**Royal Burgh of North Berwick Community Council**

**Minutes of Meeting held at 19.30 on**

**Tuesday 7th November 2023**

**In the Community Centre, Law Road**

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

**Also present:** ELC Cllr Jeremy Findlay, Jim Goodfellow, Kirsty Towler, Cath Paxton & 2 residents in Clifford Road, Tony Thomas

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| **Agenda item** | **Discussion** | **Action** |
| **1 Welcome** | The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming all to the 14th in person meeting of the Community Council. |  |
| **2 Apologies** | ELC Cllrs Carol McFarlane & Liz Allan, Doug Haig, Gregor Millar (local press) |  |
| **3 Leuchie at Home - presentation** | 3.1 Sally McGuinnes, coordinator for the new befriending service Leuchie at Home which is based at Leuchie House, gave a short presentation.  3.2 The service started in July 2022 in partnership with East Lothian Health & Social Care Partnership and involves visiting people with a neurological condition for a couple of hours a week to allow their partner or carer to do the things they need to do.  3.3 They are now in the process of recruiting volunteer befrienders for this very rewarding role. A volunteer would visit someone for 2 hours each week on a weekday, either morning or afternoon. The volunteer would be closely matched with a person who had similar interests. During a visit the volunteer would chat and reminisce with the person, help with hobbies, crosswords, watch TV or go for a walk in the local area. The partner or carer would use this time to relax, meet a friend, go to an appointment, collect a prescription, do shopping or catch up with gardening. They really value this time and it makes a real difference to their week.  3.4 The area which is supported is from Port Seton to Dunbar. This role is ideally suited to volunteers who have their own transport (although not essential), have some life experience, are friendly, chatty, would like to make a difference to people’s lives and are over 21 years of age. Expenses will be reimbursed and full training will be provided. |  |
| **4 Previous Minutes** | Adoption of the Minutes of the meeting held on 3rd October, which had been circulated previously, was proposed by Cllr Benson and seconded by Cllr Hamilton |  |
| **5 Matters Arising** | 5.1. ***3 Scottish Water:*** It was noted that there would be another information drop-in session on 9th November from 3.30 pm till 7.00 pm in the Community Centre.  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.  5.4 ***16.5 Time of meetings:*** It had been decided to keep with the current arrangements for the monthly meetings.  5.5 ***16.7 Complaint to NHS:*** As Cllr Lockhart-Hunter had received an unsatisfactory response to her complaint she had referred the matter to the Ombudsman. |  |
| **6 Police Report** | 6.1 This month’s abbreviated police report, which had been circulated beforehand, was taken as read.  6.2 At the last CAPP meeting on 11th October the agreed priorities were (a) speeding on A198 near Aberlady Primary School, (b) speeding on the A198 in Gullane and (c) speeding on Haddington Road near Law Primary School.  6.3 Cllr McKee queried at what time the speed checks had been taken on Haddington Road as he had witnessed speeding on a number of occasions during the day.  6.3 Anti social behaviour at lunchtime outside the chippie and the Co-op had been raised. The community warden undertook to investigate the situation.  6.4 It was agreed to raise the issue of bullying at the skatepark and anti social behaviour at Hallowe’en at the next meeting.  6.5 A small group of Clifford Road residents expressed concern at the level of speeding in the road and the vibrations to their properties caused by vehicles going over potholes and bumps at speed. It was agreed to raise the speeding issue at the next CAPP meeting. ELC Cllr Findlay would take up with the ELC Roads Department the condition of the road.  6.6 The next CAPP meeting would be on 22nd November. |  |
| **7 Planning matters** | 7.1 The October 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 –*** 112A High Street, 5 Eastfield Court, Marine Parade, 1 Eastfield Court, Marine Parade, Breakwater, 17 Melbourne Road, 61 Westgate, & 4 Milsey Court  ***Change of use of flat to short term holiday let* –**Starboard View, 2 Eastfield Court, Marine Parade, 2 Pointgarry Road, & 71A High Street  ***4 Rhodes Cottages –*** extension to house, formation of dormers, 1st floor balcony with handrails and raised terrace with handrails (part retrospective)  ***53 Forth Street –*** alterations to flat  ***Flat 4 12 Dirleton Avenue –*** alterations to flat  ***Cowrie Cottage, 3 Victoria Road –*** formation of pedestrian access, erection of gate, shed and outdoor shower unit with screen, part demolition of wall  ***118 Lochbridge Road –*** change of use of grass verge to form vehicular access, extension to house and formation of hard standing and decked area  ***11 Ben Sayers Park –*** extension to house  ***72 Douglas Marches –*** extension to house  ***31 Craigleith Avenue –*** erection of porch  ***3 Priory Gate, Glenorchy Road –*** formation of dormers  7.3 The following new applications were viewed, discussed and commented on as follows –  ***80 High Street –*** after discussion it was agreed to defer commenting on the CAC application for the demolition of a building, wall and gates until the full planning application had been submitted.  ***Upper Tantallon, 4A Marine Parade –*** after discussion it was agreed not to comment on the planning application for replacement windows.  7.4 Decisions since last meeting –  ***Certificates of lawfulness for existing use short term holiday lets –*** 3 Church Road, 35A Quality Street, 9 St Andrew Street, & 2 Lorne Square – **granted**  ***Lower Deck, 10B Marine Parade –*** change of use of flat to short term holiday let (retrospective) – **refused**  ***58 High Street –*** change of use of flat to short term holiday let (retrospective) – **granted**  ***9 Melbourne Road –*** change of use of flat to short term holiday let (retrospective) – **granted**  ***2A Forth Street Lane –*** change of use of flat to short term holiday let (retrospective) - **refused**  ***3 Redside Farm Cottages, Whitekirk –*** installation of oil tank; alterations to building - **granted**  ***Car Park, East Road –*** display of advertisement (SSC) (retrospective) – **granted**  ***Station Car Park, Station Court –*** display of advertisement (SSC) (retrospective) – **granted**  ***11 Forth Street –*** replacement windows and door – **refused**  ***15 Forth Street –*** replacement windows and door – **refused**  ***Limetree House, 9B Westerdunes Park –*** erection of conservatory - **granted**  ***3 Lorne Square –*** erection of shed – **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; £60 for engraving Calder & Crawford Cups; £338.58 for tabards; £120 to Tall Hut for quarterly website maintenance fee; £11.99 to BWF for website hosting fee; £14.99 for laser pointer; £14.99 for paint for benches; £68.75 to St Andrew Blackadder for rental of sanctuary for public meeting.  8.2 An unknown BGC of £5,000 from ELC had been received and would require further investigation. |  |
| **9 Parking Consultation Outcome** | 9.1 The Chairman reported that Duncan Fraser, Jeff Knight and John Reglinski, a data analyst, were now on board scrutinizing the income calculations produced by ELC. The projected income from the CPZs seemed to be overestimated and did not add up.  9.2 There was to be a meeting with Peter Forsyth on 13th November.  9.3 The Chairman had sent a complaint to ELC about Ian Lennock’s email regarding his update on the east end of the High Street, but the only response he had had was to ask for a delay in timescales as Mr Lennock was on holiday. |  |
| **10 Area Partnership** | 10.1 Cllr Benson commented that the AGM had been held on 24th October but she had been unable to attend.  10.2 The next meeting was on 14th November. |  |
| **11 Local Place Plan** | 11.1 Cllr McKee confirmed that work on the Local Place Plan would kick off at the beginning of December with a meeting on the 5th.  11.2 North Berwick Trust was parking the housing survey at the moment.  11.3 The steering group would be meeting shortly to get everything together for December, identifying groups to contribute and producing a leaflet to deliver. |  |
| **12 Edington Cottage Hospital** | 12.1 Cllr Lockhart-Hunter reported that Lindsay Wood of NHS Lothian would be holding a meeting in November/December to discuss healthcare provision in North Berwick. |  |
| **13 Remembrance Sunday** | 13.1 Cllr Smith confirmed that following the SAG meeting on 10th October all arrangements for the day were well in hand.  13.2 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.  13.3 Lord Lieutenant Roderick Urquhart would be in attendance.  13.4 The Chairman agreed to read one of the readings at the Church service. |  |
| **14 Correspondence** | 14.1 E-mail from North Berwick Harbour Trust (NBHT) requesting a letter of support for grant applications. This had been dealt with by the Chairman.  14.2 E-mail from NBHT regarding raising funds for strengthening works generally around the harbour and requesting a donation. After discussion it was agreed to make a donation of £4,000, split equally from the Resilience Fund and NBCC Local Priorities.  14.3 E-mail from a Blackadder Crescent resident regarding maintenance of the new path connecting Ferrygate/Gasworks Lane with Williamston Court. ELC Cllr Findlay would check with ELC regarding the status of the path.  14.4 E-mail from Sustainable Transport Officer regarding *inter alia* a North Berwick Coastal Ward Active & Sustainable Travel Plan (circulated).  14.5 E-mail regarding the application for development of a Family Park at East Fortune and another from the objector helping with publicity enquiring if the Community Council had discussed the proposals and had a view. It was agreed that as the application was not in the Community Council’s area it should not get involved.  14.6 E-mail regarding My Place Awards to celebrate projects and people that work to improve places and communities – deadline for entries 14th January. |  |
| **15 Any other competent business** | 15.1 ***Resilience –*** Cllr Watson had attended a Resilience meeting at which ELC updated what was happening. It was confirmed that the Community Council’s Resilience Plan needed to be updated.  15.2 ***Journey Hubs –*** Cllr McKee had attended a meeting on 24th October attended by representatives from 17 community councils to discuss ELC taking a joined up approach to public and sustainable transport and working to create high profile interchanges across the county. He explained that a Journey Hub was a high profile location providing public, shared and active travel options alongside other useful amenities often built on existing and established network nodes such as bus and railway stations.  15.3 ***AELCC –*** The Chairman reported that he would be taking over the Chair at the Association’s AGM on 15th November.  15.4 ***Footprint signs –*** The Chairman was still trying to find a solution to the size of the signs with Drem Timber.  15.5 ***Harbour Trust Association –*** There would be a public meeting at 7.00 pm on 14th November in the Hope Rooms to discuss the damage caused to the harbour resulting from the recent storm.  15.6 ***Quiet Way*** - ***Gilsland to Kingston* -** The On the Move Group was seeking support from the Community Council to identify the road from Gilsland to Kingston as a ‘quiet way’. It was noted that at present there was no legislation in Scotland covering this and the equivalent to what was in England would be needed before it could be enforced. |  |
| **16 Date of Next Meeting** | The date of the next meeting would be on Tuesday 5th December 2023 at 7.30 pm in the Community Centre. |  |