**Royal Burgh of North Berwick Community Council**

**Minutes of Meeting held at 19.30 on**

**Tuesday 5th March 2024**

**in the Community Centre, Law Road**

**Present:**  Kenny Miller (Chairman), Kathryn Smith (Secretary), Christiane Maher (Treasurer), Peter Hamilton, Bill Macnair, Ian Watson, George Johnstone, Mairi Benson (via zoom), Don McKee and Sally Egan

**Also present:** ELC Cllrs Jeremy Findlay, Liz Allan & Carol McFarlane, Doug Haig, Kirsty Towler, Alison & Eddie Clark, 2 residents of Barley Brae, Jackie Shuttleworth & Rory Steel (FbtS) and Craig Bathgate (local press)

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| **Agenda item** | **Discussion** | **Action** |
| **1 Welcome** | The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming all to the 18th in person meeting (since Covid) of the Community Council.  |  |
| **2 Apologies** | Cllrs Judy Lockhart-Hunter and Jacq Cottrell |  |
| **3 Fringe by the Sea Update** | 3.1 Jackie Shuttleworth, General Manager accompanied by Festival Director, Rory Steel, gave an update on plans for the 2024 Festival.* They were thrilled with the quality of the talent coming. The full programme would be announced in May
* They were keen on developing community projects with a central hub for connections and encouraging sharing spaces. They were working with North Berwick Youth Project to promote inter-generational mixing.
* They were looking to celebrate the Pagan Festival with a torch light procession from Marine Parade on the first Sunday.
* They were keeping in communication with the Highland Games.
* They were looking at further parking suspensions in Lady Jane Road and Lochbridge Road and suspending parking on both sides of St Baldred’s Road and closing St Baldred’s Crescent for residents’ parking only.
	1. It was suggested there should be a dedicated car park for the event.
	2. It was emphasised that there had to be co-operation between the Police, ELC and Fringe by the Sea and parking arrangements needed to be properly stewarded.
	3. When questioned about damage to the grass in the Lodge they commented that there would be contingency plans in place to protect the grass if the weather was wet.

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| **4 Previous Minutes** | Adoption of the Minutes of the meeting held on 6th February, which had been circulated previously, was proposed by Cllr Johnstone and seconded by Cllr Macnair. |  |
| **5 Matters Arising** | 5.1 ***5.3 On the Move – shuttle bus*** – Cllr Macnair commented that he intended proposing at the On the Move meeting the following evening that it should be a community bus which would cover a wider area of the town. He understood that if it covered a wider area funding would be easier to obtain. |  |
| **6 New Member** | 6.1 The Chairman was pleased to welcome Sally Egan to fill the casual vacancy.6.2 Her appointment was proposed by Cllr Maher and seconded by Cllr Macnair. |  |
| **7 Police Report** | 7.1 This month’s abbreviated police report, which had been circulated beforehand, was taken as read.7.2 At the last CAPP meeting on 21st February PC Dalziel had commented that it had been a very quiet period with only 2 anti-social behaviour incidents in the High Street which, due to a lack of CCTV in the street, the police had been unable to follow up.7.3 PC Dalziel had been unable to make contact with the Clifford Road residents about speeding in the street and suggested they meet her at the police station.7.4 The next CAPP meeting would be on 3rd April. There was no specific priority for North Berwick but the police and community warden would continue to monitor speeding on Haddington Road and youth activity around the Glasclune shelter.7.5 The Chairman asked that the damage to the NBCC notice board at the foot of Law Road be raised at the next meeting. |  |
| **8 Planning matters** | 8.1 The February planning applications were led by Cllr Maher.8.2 The following new applications had been viewed beforehand and, following a brief discussion, no comments were made – ***Change of use of flat to short term holiday let –*** 6A Forth Street Lane (retrospective) and 38A High Street***6 May Terrace –*** extension to house***9 Glasclune Gardens –*** replacement windows anddoors***17 & 45 Victoria Road –*** repainting of building***13 Victoria Road (RNLI shop) –*** alterations to shop front***Lyndhurst, West Dirleton Road –*** extension to house***55 Old Abbey Road –*** s42 application to vary condition 10 of planning permission 14/00717/P to allow use of ancillary building as short-term holiday let (retrospective)***Carrick, Abbotsford Road –*** alterations, extension to house, formation of dormer window, 1st floor roof terrace, erection of garden room and associated works***Harmony House & Harmony Undercroft, Harmony Place, Forth Street –*** alterations, change of use of domestic house to form 1 flat and 1 short-term holiday let (retrospective)8.3 The following new applications were viewed, discussed and commented on as follows –***East Strathearn, 13A York Road –*** after discussion it was agreed not to comment on the planning application for the extension to the house and associated works.***Land South of Tantallon Road –*** after discussion it was agreed not comment on the s42 application to remove condition 10d of planning permission 15/00670/PPM (which it was understood was incompetent anyway) but rather to ask ELC to put pressure on Tesco to allow completion of the footpath. 8.4 ***Proposed sale of Marine Hotel car park –*** It was understood that the Marine Hotel was planning to sell off its car park, retaining 30 spaces for its own use in perpetuity with the remainder going for development. Concern was expressed at the potential loss of healthy, mature trees surrounding the car park which would have ecological and amenity implications in the Conservation Area. It was agreed to write to ELC requesting a Tree Preservation Order for the trees before a planning application is submitted.8.5 Decisions since last meeting –***Certificates of lawfulness for existing use short term holiday lets –*** flat 7/8 Quality Street & 7 East Road - **granted*****Change of use of flat to short term holiday let –*** 11 Beach Road (retro)– **granted*****Change of use of flat to short term holiday let –*** 46A High Street – **refused** because there are other flats in building***17 Warrender Court –*** extension to house and formation of access ramp – **granted*****25 Marmion Road –*** erection of garden room, walls, steps, railings and formation of hardstanding area - **granted*****Windie Edge, Abbotsford Road –*** erection of shed – **granted*****1 Pointgarry Road & 22 West Bay Road –*** alterations to wall to form vehicular access, installation of gate and formation of hardstanding area – **granted** |  |
| **9 Treasurer’s Report** | 9.1 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; £120 to Tall Hat for Q1 website maintenance; £102 to Big Wet Fish for web hosting; £47 for gift for auditor; £165.09 for Zurich insurance; and £147.98 for defibrillator items.9.2 £472.15 had been received from ELC to hold on behalf of AELCC for any admin charges as the Association did not have a bank account.   |  |
| **10 Parking Consultation Outcome** | 10.1 The Chairman confirmed that East Lothian Council had withdrawn the TROs. 10.2 He had understood that there would be a 2-year halt in proceedings but at a meeting with Peter Forsyth it was confirmed that ELC intended bringing back proposals in 3-4 months in 4 phases viz (1) on street parking; (2) off street parking; (3) motor homes; and (4) museum and community centre.10.3 It was understood that ELC was in talks with ScotRail regarding the acquisition of the station car park and that ScotRail would refund parking charges through the tickets. |  |
| **11 Common Good Fund** | 11.1 The Chairman reported that Peter Forsyth had indicated that he was going to introduce charging in the Common Good car parks without consultation. The charges would be collected by ELC and then transferred to the Common Good Fund.11.2 There was doubt as to whether the Castle Hill car park was in the Common Good. It seemed that if there was a grey area regarding ownership ELC would claim it. 11.3 It was understood there was £138K in the North Berwick Common Good Fund.11.4 As some community councillors were unclear about the Common Good it was agreed that ELC Cllr Findlay would give an update at a future meeting. |  |
| **12 Area Partnership** | 12.1 Cllr Benson reported that the next Area Partnership (AP) meeting would be held on 19th March when the following applications would be considered –1. *Aberlady Community Association* - £2,035 out of a total of £2,910 for a Local Place Plan mailing update;
2. *On the Move -* £500 for first stage of upgrading coastal trail from North Berwick to Tantallon Castle;
3. *Health & Wellbeing Network* - £6,000 out of a total of £38,000 for North Berwick Kindness Co-operative;
4. *North Berwick Coastal Health & Wellbeing* *Association* - £1,500 for Connecting the Community Day;
5. *Dirleton Village Association -* £1,200 out of a total of £2,400 + vat for a property valuation, the first step in an application for the asset transfer of Dirleton Community Store to the DVA;
6. *Aberlady Out of School Club -* £733 out of a total of £2,733 for an outdoor play project.

12.2 It was agreed to support each application.  |  |
| **13 Local Place Plan** | 13.1 Cllr McKee commented that the on-line survey had received 2,000 comments.13.2 There had been good feedback from the series of community discussions.13.3 There was to be a final on-line session on 8th March on housing.13.4 Planning Aid Scotland would now draft the Local Place Plan which would be brought back in April for a further round of consultations. |  |
| **14 Edington Cottage Hospital** |  14.1 The Chairman would attend the meeting with ELH&SCP on 14th March to discuss ‘Provision of Community Services in North Berwick’. |  |
| **15 Correspondence** | 15.1 E-mail from a resident regarding pollution from wood burners – suggested he contact Environmental Health.15.2 Copied in e-mail to ELC Councillors from Wilma Shaw regarding pavement hazards.15.3 E-mail from Brian Harris with updated list of locations of defibrillators in the town. |  |
| **16 Any other competent business** | 16.1 The proposed lessor of the station building had dropped out. Although ScotRail were still looking for a commercial lease the building could be available for community use such as a journey hub which ScotRail would be interested in helping with funding.16.2 The Men’s Shed would be making 4 new beach footprint signs in April which should be ready for fitting in the summer.16.3 The appalling state of High Street, Westgate and Dunbar Road was discussed. The Secretary agreed to write to Tom Reid, Head of Infrastructure at ELC.16.4 The Spring Joint Laws Advisory Group meeting had been set for 28th March.16.5 2 Barley Brae residents expressed concern that Dandara had not completed all their planning conditions including providing a safe route to school from Barley Brae at the back of the Tesco site. It was understood that ELC was aware of the situation. |  |
| **17 Date of Next Meeting** | The date of the next meeting would be on Tuesday 2nd April 2024 at 7.30 pm in the Community Centre. |  |