**Royal Burgh of North Berwick Community Council**

**Minutes of Meeting held at 19.30 on**

**Tuesday 6th June 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, Mairi Benson (via zoom), Jacq Cottrell, Don McKee & Liz Martin

**Also present:** ELC Cllr Liz Allan, Doug Haig, Jim Goodfellow, Sally Egan, David Pencheon (via zoom), AN Other 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 ninth in person meeting of the Community Council. |  |
| **2 Apologies** | ELC Cllrs Jeremy Findlay & Carol McFarlane |  |
| **3 Previous Minutes** | 3.1 The Chairman commented that ELC Cllr McFarlane had requested the removal of item 8.3 of the Minutes as she considered it was not a true record of the meeting. Following discussion and a vote it was agreed that the Minute as written should stand though Cllr Cottrell voted against.  3.2 Adoption of the Minutes of the meeting held on 2nd May, which had been circulated previously, was proposed by Cllr Johnstone and seconded by Cllr Cottrell subject to item 8.6 being amended to note that Cllrs Cottrell & McKee had not voted in favour of the 2 petitions. |  |
| **4 Matters Arising** | 4.1 ***4.2*** ***Glasclune Shelter:*** There had been no further progress. Cllr McKee would follow up.  4.2 ***4.3 Beach footprint signs:*** Drem Timber had been told that the signs were too small and did not compare with those at Yellowcraigs.  4.3 ***4.4 King’s Coronation:*** Barker & Bone had won the window dressing competition and would be presented with the trophy the following day. The Coronation Concert at the Harbour on 8th May had been well received and the last minute bucket collection had raised £1,200 for the East Lothian Foodbank.  4.4 ***4.5 Station Kiosk:*** The Chairman reported that ScotRail would prefer to rent the premises on a commercial basis but if a tenant could not be found they would lease it to a community organisation at a peppercorn rent. There was the possibility that the Community Council could lease it but in the meantime North Berwick in Bloom would try to acquire the lease. ELC Cllr Allan commented that Scottish Government funding might be available for public toilets in tourist towns; she would investigate further.  4.5 ***15.1 Coronation plaque:*** It was confirmed that the Youth Project was looking into producing a suitable plaque.  4.6 ***15.2 Imperial toilets:*** As there had been no response to the Chairman’s request for ELC to clear the gutters he was considering doing it himself as concern was expressed that lack of maintenance would lead to deterioration of what was once award winning toilets. |  |
| **5 Police Report** | 5.1 This month’s abbreviated police report, which had been circulated beforehand, was taken as read.  5.2 The next CAPP meeting would be on 12th July.  5.3 The priorities agreed at the last meeting on 24th May were (a) speeding on Haddington Road at Law Primary School; (b) speeding on A198 coming into Aberlady near Aberlady Primary School and (c) issues with boats and fishing equipment on the West Beach. |  |
| **6 Planning matters** | 6.1 The May planning applications were led by the Cllr Maher.  6.2 The following new applications had been viewed beforehand and, following a brief discussion, no comments were made –  ***4 Highfield Road*** – extension to house  ***82 High Street*** – changes to external materials, addition of air source heat pump and addition of gas stove flue as changes to planning permission 20/00999/P  ***1 Lorne Square*** – certificate of lawfulness for an existing use short term holiday let  ***7 Tantallon Terrace*** – replacement windows, installation of solar panels and 2 EV charging points  ***18 Forth Street*** – replacement windows, re-slating of roofs and repainting of flat  ***15A Melbourne Road*** – erection of railings to wall, stone cleaning; [LBC] internal alterations to building, erection of railings to wall, stone cleaning and part demolition of wall  ***15***-***17 High Street (County Hotel)*** – alterations to building, alterations and change of use of former garage building to form additional bar/seating area, formation of hard standing area, outdoor seating area, erection of pergola, bin store and associated works  6.3 The following new applications were viewed, discussed and commented on as follows –  ***Woodlands, 18 Westerdunes Park; land north of 18 Westerdunes Park*** – after discussion it was agreed not to comment on the planning application for the demolition of the building and erection of 1 house and associated works  ***35A Quality Street –*** after discussion it was agreed, based on precedent, to object to the retrospective planning application for change of use of the flat to a short term holiday let. It was noted that ELC now seemed to be rejecting shared entrance applications but that they did not have a policy on this issue. It was agreed that there should be a national policy. Cllr Macnair commented that established businesses which were major contributors to the local economy were being hit.  6.4 Decisions since last meeting –  ***18 Trainers Brae –*** rear extension reduced in size and roof redesigned – **granted**  ***3A Marine Parade –*** erection of outbuildings – **granted**  ***13D Melbourne Place –*** replacement windows – **granted**  ***11 Springfield Gardens –*** change of use of flat to short term holiday let ( retrospective) – **granted**  ***3, 5 & 6 West Bay Court –*** change of use of flats to short term holiday lets – **refused**  ***4 West Bay Road –*** alterations to flat – **granted**  ***12 Lady Jane Gardens –*** extension to house – **granted**  ***17 Beach Road –*** alterations, extension to house, formation of hardstanding area, dormer with balcony/balustrade and erection of gates – **granted**  ***1-6 Carlekemp, Abbotsford Road –*** alterations to building – **granted**  ***29A Fidra Road –*** erection of shed/stores, walls, gates, formation of pedestrian access, hardstanding areas and alteration to vehicular access as changes to planning permission 21/01137/P – **granted**  ***121, 121A High Street –*** replacement windows and erection of shed – **granted**  ***5 Douglas Marches –*** extension to house – **granted**  ***4 & 4A Inchgarry Court, Links Road –*** change of use of self contained houses to short term holiday lets (retrospective) – **granted**  ***25D Melbourne Place –*** replacement windows – **granted**  ***1-3 Westgate (Herringbone)*** – display of advertisements (part retrospective) – **granted**  ***Nisa Loco, Rasul Bros, 96 Lochbridge Road –*** extension to shop to form hot food takeaway, 2 flats and associated works – **approved** with 9 conditions mainly related to noise and smell  ***19 St Baldred’s Crescent –*** extensions to house, formation of steps and balustrading and installation of flue – **granted** |  |
| **7 Treasurer’s Report** | 7.1 The Treasurer confirmed that the following payments had been made during the last month - £13 to Scottish Power for the store which had been refunded; £38 x 2 to the Secretary for the Minutes; and £102 to BWF for the transfer to the new webmaster.  7.2 The budget allocations for 2023/24 had been confirmed by ELC at the same level as last year viz. Admin: £981 and Local Priorities Scheme: £8,690.  7.3 The budget for 2023/24 would be prepared for approval at next month’s meeting. |  |
| **8 Chairman’s Report** | 8.1 The Chairman reminded members that he had agreed at the AGM to take on the chairmanship for 6 months to see how it went.  8.2 He admitted that he had not realised how busy he would be but he was happy to continue in the role for a further 6 months if members agreed.  8.3 It was unanimously agreed that he should continue. |  |
| **9 Parking Consultation Outcome** | 9.1 The two petitions had been launched on line and in the shops. Street stalls were also being held with the first having taken place on 3rd June and another 2 planned on 8th& 13th June.  9.2 The parking management scheme petition was doing well with over 2,000 signatures (excluding the shops). The east end of the High Street petition was not having such a good response.  9.3 It was confirmed that the paper and on line signatures would be cross checked to ensure there was no duplication.  9.4 After discussion it was agreed to complain to ELC about the inadequacy of the impact statement in respect of the east end of the High Street as it had been conducted ‘in house’ and failed to stand up to scrutiny.  9.5 It was noted that previously a scheme had been agreed to retain 5/6 short term parking spaces. A meeting with ELC’s Ian Lennock was needed now for a constructive discussion on the matter.  9.6 Peter Forsyth had agreed to attend next month’s meeting to discuss the parking management scheme. He had also confirmed that repairs to roads and pavements would be carried out as and when required.  9.7 With regard to ELC Cllr McFarlane’s letter to the *Courier* in which she claimed Cllr Lockhart-Hunter hadshouted at her, it was agreed that Cllr Lockhart-Hunter had not shouted at her. As a result she would be asked to withdraw her statement. In the event of her being unwilling to do so the intention was to report her to the Standards Commission. |  |
| **10 Area Partnership** | 10.1 Cllr Benson reported that she had received that afternoon 2 applications for consideration at the next Area Partnership meeting on 20th June.  10.2 After discussion it was agreed to support (a) Aberlady Community Association’s application for £1,439 towards the total cost of £2,944 for a public access defibrillator in the village and (b) North Berwick in Bloom’s application on behalf of NBiB, Glorious Gullane Bloomers & Aberlady in Bloom for £5,500 towards the total cost of £16,000 for plants, compost, containers etc for North Berwick, Gullane & Aberlady. |  |
| **11 Local Place Plan** | 11.1 There had been a zoom meeting with Planning Aid (Scotland) to discuss how to manage and process matters.  11.2 The steering group had met the previous week to reflect on what was being done in other areas.  11.3 It was agreed to (a) go to North Berwick Trust to finalise their funding allocation which was likely to be £20,000; (b) write to Planning Aid (Scotland) to engage with them and; and (c) notify ELC of NBCC’s participation in the process and its expectation to share information.  11.4 It was agreed to discuss whether NBCC would be able to allocate some funds to the process at its budget meeting. |  |
| **12 Edington Cottage Hospital** | 12.1 Cllr Lockhart-Hunter reported that on 22nd May there had been a disappointing Teams meeting of the Edington Steering Group with Fiona Wilson, Chief Officer of East Lothian Health and Social Care Partnership.  12.2 There was to be a further consultation in August but it was unlikely that anything would happen before April 2024.  12.3 There had been no response yet from Paul McLennan MSP with a date for a meeting with the new Cabinet Secretary for Health, Michael Matheson. |  |
| **13 Correspondence** | 13.1 E-mail from Ruth Hunter Pepper with an update on the big belly bins. Although ELC was taking a painfully long time putting through the planning application, the bins would be going out the following week.  13.2 E-mail from a concerned Law Primary parent regarding class sizes for p3-p7 pupils being 33 which was almost a quarter higher than the average for East Lothian. ELC Cllr Allan commented that the announcement had been badly worded and that the class sizes would not be more than 30.  13.3 E-mail from Bass Rock Community Group regarding delays in getting an answer from planning as to whether planning permission was required for their proposed dog poo signs. ELC Cllr Allan agreed to follow up. |  |
| **14 Any other competent business** | 14.1 ***Law Nursery –*** Parents had been advised that due to lack of support the Law Nursery Breakfast Club would not continue after 30th June which would result in difficulties for parents commuting to Edinburgh. Enquiries had been made about including the nursery children in the Law Primary Breakfast Club when the nursery moves to its new site but not much progress had been made. It was agreed that the Chairman would write to ELC expressing disappointment at the loss of the provision and enquiring whether the nursery children would be able to use the primary facility.    14.2 ***Old Council Chambers –*** ELC’s Tom Reid had informed the Chairman that the reason for moth balling the building was the cost of security, energy and cleaning.  14.3 ***John Fergie’s photographic exhibition –*** It wasagreedthat NBCC would apply for funding on behalf of John Fergie for his photographic exhibition of 96 shops in the High Street.  14.4 ***Calder & Crawford Cups –*** The Secretary confirmed that plans were in hand for the putting competitions which would be held on 25th and 27th July.  14.5 ***Holiday –*** Members were reminded that the Secretary would be on holiday from 10th to 24th June. |  |
| **15 Date of Next Meeting** | The date of the next meeting would be on Tuesday 4th July 2023 at 7.30 pm in the Community Centre. |  |