**Royal Burgh of North Berwick Community Council**

**Minutes of Meeting held at 19.30 on**

**Tuesday 2nd April 2024**

**in the Community Centre, Law Road**

**Present:**  Kenny Miller (Chairman), Judy Lockhart-Hunter (Vice chairman), Kathryn Smith (Secretary), Christiane Maher (Treasurer), Peter Hamilton, Ian Watson (via zoom), Jacq Cottrell (via zoom), Don McKee and Sally Egan

**Also present:** ELC Cllr Carol McFarlane, Kirsty Towler 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 19th in person meeting (since Covid) of the Community Council. |  |
| **2 Apologies** | ELC Cllr Jeremy Findlay, Doug Haig, Cllrs Bill Macnair, George Johnstone & Mairi Benson (late) |  |
| **3 Previous Minutes** | Adoption of the Minutes of the meeting held on 5th March, which had been circulated previously, was proposed by Cllr McKee and seconded by Cllr Egan. |  |
| **4 Matters Arising** | 4.1 ***5.1 On the Move – shuttle bus*** – There was nothing further to report but it was understood that the group wanted to think about it further and possibly run a survey.  4.2 ***11 Common Good Fund –*** ELC Cllr Findlay would give a short presentation at next month’s meeting.  4.3 ***16.3 State of High Street, Westgate & Dunbar Road –*** The Secretary had written to Tom Reid, Head of Infrastructure at ELC. He had responded that the recent Needs Assessment carried out by the Council was sufficiently high to warrant inclusion of the Market Street/ Westend Place section in the resurfacing programme which was scheduled for autumn/winter. When it was pointed out again that the potholes were a hazard to drivers now, he agreed that emergency patching would be carried out on 21st March. As the standard of the patching carried out had been poor it was agreed that the Secretary would write to the Courier highlighting the whole situation. |  |
| **5 Police Report** | 5.1 This month’s abbreviated police report, which had been circulated beforehand, was taken as read.  5.2 The next CAPP meeting would be on 3rd April. |  |
| **6 Planning matters** | 6.1 The March planning applications were led by Cllr Maher.  6.2 The following new applications had been viewed beforehand and, following a brief discussion, no comments were made –  ***Certificate of lawfulness for existing use short term holiday let –*** 14C St Andrew Street, 23A Melbourne Road, 37 Victoria Road & 9 Quadrant  ***Change of use of flat to short term holiday let (retrospective) –*** 16 Melbourne Road & 32 Melbourne Place  ***Oak Lodge, 11 Netherlaw –*** part change of use of house & garden to child minding business (class 10) with associated parking and outdoor play area  ***20 Marly Green –*** part re-roofing of house  ***Tantallon Road (Dandara) –*** s42 application to vary wording of condition 3 of planning permission 20/01288/P  ***5 Glasclune Gardens –*** replacement windows  ***31 Lord President Road –*** extension to house  ***6 Dunbar Road –*** erection of garden room  ***15 East Road –*** replacement windows  ***North Berwick Harbour, Victoria Road –*** re-instatement of harbour walls  6.3 The following new application was viewed, discussed and commented on as follows –  ***6 Dunbar Road –*** after discussion it was agreed to object to the planning application for the formation of dormer windows as the proposal was out of proportion to the rest of the building and in a style which did not fit with rest of the building.  *Note:* Cllr Watson commented that the Community Council should perhaps be looking more closely at applications for large extensions on smaller properties as this was taking smaller properties out of the market.  6.4 Decisions since last meeting –  ***Certificates of lawfulness for existing use short term holiday lets –*** flat 17/1 Station Road, 8/1 Station Road, & 10/1 Station Road - **granted**  ***Change of use of flat to short term holiday let –*** 39C Westgate (retro)– **granted;** 38A High Street **– withdrawn;**  ***Change of use of flat to short term holiday let –***43A High Street, 27/1 Station Road, 6A Forth Street Lane, & 2E East Road (all retro) - **refused**  ***6 May Terrace –*** extension to house - **granted**  ***22 Victoria Road –*** alterations to house – **granted**  ***61 Westgate –*** replacement windows – **granted**  ***13 Westerdunes Park –*** alterations to house and painting of external cladding – **granted**  ***11 Dundas Avenue –*** extension to house – **granted**  ***40 & 42 High Street –*** alterations and change of use of shop (class 1A) to extend existing café (class 3) and extension to building - **granted**  ***Creel Court –*** display of advertisements (retro) – **granted** |  |
| **7 Treasurer’s Report** | 7.1 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; £30 to Abbey Church for rent of hall (LPP) & £9.45 for LPP related postage. |  |
| **8 Parking Consultation Outcome** | There was nothing further to report. |  |
| **9 Area Partnership** | As Cllr Benson was absent there was nothing to report. |  |
| **10 Local Place Plan** | 10.1 Cllr McKee reported that Planning Aid Scotland was analysing the responses prior to drafting the Local Place Plan which would be brought back for a further round of consultations in May.  10.2 He confirmed that ELC had granted an extension for lodging the Plan to the end of June.  10.3 The steering group was still meeting monthly. |  |
| **11 Edington Cottage Hospital** | 11.1 The Chairman reported that at the meeting to discuss ‘Provision of Community Services in North Berwick’ it had been announced that the Edington beds were to permanently close and that the Abbey was scheduled for closure.  11.2 The Chairman had contacted Paul McLennan, MSP who was prepared to meet a small group of community councillors to discuss the issue. He felt that Pippa Swan, Chair of Dunbar CC should also be included in any discussions as Belhaven Hospital was also scheduled for closure.  11.3 It was agreed that there had been a lack of consultation and engagement regarding the proposed closures. There were a number of questions to be answered -   1. what was to happen to the Edington & Abbey buildings; 2. the position regarding the MIU required to be clarified; 3. what was to happen to the beds and equipment in the Edington which it was understood were owned by the Friends of the Edington. 4. A ‘town conversation’ should be arranged.   11.4 The Chairman would contact the Secretary of the Friends to clarify the position regarding ownership. |  |
| **12 Zippos Circus 2025** | 12.1 ELC had received a request from the circus about booking a site within the Lodge Grounds in 2025 and the Community Council had been asked for comments.  12.2 It was agreed that more details were required before any comments could be made. |  |
| **13 Resignation** | 13.1 It was with great regret that Judy Lockhart-Hunter intimated her resignation from the Community Council. Having been Chairman, Vice Chairman and Treasurer since she joined in March 2017, she felt the time was now right to take a break.  13.2 Councillors paid tribute to her commitment and dedication during a very testing time for the Community Council and wished her well. |  |
| **14 Correspondence** | 14.1 E-mail from a Macnair Avenue resident about light pollution caused by the installation of new street lighting – it was understood that shields were to be fixed to the lights to reduce the glare  14.2 Various e-mails from SEPA about a Potential Vulnerable Areas consultation – members were encouraged to look at it |  |
| **15 Any other competent business** | 15.1 Judy Lockhart-Hunter commented that with the move to 3 weekly bin collections, ELC had advised that there would be a two weekly medical waste bag collection which could be used for nappies. It would appear that despite several requests ELC Waste Services had still to provide the new yellow bags for disposal of nappies. There was also the question of whether containers would be provided for the bags. |  |
| **16 Date of Next Meeting** | The date of the next meeting would be on Tuesday 7th May 2024 at 7.30 pm in the Community Centre. |  |