**Royal Burgh of North Berwick Community Council**

**Minutes of Meeting held at 19.30 on**

**Tuesday 3rd October 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, Doug Haig, Sally & Eddie Egan, Duncan Fraser, Keith Barbour, Bev Gilhooley, Tim Hield, Brett Walker, Fiona Imrie (via zoom), Iona Imrie (via zoom) Katie Macgregor (via zoom), Magnus Falk (via zoom) 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 13th in person meeting of the Community Council. |  |
| **2 Apologies** | ELC Cllr Carol McFarlane |  |
| **3 Scottish Water - Presentation** | 3.1 Adam Warner, Scott Fraser and Fraser Simpson of Scottish Water explained that to help protect and enhance North Berwick coastal waters, Scottish Water planned to invest in a new waste water treatment works.  3.2 Due to the age of the current site (built in 1995) and a need for more layers of treatment, the existing works was coming to the end of its serviceable life. The plan was to build a new works in a new location in farmland to the east of the town. New pipes would be needed to serve the works and new pumps and infrastructure would be installed within the existing works on Tantallon Terrace.  3.3 The population threshold of 11,000 served currently would be increased to 13,000.  3.4 It was agreed that strategic key tree planting around the site would be implemented at the start of the project.  3.5 It was pointed out that the proposed site could be prone to flooding and would require further investigation.  3.6 No increase in noise was anticipated. |  |
| **4 Previous Minutes** | Adoption of the Minutes of the meeting held on 5th September, which had been circulated previously, was proposed by Cllr Johnstone and seconded by Cllr Lockhart-Hunter |  |
| **5 Matters Arising** | 5.1 ***5.1*** ***Glasclune Shelter:*** There was no further progress to report though the Rotary Club and North Berwick Environment & Heritage Trust now seemed to be involved in trying to find a solution.  5.2 ***5.3 North Berwick signs:*** There was nothing further to report.  5.3 ***15.2 County Hotel:*** There had been no response from Star Inns. Cllr Lockhart-Hunter would continue to press for answers. |  |
| **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 11th October.  6.3 It was agreed to raise at the meeting speeding on Haddington Road outside the Primary School, anti social behaviour at lunchtime outside the chippie and the Co-op and police station closures concerns. |  |
| **7 Planning matters** | 7.1 The September 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 –*** 22A St Andrew Street, Flat 1, 1 Station Road, 29 Victoria Road, 14 Melbourne Road, 18A Victoria Road, 8 Victoria Road, 2 Lorne Square, 3 Church Road, 2 Milsey Court, and 35A Quality Street.  ***Change of use of flat to short term holiday let* –** 8 Forth Street Lane  ***30 Lady Jane Gardens –*** extensions, raising roof of house and formation of raised decking with steps and handrails  ***Loanfern, 8A Westerdunes Park –*** alterations, extension to house, formation of hard standing, decked areas and erection of gates and garden room  7.3 The following new application was viewed, discussed and commented on as follows –  ***Garden ground to rear of 1A West Bay Road –*** after discussion, which included critical comments from a neighbour, it was agreed not to comment on what appeared to be a resubmission of the previous planning application for the erection of 1 house, formation of dropped kerb and parking area and associated works but to write to ELC asking whether (a) the infill constituted overdevelopment of the plot, (b) the substantial overshadowing of the neighbouring house and garden set a bad precedent and (c) the infill enhanced, or at least preserved, the character of the Conservation Area.  7.4 Decisions since last meeting –  ***Seafield, 10 Forth Street –*** alterations and extensions to flat, formation of second floor balcony – **granted**  ***Seafield, 10 Forth Street –*** certificate oflawfulness for existing use short term holiday let **- granted**  ***19A Marmion Road –*** replacement windows ***–* granted**  ***3 Lorne Square –*** certificate of lawfulness for existing use short term holiday let – **granted**  ***39 Victoria Road –*** certificate of lawfulness for existing use short term holiday let – **granted**  ***Gilsland Lodge, Kingston –*** erection of garage – **granted**  ***13 Westgate –*** replacement of existing roof slates – **granted**  ***10 Cromwell Road –*** certificate of lawfulness for existing use holiday short term let holiday let – **granted**  ***24 Rhodes Park –*** erection of porch and heightening of roof – **granted**  ***The Lodge Grounds, East Road –*** erection of fence (retrospective) – **granted**  ***15-17 High Street (County Hotel) –*** erection of signage (LBC); display of advertisements (ADV) - LBC **granted,** nothing for ADV yet  ***39, 43A & 43B Westgate –*** alterations to flats – **granted**  ***61 Westgate –*** alterations to flat – **granted**  ***1 & 1A York Road –*** repainting of walls, stone surrounds and windows of flats – **granted**  ***24 Marmion Road –*** alterations to flat and associated works – **granted**  ***Kersland, 11 Marine Parade-*** formation of hardstanding areas, steps, walls and installation of EV charge point – **granted**  ***The Harbour, Victoria Road (Lobster Shack) –*** siting of snack bar, erection of storage cage, canopy with seating area and repositioning of 2 benches – **granted**  ***10 Priory Wynd –*** alterations to flat and formation of steps (retrospective) – **granted**  ***Gilsland Caravan Site, Kingston –*** s42 application to vary condition 1 of planning permission 16/00636/P – **granted**  ***21 Victoria Road –*** certificate of lawfulness for existing use short term holiday let – **granted**  ***The Wheelhouse, May Terrace-*** erection of wall, gates and piers (retrospective) - **granted**  ***Flat 3, 2 Nungate Road –*** certificate of lawfulness for existing use short term holiday let – **refused** due to lack of evidence of letting history  ***8D Kirk Ports –*** change of use of flat to short term holiday let (retrospective) – **refused** to protect amenity of other residents  ***13 Lady Jane Gardens –*** extension to house, formation of steps and handrails – **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; £38 to the Secretary for the Minutes; £150 for PR for petitions; £75 for photos of petitions’ handover. |  |
| **9 Parking Consultation Outcome** | 9.1 The Chairman confirmed that the TRO deadline had been extended to 22nd October.  9.2 A public meeting would be held at 7.30 pm in St Andrew Blackadder Church on 10th October.  9.3 It was noted that apparently amendments were being made to the plans which was confusing and should not be done.  9.4 Concern was raised by residents in Tantallon Terrace about the proposed experimental traffic regulation order to manage campervan parking at the Haugh car park as no public consultation prior to its introduction was required.  9.5 A deeply concerning e-mail had been received from ELC’s Ian Lennock ‘with a progress report on the project to improve safety and equitable access to the High Street.’ An external consultant was undertaking the detailed design of the first phase of the works which would be completed in December and shared prior to construction taking place between January and March.  9.6 The Chairman had complained about the poorly communicated and confusing e-mail to Allan Stubbs, Head of Roads who had re-assured him it was simply an update.  9.7 There seemed to be some doubt as to whether the petitions could be re-submitted after 22nd October. |  |
| **10 Area Partnership** | 10.1 Cllr Benson commented there was nothing to report.  10.2 The AGM was to be held on 24th October. |  |
| **11 Local Place Plan** | 11.1 Cllr McKee provided a brief update on the Local Place Plan (LPP).  11.2 All funding had been secured and a contract agreed with Planning Aid Scotland (PAS) for them to commence work in December 2023 to complete the LPP for submission to East Lothian Council in May 2024 so it could inform the work on the next Local Development Plan.  11.3 The LPP Steering Group would be working to ensure arrangements were in place for PAS to "hit the ground running” when they start.  11.4 The North Berwick Trust (NBT) had commissioned South of Scotland Community Housing to carry out a Housing Need and Demand Assessment.  Discussions had taken place to clarify the scope of this work so that data could be available to inform the Local Place Plan as well as any proposals NBT might have for individual community led housing projects. |  |
| **12 Edington Cottage Hospital** | 12.1 Cllr Lockhart-Hunter reported that she and the Chairman had had a very disappointing meeting with Paul McLennan MSP and Fiona Wilson & Laura Kerr of ELHSCP.  12.2 They had asked if the staffing problem was resolved would beds be brought back but no straight answer was given. There were other considerations to be taken into account as the Edington had CTAC and was a vaccine centre. What was best for the whole area had to be considered.  12.3 It was re-iterated that there was a minor injuries facility at the GP surgery which was allegedly working well. When Cllr Lockhart-Hunter raised the concerns which the GPs had raised, they were dismissed.  12.4 They were asked to provide data about the number of children who had attended the MIU but they did not sound positive about providing it. They then said it had been sent to the Chairman which he could not find and doubted it had been sent.  12.5 The two palliative care beds at the Abbey were apparently working well and meeting demand. It was reiterated that people wanted to die at home. |  |
| **13 Remembrance Sunday** | 13.1 Cllr Smith confirmed that the Town Service would be held at St Andrew Blackadder Church at 10.45 am followed by the wreath laying and Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial at 12 noon.  13.2 She was to have a remote meeting with SAG regarding the event on 10th October.  13.3 Invitations to the participating organisations were about to be sent out.  13.4 Cllr Johnstone was chief marshal and was looking for some more volunteers.  13.5 The new Parade Marshal would be Sgt Alanah Walker as the excellent Sgt Gear had moved on.  13.6 There was a discussion as to whether the Community Council should provide a wreath for the veterans. This was deferred to a private meeting. |  |
| **14 Co-option** | 14.1 Cllr Watson proposed and was seconded by Cllr Macnair that Jim Goodfellow be co-opted on to the Community Council.    14.2 The proposal was unanimously agreed and Jim Goodfellow was delighted to accept. |  |
| **15 Correspondence** | 15.1 E-mail regarding the first meeting of the Heat Network Steering Group – Cllr Cottrell gave a brief report on the background to the project which had been initiated by Martin Hayman who works in developing a Heat & Energy Efficiency Strategy within the planning department of ELC. He thinks and is building a case for a substantial heat network for much of East Lothian and beyond. |  |
| **16 Any other competent business** | 16.1 Application for variation to provisional license for ***Wine Wednesdays*** to add deliveries and online sales of alcohol to operating plan – no comment  16.2 Application for variation of license for ***Lobster Shack*** to change license from seasonal to all year – no comment  16.3 Application for provisional premises license for ***Tiffin Box*** for off sales with food deliveries – no comment  16.4 ***Calder Cup*** – it was agreed that an additional plinth for the trophy should be obtained at a cost of £90.  16.5 ***Time of meetings*** - as the Community Centre required meetings to end by 9.00 pm it was suggested that they should start at 7.00 pm. However, this could be problematic for some members.  16.6 ***Eddie McFadzean –*** he had been the subject of a recent One Show tribute. It was agreed to write to him in recognition of his efforts in the local community.  16.7 ***Complaint to NHS Lothian -*** Cllr Lockhart-Hunter had complained to NHS Lothian about being given someone else’s personal medical records when her daughter was referred to the Sick Kids by ELCH.  16.8 ***Christmas Lights –*** It was agreed to transfer £5,000 to the Christmas Lights account.  16.9 ***North Berwick Youth Project –*** Cllr Martin had attended the AGM and was surprised and humbled by the amount of work that Lauren Cowie and her team do. With the increased workload over the last five years they were literally saving lives of young people in the area. It was agreed to write to Lauren to acknowledge her work. |  |
| **17 Date of Next Meeting** | The date of the next meeting would be on Tuesday 7th November 2023 at 7.30 pm the Community Centre. |  |