**Royal Burgh of North Berwick Community Council**

**Minutes of Meeting held at 19.30 on**

**Tuesday 5th December 2023**

**in the Hope Rooms, Forth Street**

**Present:**  Kenny Miller (Chairman), Kathryn Smith (Secretary), Christiane Maher (Treasurer) (via zoom), Peter Hamilton, Bill Macnair, Ian Watson, Mairi Benson (via zoom), Jacq Cottrell, & Liz Martin

**Also present:** ELC Cllr Jeremy Findlay, Jim Goodfellow, Kirsty Towler (via zoom), Jackie Shuttleworth & Rory Steel (FbtS) 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 15th in person meeting (since Covid) of the Community Council.  |  |
| **2 Apologies** | ELC Cllr Carol McFarlane, Cllrs George Johnstone, Don McKee & Judy Lockhart-Hunter  |  |
| **3 Fringe by the Sea - Presentation** | 3.1 Jackie Shuttleworth and Rory Steel gave an update on the success of the 2023 event which ran from 4th to 13th August.* There had been 74,750 visitors, up 30% on the previous year with 1/3 from North Berwick and 1/3 from East Lothian. 74% were returning visitors and 26% were new.
* It had the biggest programme with over 250 events.
* The economic benefit to the county was £7.3m
* Over 100 pieces of media coverage had been secured.
* £7,000 had been raised for local charities.
* The Thistle Award for Outstanding Cultural Events had been won.

3.2 The proposed date for the 2024 event was 2nd to 11th August and matters to be taken into account were –* focused traffic management planning with ELC to avoid the problems of this year
* provision of additional public transport services and encouraging use by visitors
* improved community relations with letters being sent out to those immediately affected in January
* sustainability and management of waste
* involving community groups in creative arts
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| **4 Previous Minutes** | Adoption of the Minutes of the meeting held on 7th November, which had been circulated previously, was proposed by Cllr Cottrell and seconded by Cllr Martin |  |
| **5 Matters Arising** | 5.1 ***5.2 North Berwick signs:*** The new Dirleton Road and Tantallon Road signs had been put up. The Haddington Road sign would be put up when weather permits.5.2 ***15.3 County Hotel:*** There was nothing further to report.5.3 ***13 Remembrance Sunday:*** Cllr Smith reported that everything had gone well with a bigger turn-out for the parades and services. She thanked Cllr Johnstone for organising the stewarding on the day.5.4 ***14.3 Ferrygate/Gasworks Lane to Williamston Court path maintenance:*** ELC Cllr Findlay commented that there was confusion in ELC as to who was responsible for the maintenance of the path. He would continue to press for an answer.5.5 ***15.5 North Berwick Harbour Trust Association:*** Engineers’ reports and costs were awaited. In the meantime, ancillary work around the harbour was being carried out by volunteers.5.6 ***15.6 Quiet Way – Gilsland to Kingston:*** Cllr Macnair reported that Gullane Community Council had rejected the proposal. |  |
| **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 22nd November anti social behaviour at the Glasclune shelter and speeding on Clifford Road was raised.6.2 The Community Warden had been at the shelter recently and had spoken to some boys gathered there. They were perfectly pleasant and there was no sign of any drug detritus. He and PC Dalziel would monitor the situation.6.3 PC Dalziel undertook to speak to the Clifford Road residents about speeding but had been unsuccessful in contacting anyone to date.6.4 Speed checks on Haddington Road were carried out at different times of the day but as soon as the police were spotted the traffic slowed down anyway.6.5 The Community Warden confirmed that there had been no evidence of anti social behaviour in the town at lunch time.6.6 The police were aware of the bullying at the skate park which had been dealt with.6.7 The next CAPP meeting would be on 10th January. The agreed priorities were anti social behaviour in Gullane and North Berwick including the Glasclune shelter |  |
| **7 Planning matters** | 7.1 The November 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 –***38A High Street, 14 Balfour Street, 16A Balfour Street, 15A Balfour Street, 25 Westgate, 25A Melbourne Place, 2 Inchgarry Court, Links Road, flat 3, 2 Nungate Road***Change of use of flat to short term holiday let* –** 55 High Street, 59 Westgate (retro)***The Coach House, 21 Westgate –*** erection of gate and fencing***18 York Road –*** installation of gas meter***Oakwood, Hamilton Road –*** alterations, extensions to house, formation of dormers and hardstanding area***34 High Street –*** display of advertisement***East Lothian Yacht Club, 36-40 Victoria Road*** – siting of mobile snack bar for temporary period of 6 months from 1st April to 30th September***11 Glasclune Gardens –*** replacement windows and doors***Land south of 4 Rhodes Holdings –*** extension and conversion of existing building to form holiday let accommodation and associated works***15 Westgate –*** alterations to flat (retrospective)7.3 The following new application was viewed, discussed and commented on as follows – ***80 High Street –*** after discussion it was agreed not to comment on the planning application for the alterations to building, erection of 5 flats and associated works but to ask that a condition be included that the flats should not be used as short term lets.7.4 Decisions since last meeting –***Certificates of lawfulness for existing use short term holiday lets –*** 22A St Andrew Street, Flat 1/1 Station Road, 14 Melbourne Road, 18A Victoria Road, 29 Victoria Road, 8 Victoria Road, 2 Milsey Court, Breakwater, 17 Melbourne Road, 5 Eastfield Court, Marine Parade, 1 Eastfield Court, Marine Parade – **granted*****61 Westgate* -** certificate of lawfulness for existinguse short term holiday let**– refused** due tolack of evidence for 10 years let***Change of use of flat to short term holiday let –*** 71AHigh Street, 2 Pointgarry Road – **granted*****8*** ***Forth Street Lane -*** change of use of flat to shortterm holiday let (retrospective) - **refused*****32 Marmion Road –*** alterations to house and erection of shed – **granted*****30 Lady Jane Gardens –*** extensions, raising roof of house and formation of raised decking with steps and handrails – **granted*****Loanfern, 8A Westerdunes Park –*** alterations, extension to house, formation of hardstanding, decked areas and erection of gates and garden room – **granted*****Flat 4/12 Dirleton Avenue –*** alterations to flat - **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; £141 re-imbursement for wreaths; £792 to Signman for town signs; £1,399.20 for Local Life; £120 to Tall Hut for Q4 website maintenance fee; £4,661.42 to Christmas Lights account; £4,000 to NBHTA Appeal. 8.2 The payment of £5,000 from ELC had been identified as the Area Partnership grant towards the Local Place Plan costs.8.3 2 payments totaling £67.39 were received from ELC in re-imbursement for wreaths.8.4 The year end accounts had been completed, certified and sent off to ELC. |  |
| **9 Parking Consultation Outcome** | 9.1 The meeting with Peter Forsyth on 13th November was not particularly productive as he had spent a lot of time saying how great the management scheme was.9.2 Questions to Peter Forsyth were to be answered before their next meeting which was to be arranged in December.9.3 There had been no response from ELC regarding the complaint about Ian Lennock’s email on the update on the proposals for the east end of the High Street.9.4 The complaint regarding ELC’s refusal to accept the parking petitions had been referred to the Public Services Ombudsman. |  |
| **10 Area Partnership** | 10.1 Cllr Benson reported that there had been a round up of the year’s activities at the meeting on 14th November.10.2 The delegated road budget for 2023/24 had been paused.10.3 There was an update on the Kindness Co-operative. The budget would be £23,000 less.10.4 The proposed coastal trail was approved.  |  |
| **11 Local Place Plan** | 11.1 Cllr McKee confirmed that work on the Local Place Plan had kicked off at a meeting today with Planning Aid Scotland when how to proceed was discussed.11.2 It was planned to have weekly meetings till the end of January and then regularly till May. |  |
| **12 Edington Cottage Hospital** |  12.1 Cllr Lockhart-Hunter reported that the proposed meeting with Lindsay Wood of NHS Lothian in November/December to discuss healthcare provision in North Berwick had been cancelled because of the temporary closure of the Community Centre. |  |
| **13 North Berwick at Christmas**  | 13.1 Cllr Benson was pleased that the event had been a great success but emphasised it was a team effort.13.2 There had been mainly positive feedback. 13.3 It had been very busy and this would have to be looked at for next year. A survey was out just now.13.4 The traders were very pleased with the footfall. It was good that they were now involved.13.5 Sugar Mountain had won the best widow display.13.6 Cllr Watson’s involvement with the Christmas lights for 50 years was recognised at the switch-on.  |  |
| **14 Correspondence** | 14.1 There was none. |  |
| **15 Any other competent business** | 15.1 It was noted that Gregor Millar was leaving the Courier at the end of the month. |  |
| **16 Date of Next Meeting** | The date of the next meeting would be on Tuesday 9th January 2024 at 7.30 pm in the Community Centre. |  |