**Royal Burgh of North Berwick Community Council**

**Minutes of Meeting held at 19.30 on**

**Tuesday 5th September 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, Jim Goodfellow, Kirsty Towler, Alison Clark, Eddie Clark, Brett Walker, Sharon Wellwood, Jane Ogden-Smith & ELHSCP team, a member of the public 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 12th in person meeting of the Community Council. |  |
| **2 Apologies** | ELC Cllrs Jeremy Finlay & Carol McFarlane and Doug Haig |  |
| **3 East Lothian Health & Social Care partnership Presentation** | 3.1 Jane Ogden-Smith, Equalities and Engagement Officer, East Lothian Health and Social Care Partnership (ELHSCP) and her team were invited to address the meeting ‘On planning older people’s services in East Lothian’.  3.2 The aim was to work with communities to collectively identify possible options to support the development of high quality sustainable services for older people in East Lothian.  3.3 It was already known that (a) people want to stay at home; (b) early intervention should be a priority for future service expansion and financial investment; (c) there was sufficient hospital provision; (d) there was still a need for care homes in East Lothian.  3.4 The influencing factors to be considered were population growth, deprivation, staffing, finances and wider factors.  3.5 The challenges to be faced were intermediate care, palliative care, hospital beds, care at home, care home beds and minor injuries units.  3.6 There was a full and frank discussion about the loss of care beds and the minor injuries unit (MIU) 24/7 in the Edington. It was conceded that 14% of those treated in the MIU at the Edington had been children. The group was working with the GPs on sourcing more palliative care beds and they understood that the GPs were delivering MIU care (which they were not). |  |
| **4 Previous Minutes** | Subject to Alison Clark’s name being added to ‘Also present’, adoption of the Minutes of the meeting held on 1st August, which had been circulated previously, was proposed by Cllr Lockhart-Hunter and seconded by Cllr McKee, |  |
| **5 Matters Arising** | 5.1 ***4.1*** ***Glasclune Shelter:*** No further progress.  5.2 ***9.1 Short term holiday lets:***  The Chairman had written to Keith Dingwall regarding a meeting to explain ELC’s policy on the subject and had been informed that he, along with ELC Cllr Hampshire and the Provost, would be attending a private meeting of the North Berwick Environment & Heritage Trust, which was not open to the public, to discuss the matter. He would continue to pursue him for a meeting with the Community Council.  5.3 ***14.2 North Berwick signs:*** The Dunbar Road sign frame had been repainted and was ready for the new sign to be added. The Dirleton Road sign had had one coat of paint but water had got into one of the support poles and would have to be drained and repaired before completion. Work was still required to the Haddington Road sign.  5.4 ***Tree and Woodland Strategy:*** Cllr Cottrell confirmed she had submitted the Community Council’s response to the consultation. |  |
| **6 Police Report** | 6.1 This month’s abbreviated police report, which had been circulated beforehand, was taken as read.  6.2 It was noted that the missing North Berwick person had still not been included in the report. PC Dalziel had been asked to explain why.  6.3 At the last CAPP meeting on 23rd August the agreed priorities were (a) youth anti social behaviour at St Adrian’s Church in Gullane and (b) youth anti social behaviour in the Lodge Grounds.  6.4 The issue of vaping had been discussed and the community warden had been asked to speak to the school. It appeared, however, that the problem stemmed from adults buying vapes for children.  6.5 The community warden had been dealing with anti social behaviour at the Glasclune shelter. He was asked to check out the alleged glue sniffing taking place there.  6.6 The next CAPP meeting would be on 4th October. |  |
| **7 Planning matters** | 7.1 The August 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 –  ***Certificate of lawfulness for an existing use short term holiday let –*** 21 Victoria Road,3 Lorne Square***,*** 39 Victoria Road***,*** 9 St Andrew Street and Flat 3/2 Nungate Road  ***Change of use of flat to short term holiday let (retrospective)* –** Lower Deck, 10B Marine Parade**,** 58 High Street**,** 9 Melbourne Road and 2A Forth Street Lane  ***The Lobster Shack, The Harbour, Victoria Road*** – siting of snack bar, erection of storage cage, canopy with seating area and repositioning of 2 benches (retrospective)  ***11 Forth Street*** –replacement windows and door  ***15 Forth Street*** – replacement windows and door  ***Limetree House, 9B Westerdunes Park*** – erectionof conservatory  ***3 Redside Farm Cottages, Whitekirk –*** installation of oil tank; [LBC] alterations to building  ***19A Marmion Road –*** replacement windows  ***Car park East Road –*** display of advertisement (retrospective)  ***Station Car park –*** display of advertisements (retrospective)  ***39, 43A & 43B Westgate –*** alterations to flats  7.3 The following new applications were viewed, discussed and commented on as follows –  ***Scottish Seabird Centre -*** after discussion it was agreed not to comment on the planning application for the display of 15 advertising signs  ***The Wheelhouse, May Terrace –*** after discussion it was agreed not to comment on the retrospective planning application for the erection of wall, gates and piers  ***Land southwest of North Berwick High School, Grange Road –*** after discussion, which included strong representations against the proposals from NBHS Parent Council members, it was agreed not to comment on the planning application for change of use of agricultural land for the formation of 2 sports pitches and associated works at this stage but that the Chairman should write to ELC pointing out that removing the hedge appeared to be contrary to their Tree and Woodland Strategy and that the petition should not be ignored. It had also been suggested that the pitches could be provided without removing the hedge and that this should be explored further. [*Note: Cllr McKee declared an interest in this item*.]  7.4 Decisions since last meeting –  ***12 Melbourne Place –*** replacement windows – **granted**  ***Heugh Reservoir –*** alterations to building, erection of walls, formation of steps and hardstanding area – **granted**  ***Pointgarry House, 20B West Bay Road –*** change of use of flat to short term holiday let – **granted**  ***9A Fidra Road –*** erection of garden room, formation of hardstanding area, erection of fencing and gates – **granted**  ***1 Quadrant –*** replacement widows – **granted**  ***13 Melbourne Place –*** installation of roof light – **granted**  ***3 Marine Parade –*** change of use of flat to short term holiday let accommodation (retrospective) - **granted**  ***2E Kirk Ports –*** change of use of flat to short term holiday let – **refused**  ***4 Bramerton Court, 27 Dirleton Avenue –*** change of use of flat to short term holiday let (retrospective) - **refused**  ***23 Quality Street –*** installation of mural - **granted**  ***Seafield, 10A Forth Street –*** certificate of lawfulness for existing use short term holiday let – **granted**  ***1 Creel Court –*** change of use of flat to short term holiday let (retrospective)– **refused** |  |
| **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 (no refund); £38 to the Secretary for the Minutes; £60 for SumUp bundle for card payments; £60.43 in re-imbursement for BBQ food; £16.99 in re-imbursement for BBQ fuel; £54 to Booth Creative for petition signs; and £600 in re-imbursement of blacksmith costs for work on road signs.  8.2 The unknown BGC of £120 from ELC was repaid as it should have gone to the Community Centre. |  |
| **9 Child Care** | 9.1 Cllrs Lockhart-Hunter & Benson were planning to set up a survey with parents on nursery provision in the town.  9.2 Cllr Lockhart-Hunter had written to Nicola McDowell regarding the future of the Pumpkin Patch Nursery.  9.3 There were problems at the Law Nursery with no parking, no kitchen facilities and the infants having to be fed after the primary school children which was unacceptable. |  |
| **10 Parking Consultation Outcome** | 10.1 The Chairman reported that the petitions had been handed over at John Muir House on 21st August.  10.2 The Chairman had been summoned to Haddington to meet the Provost on 11th September.  10.3 It was agreed to hold an emergency public meeting.  10.4 Cllr Cottrell commented that the Community Council had a duty to represent all groups. It was felt that it was doing so. |  |
| **11 Area Partnership** | 11.1 Cllr Benson reported on the meeting held on 29th August as follows -   1. A membership survey was to be carried out the result of which would be discussed at the Partnership AGM on 24th October. 2. Members had been reminded the deadline for public engagement on the Local Development Plan was 17th September. 3. There had been a presentation by the ELHSCP. 4. Of the remaining budget of £28,000, £15,600 had been spent so far.   11.2 The Community Council’s application for a grant of £5,000 towards the cost of the Local Place Plan had been approved as had the Area Partnership’s application for a grant of £1,285 for preparation of an active and sustainable travel action plan for the ward. |  |
| **12 Local Place Plan** | 12.1 Cllr McKee reported that the project was now fully funded.  12.2 The steering group would be meeting later that week to take matters forward.  12.3 Planning Aid Scotland had revised the proposals and the arrangements were now to be formalised.  12.4 It had been decided not to participate in the Consultation on the Evidence Report for LDP2 which was due to close on 17th September as a Local Place Plan was being prepared. |  |
| **13 Edington Cottage Hospital** | There was nothing further to report. |  |
| **14 Fringe by the Sea** | 14.1 Cllr Smith, as a resident of St Baldred’s Road, commented that although the event had been a great success there had been problems and in her view the event had become too big for the infrastructure to cope with. The main points were -   1. *A lack of engagement with the local community*: Nuisance did not stop in the middle of St Baldred’s Road. Although residents on the north side of the road had received letters they did not contain any information on how to complain. 2. *Parking*: There was dangerous parking on the corners of St Baldred’s Crescent and Lady Jane Road. It was dangerous for residents on the south side of the road exiting their driveways because of the blocked line of sight. There was inconsiderate parking making it difficult for residents exiting their driveways without scrapping their cars. There was no sign of parking attendants. The problem had been further compounded by the Highland Games being held on the last Saturday. 3. *Noise*: Despite assurances beforehand that sound levels would be monitored, the sound level for the Travis concert was unacceptably high and Peat & Diesel wasn’t much better.   14.2 It was noted that there had been problems with access for people with mobility issues.  14.3 There had been several incidents of distressed dogs locked in unventilated cars.  14.4 It was noted that some areas of the Lodge Grounds needed to be re-turfed and re-seeded. |  |
| **15 Correspondence** | 15.1 E-mail regarding proposed development at East Fortune Farm – a ‘heads up’ that a small group composed mainly of farmers was opposing the development of a new family park at East Fortune Farm and would be looking for support from further afield once the planning application was registered.  15.2 E-mail from a High Street resident regarding *inter alia* the deterioration of the County Hotel building. Cllr Lockhart-Hunter undertook to contact Star Inns. Councillors also expressed concern about the state of the Golf Hotel on Dirleton Avenue.  15.3 E-mail from resident regarding parking at the west end of St Baldred’s Road. |  |
| **16 Any other competent business** | 16.1 ***Christmas Lights switch-on*** **–** This would be taking place at 5.30 pm on 25th November. Cllr Benson was looking for volunteers to help on the night. |  |
| **17 Date of Next Meeting** | The date of the next meeting would be on Tuesday 3rd October 2023 at 7.30 pm the Community Centre. |  |