**Royal Burgh of North Berwick Community Council**

**Minutes of Meeting held at 19.30 on**

**Tuesday 1st August 2023**

**In the Hope Rooms, Forth Street**

**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 Jeremy Findlay (via zoom), Doug Haig, Jim Goodfellow, Kirsty Towler, Alison Clark 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 11th in person meeting of the Community Council. |  |
| **2 Apologies** | Cllrs Jacq Cottrell & Mairi Benson, ELC Cllrs Liz Allan & Carol McFarlane |  |
| **3 Previous Minutes** | Adoption of the Minutes of the meeting held on 4th July, which had been circulated previously, was proposed by Cllr Hamilton and seconded by Cllr Martin. |  |
| **4 Matters Arising** | 4.1 ***4.1*** ***Glasclune Shelter:*** ELC’s maintenance team was still to inspect the building. It was noted that glue sniffing was taking place in the shelter. This would be reported at the next CAPP meeting.  4.2 ***4.4 Station Kiosk:*** ScotRail had intimated that someone had taken on the lease on a commercial basis. This was disappointing but the Chairman intended looking into the 2016 feasibility study and exploring a site for a new building.  4.3 ***9.1 Short term holiday lets:***  To date there had been no response from Keith Dingwall regarding a meeting to explain ELC’s policy on the subject.  4.4 ***14.1*** ***NB Group Practice:*** NHS Lothian had confirmed that there had been no objections to the proposed alteration to the practice area from the neighbouring practices concerned.  4.5 ***14.3*** ***Tots & Teens programme:*** ELC Cllr Findlay confirmed that there had been no progress and he would follow up.  Cllr Lockhart-Hunter enquired whether there had been a response from ELC regarding the Community Council’s support for the nursery children sharing the Law Primary breakfast club following the loss of the nursery provision at the end of June. The Chairman would follow up.  4.6 ***14.4*** ***BRCG signage:*** Cllr Martin confirmed that one sign had been installed.  4.7 ***15.1 Calder & Crawford Cups:*** Cllr Johnstone reported that the event had gone well with over 60 entrants including 12 children which was a vast improvement on the previous year. A BBQ had been held on the finals evening and had been well received. He would be giving some thought as to how the event could be improved to encourage more entries next year. He was thanked for his work in organising this year’s event.  4.8 ***15.2 Camper van parking:*** It had been agreedat the last meeting that the Community Council would support a proposal for a designated coastal car park at the East Bay subject to an experimental parking order. It subsequently came to light that there had been a misunderstanding by some that the Community Council had agreed to take this forward but it had been confirmed that was not the case. It was understood that the Area Partnership’s On the Move group would take forward the proposal.  4.9 ***15.3 Planters:*** It was noted that the 2 damaged planters had been repaired and restored by North Berwick in Bloom. |  |
| **5 Police Report** | 5.1 This month’s abbreviated police report, which had been circulated beforehand, was taken as read.  5.2 It was noted that the missing North Berwick person had not been included in the report.  5.3 At the previous CAPP meeting on 12th July the agreed priorities were (a) parking on zig zags on Gullane Main Street and (b) youth anti social behaviour in the Lodge Grounds.  5.4 It had been confirmed that the pop-up policeman had been deployed on Haddington Road near the school and would be again.  5.5 The next CAPP meeting would be on 23rd August. |  |
| **6 Planning matters** | 6.1 The July 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 –  ***Heugh Reservoir*** – alterations to building, erection of walls, formation of steps and hardstanding areas  ***10 Priory Wynd*** –alterations to flat and formation of steps (retrospective)  ***The Harbour, Victoria Road*** – siting of building, erection of signage, storage cage, canopy with seating area and repositioning of 2 benches (retrospective)  ***Kersland, 11 Marine Parade*** – formation of hardstanding areas, steps, walls and installation of EV charge point  ***24 Marmion Road*** – alterations to flat and associated works  ***61 Westgate*** – alterations to flat  ***1 & 1A York Road*** – repainting of walls, stone surrounds and windows of flats  ***12 Melbourne Place –*** replacement windows  ***15-17 High Street –*** erection of signage; display of advertisements  ***24 Rhodes Park –*** erection of porch and heightening of roof of house  ***49A Kirk Ports –*** siting of storage container for temporary period of 18 months  ***13 Lady Jane Gardens –*** extension to house, formation of steps and handrails  ***Gilsland Lodge, Kingston –*** erection of garage  ***8D Kirk Ports –*** change of use of flat to short term holiday let (retrospective)  ***13 Westgate –*** replacement of existing roof slates  ***Seafield, 10A Forth Street –*** certificate of lawfulness for existing use short term holiday let  ***10 Cromwell Road –*** certificate of lawfulness for existing short term holiday let  ***The Lodge Grounds, East Road –*** erection of fence (retrospective)  ***Garden ground to rear of 1A West Bay Road –*** erection of one house, formation of dropped kerb and parking area and associated works  6.3 Decisions since last meeting –  ***48A Forth Street –*** certificate of lawfulness for existing use short term holiday let – **granted**  ***Aldi, 48****-****52 Dunbar Road*** – display of advertisement - **granted**  ***Woodlands, 18 Westerdunes Park and land to the north –*** demolition of building and erection of 1 house and associated works – **granted**  ***4 Highfield Road –*** extension to house and associated works – **granted**  ***82 High Street –*** changes to external materials, addition of air source heat pump and of gas stove flue as changes to scheme of development under 20/00999/P – **refused** as ‘not well integrated into or complementary to its surroundings’  ***1 Lorne Square –*** certificate of lawfulness for existing use short term holiday let - **granted**  ***7 Tantallon Terrace –*** replacement windows, installation of solar panels and 2 EV charging points – **granted**  ***15-17 High Street –*** 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 – **granted**  ***3 Lorne Square –*** erection of shed (retrospective) – **refused** as there would be loss of daylight for neighbours because of its height.  ***5 Westgate –*** certificate of lawfulness for existing use short term holiday let – **granted**  ***18 Forth Street –*** replacement windows, re-slating of roofs and repainting flat – **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; £38 to the Secretary for the Minutes; and £15.99 in re-imbursement for BBQ fuel.  7.2 SumUp payment of £57 (net) for Calder & Crawford Cup entries had been credited.  7.3 An unknown BGC of £120 from ELC had been received and would require further investigation. |  |
| **8 Child Care** | 8.1 As a result of the number of complaints received about the lack of child care provision in the town following closure of the Pumpkin Patch Nursery, Cllr Lockhart-Hunter proposed setting up a sub group to look into child care provision in the town.  8.2 It was agreed that she and Cllr Benson should investigate further. |  |
| **9 Parking Consultation Outcome** | 9.1 The Chairman reported that he had written to ELC, copying in the 3 local ELC Councillors, with a formal complaint about the Council’s failure to follow appropriate procedures and processes in connection with the proposals for the east end of the High Street.  9.2 The complaint had been rejected and the matter had now been referred to the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman.  9.3 The Chairman reported that he had written to all ELC Councillors urging them to reconsider the Parking Management Strategy and to withdraw the proposals with immediate effect as the flaws in the proposals made them untenable.  9.4 The only response to date was from the Leader of the Conservative group who confirmed that his group had voted against it.  9.5 When the Traffic Order is issued on 21st August it was important that it was publicised widely. Currently there was a lack of clear information on the ELC website.  9.6 The Chairman confirmed that a formal Complaint against ELC Cllr McFarlane had been lodged with the Standards Commission and it had been acknowledged.  9.7 At a recent petitions’ stall a member of the Musselburgh group challenging the flood defenseswas keen to know how the campaign was progressing. After discussion It had been agreed to set up a meeting between NBCC, the North Berwick Business Association, the Association of East Lothian Community Councils and the Musselburgh group to discuss whether each group could work together, share expertise or even just be a stronger collective voice. A meeting was due to take place on 17th August. |  |
| **10 Area Partnership** | 10.1 An application for a grant of £5,000 towards the cost of the Local Place Plan had been submitted by the Chairman for consideration at the next meeting on 29th August.  10.2 A safe route to school was being pursued by On the Move. |  |
| **11 Local Place Plan** | 11.1 Cllr McKee reported that Planning Aid Scotland (PAS) had been invited to submit their proposal which they had done. He was now seeking clarification on various points.  11.2 The proposal was that the project would begin in December and end in May with a view to submitting it to ELC by the end of May.  11.3 North Berwick Trust (NBT) had assumed a housing needs survey would be carried out by PAS but it had been confirmed that would not be done. As a result NBT would be commissioning a separate piece of work to feed into the Place Plan.  11.4 PAS would have a project manager and 3 others working on the project.  11.5 The quoted price was £24,187 and payment would be in stages throughout the project.  11.6 NBT had committed up to £17,000 towards the costs and the Community Council £3,000. The result of applications to the Area Partnership and the National Lottery Community Fund should be known by the end of the month.  11.7 It was confirmed that the steering group should be left to decide whether to proceed with the contract. |  |
| **12 Edington Cottage Hospital** | 12.1 Cllr Lockhart-Hunter had finally received a very disappointing response from the Cabinet Secretary for Health & Social Care in which he stated that he did not consider himself to be responsible for the Edington, that he felt 2 palliative care beds in the Abbey was appropriate provision for North Berwick and surrounding areas and, astoundingly, that children were not routinely treated at the Edington.  12.2 It was agreed that Cllr Lockhart-Hunter would write to the Cabinet Secretary to tell him his letter was factually incorrect and to ask him, on the point of no children being treated at the hospital, how to report formally the data as being wrong. |  |
| **13 Correspondence** | 13.1 Notice of a pre-planning consultation on the proposed base station installation upgrade at Wamphray Farm which had been circulated beforehand – agreed to make no comment  13.2 Application for variation to provisional premises license at Whitekirk Hill which had been circulated beforehand – approval was confirmed  13.3 E-mail from concerned parent regarding increase in vaping amongst children – agreed to take to the community warden and CAPP and to write to NBHS Parent Council  13.4 E-mail from resident regarding the non-adoption of roads in the CALA developments. Apparently ELC requires CALA to complete remedial work before they can adopt. It was agreed to write to ELC and CALA to press for a conclusion to this long outstanding matter.  13.5 E-mail requesting signage at the Melbourne Road/Place junction alerting buses and long vehicles that there was no through access. ELC’s Ian Lennock had responded to the request by saying that ‘his team would take a look at this as part of a more wide reaching review of signage and parking in North Berwick.’ |  |
| **14 Any other competent business** | 14.1 ***Defibrillator at Pilmar Smith Pavilion:*** Cllr Hamilton had agreed to include it on his list subject to confirmation that NBT register the unit with the NHS and the box was secure.  14.2 ***North Berwick signs:*** It was noted that the blacksmith was still to deal with the metal work.  14.3 ***Coastal Communities Museum:*** It was noted that the museum was to be congratulated on its 10th anniversary.  14.4 ***Evidence Report for LDP2:*** Consultation closes on 17th September  14.5 ***Tree and*** ***Woodland Strategy:*** Consultationcloses on 31st August  14.6 ***Beach footprint signs:*** There had been no further progress with the replacement signs. |  |
| **15 Date of Next Meeting** | The date of the next meeting would be on Tuesday 5th September 2023 at 7.30 pm the Community Centre. |  |