.10.4 It was clear that sewage was an issue. SEPA and Scottish Water would deal with it once the Plan was known.10.5 Cllr McKee confirmed that Planning Aid was available to meet.10.6 The Chairman was talking to other groups in the town.  |  |
| **11 Edington Cottage Hospital** | 11.1 There was no further progress to report.11.2 ELC Cllr McFarlane & Cllr Lockhart-Hunter had written to Paul McLennan MSP asking for a meeting. He was trying to arrange a date with the new Health Secretary, Michael Matheson.11.3 The press release issued by EastLothian Health and Social Care Partnership (ELHSCP) with its initial findings and recommendations was disappointing as it indicated no change and dealt with East Lothian as a whole rather than the separate communities. |  |
| **12 East Lothian Community Benefit Plan**  | 12.1 The Chairman had attended a meeting the previous week and things seemed to be taking shape.12.2 Two steering groups had been formed, one dealing with legal and financial matters and the other with what could be achieved. |  |
| **13 King’s Coronation** | 13.1 It was confirmed that the concert to celebrate the Coronation of the King, which was being arranged by the North Berwick Gospel Choir and the Pipe Band, would be taking place on the harbour esplanade on Monday 8th May from 7.00-8.00 pm and that arrangements were well in hand.13.2 The Secretary had submitted the required Notice of the Event and Risk Assessment forms to ELC which had been accepted without the need for a Safety Advisory Group meeting.13.3 Patrick Gammell DL would be present. |  |
| **14 North Berwick Town signs** | 14.1 Cllr Watson had received quotes from Signman for supplying the 3 signs but a decision was still to be made as to whether aluminum composite or plastic board was the better option. |  |
| **15 Station Kiosk** | 15.1 The Chairman commented that the station kiosk had been vacant for 2 years.15.2 North Berwick in Bloom had been trying to do something about providing a public toilet at the station and had met with ScotRail who had indicated they would be happy to lease the building to a local organisation at a peppercorn rent.15.3 It was understood that ELC would maintain the toilets if the property was developed.15.4 It was agreed that the Chairman should investigate further. |  |
| **16** **Correspondence** | 16.1 ***Road markings in Lodge car park –*** e-mail from the Scottish Seabird Centre regarding the need for clearer line markings/arrows into/out of the ELC managed part of the Lodge car park. Cllr Allan agreed to take forward.16.2 ***Emptying green bins in Forth Street –*** e-mail from Forth Street resident with concerns about the proposed reduction in the number of bin collections and the resultant overflowing of bins during the tourist season. Cllr Allan agreed to take forward.16.3 ***Ukrainian flag on Elcho Green –*** e-mail from resident regarding the missing Ukrainian flag on Elcho Green. Apparently East Lothian Yacht Club was responsible for it and the matter had been taken up with them. |  |
| **17 Any other competent business** | 17.1 ***2022/23 Accounts –*** The Treasurer confirmed she was in the process of completing the year end accounts. A budget would be prepared once ELC had allocated the Administration and Local Priorities Scheme Budgets for 2023/24.17.2 ***Planning –*** As the Treasurer would be on holiday, Cllr Lockhart-Hunter agreed to present the planning applications at the next meeting.17.3 ***Big Belly Bins –*** It had been hoped that these would be in place by Easter but apparently planning permission was required.17.4 ***Joint Laws Advisory Group –*** Cllr Macnair had attended a meeting of the group on 30th March. He reported *inter alia* that the sheep would be remaining on the Law; a survey of the grasslands was to be carried out; discussions with the Parent Council regarding a safe route to school were ongoing; more gorse removal would be done next year; and there had been around 99,000 visitors to the Law in the last year.  |  |
| **18 Date of Next Meeting** | The date of the next meeting would be on Tuesday 2nd May 2023 at 7.30 pm in the Community Centre. |  |