**Royal Burgh of North Berwick Community Council**

**Minutes of Meeting held at 19.30 on**

**Tuesday 2nd July 2024**

**in the Community Centre, Law Road**

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

**Also present:** Jim Goodfellow, Kirsty Towler, Julie Cetingoz, Philip Gardner, Atholl Duncan (via zoom), Eddie & Alison Clark and Steven Brown (local press, via zoom)

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| **Agenda item** | **Discussion** | **Action** |
| **1 Welcome** | The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming all to the 22nd in person meeting of the Community Council (since Covid).  |  |
| **2 Apologies** | ELC Cllr Carol McFarlane, Doug Haig, Cllrs Bill Macnair & Jacq Cottrell |  |
| **3 Sustaining North Berwick** | Richard Watt of Sustaining North Berwick gave a short talk promoting the North Berwick local food directory which they had produced. He pointed out that to shop locally was good for the local economy, could reduce pollution and carbon emissions and help cut plastic and other waste.  |  |
| **4 Previous Minutes** | Adoption of the Minutes of the meeting held on 4th June which had been circulated previously, was proposed by Cllr Johnstone and seconded by Cllr Egan. |  |
| **5 Matters Arising** | 5.1 ***4.1 On the Move – shuttle bus*** – there was to be a midday meeting at the Community Centre on 8th July for further discussion.5.2 ***12.2 Speeding cyclists on Law Brae –*** ELC Cllr Findlay had arranged for ‘no cycling’ signage which was now in place (though rather small).5.3 ***13.1 Community Councils’ Commemoration –*** the Chairman had still to hear from Johnn Stevens and Mike Foy regarding the species and location of a tree to be planted in the Lodge to commemorate the establishment of community councils 50 years ago.5.4 ***13.3 TPO Marine Hotel car park –*** the response received from ELC Landscape was *‘East Lothian Council are in the process of assessing the trees around the Marine Hotel car park with regard to whether or not they should be protected by a Tree Preservation Order*.’ A reminder had been sent.5.5 ***13.5 On the Move – one way system –*** there had been no movement to date on Cllr Macnair’s proposed one way system request. |  |
| **6 Police Report** | 6.1 This month’s abbreviated police report, which had been circulated beforehand, was taken as read.6.2 It was noted that PC Neil Whittingham was covering for PC Dalziel on a temporary basis for the foreseeable future.6.3. It was pointed out that ‘no parking’ cones had been placed in front of the Marine Hotel and that small buses decanting golfers were parking on the pavement. It was agreed to raise the matter at the next CAPP meeting on 17th July.6.4 The Chairman had met Chief Inspector Ben Leathes, local area commander, at a recent meeting about anti-social behaviour on buses. The Scottish Government saw this as a local issue. Positive measures were being looked at but apparently, under 17’s could not be arrested for anti-social behaviour.6.5 It was understood that there was no current plan to close the police station.6.6 It was noted that those participating in the Community Speed Watch scheme would require to arrange their own insurance which would result in a tripling of their premium. There was no funding available from ELC. The Community Council had already decided not to participate in the scheme.  |  |
| **7 Planning matters** | 7.1 The June planning applications were led by 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 existing use short term holiday let –*** 10c Marine Parade, 13c Melbourne Place, 18 Melbourne Place, 90c High Street, and 78c High Street***Change of use of flat to short term holiday let (retrospective) –*** 61 Westgate, flat 27, 1 Station Road, and The Studio, Grange Road***22 Westgate –*** extension to flat, formation of hard standing area, erection of garden room and fencing (part retrospective)***27 Station Hill –*** repainting of building***44 Forth Street –*** alterations to house and boundary wall, formation of balcony, erection of store and raised planters***Clova Cottage, 18E Westgate –*** erection of garden building, erection of gate and fencing and formation of hard standing***Castleton Farm, Tantallon –*** erection of gardenroom***Balgone Dean, Kingston*** – part change of use of agricultural land to domestic garden ground etc7.3 The following new application was viewed, discussed and commented on as follows –***Land to east of St Andrew House, St Andrew Street –*** after discussion it was agreed to comment on planning application for part demolition of wall (CAC); and erection of one house and associated works as *inter alia* the application was flawed on several issues.7.4 Decisions since last meeting –***Certificates of lawfulness for existing use short term holiday lets –***25G Melbourne Place—**granted;** 9 Marmion Road **– refused*****Change of use of flat to short term holiday let –*** 35Melbourne Place, 13A Melbourne Road (retro), 11A Beach Road **– granted;** 6C Market Place **– refused*****48 Forth Street* –** alterations to flat and installation of solar panels – **granted*****North Berwick Tennis Club*** – installation of floodlighting – **granted*****I Rhodes Farmhouse, Lime Grove –*** installation of EV charging point – **granted*****27 Green Apron Park –*** alterations to roof, installation of flue and erection of fencing – **granted*****41 High Street –*** repainting pf window frames and doors – **granted*****28 Highfield Road –*** erection of garage (part retro) **– granted*****Gin Head, Tantallon* –** renewal of planningpermission 18/01362/P **- 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; £124 & £105.60 for defibrillator accessories. 8.2 Payments of £631.40 and £3.76 which had been received from the Picnic in the Park was to be split between 2 charities. 8.3 The Accounts for 2023/24 had been certified by the independent examiner and had been forwarded to ELC.8.4 The 2024/25 budget would be discussed at the mid-month business meeting.  |  |
| **9 Edington Cottage Hospital & Abbey Care Home** | 9.1 The Chairman reported that there had been no further progress in arranging a meeting with those interested in forming a campaign committee.9.2 However, he was meeting with Robin Grant, a retired consultant at the Western General, the following day to discuss further. |  |
| **10 Area Partnership** | 10.1 Cllr McKee had attended the meeting on 18th June when the following items were discussed – * The resurrection of the North Berwick Community Company
* Katie Reid having more time for community work
* A £12,000 grant for a year-long bursary for activities for children who otherwise couldn’t afford to participate
* Voting rights for persistent absence at meetings without apologies
* Roads’ priorities which had been highjacked by ELC
* Extending 20 mph speed limit beyond Pilgrim’s Way

10.2 A funding application from Muirfield Riding Centre had been parked as not enough information had been supplied.10.3 The application for £314 for painting the toilet block at Aberlady Nature Reserve was granted.  |  |
| **11 Local Place Plan** | 11.1 The initial draft Local Place Plan had been received from Planning Aid Scotland (PAS). 11.2 The steering group had met the previous day to go through it and to suggest changes.11.3 It would now be written up by PAS for publication for the statutory 3 weeks consultation period prior to the finalised version being prepared and submitted to East Lothian Council for registration in August. |  |
| **12 Picnic in the Park** | 12.1 The Chairman had asked Luca’s for a contribution to the charities and a cheque for £71, being 10% of their takings had been received making a total of £706.16 to be shared between the Ukrainian charity AUGB and Brain Power.12.2 The steering group had met for a debrief. Given the positive feedback it had been agreed to do it again next year.12.3 It was proposal that independent funding should be sought so as not to impact upon the Community Council funding.12.4 Consideration was being given to obtaining a new sound system by the Christmas Lights committee.12.5 It was agreed that the event had been a great success with a nice mix of participants. The Chairman thanked all who had made it happen. |  |
| **13 Common Good Fund** | 13.1 The Chairman commented that at a recent AELCC meeting discontent had been expressed as to how the Common Good Funds in the county were being run and that the community councils should be involved.13.2 At present ELC officials seemed to decide which applications should go to the councillors. |  |
| **14 Correspondence** | There was none. |  |
| **15 Any other competent business** | 15.1 ***Closure of Bank of Scotland –*** The recent announcement of the closure of the only bank in the town on 19th February next year was met with dismay. It was agreed that the Bank should be asked to prove that the business was not commercially viable. The Secretary undertook to write to the bank.15.2 ***Community Windfarm Fund –*** The Chairman explained the background to the funds available to the Hillfoot communities from the windfarms. As they are now overflowing with cash they wanted to share with other communities. AELCC had taken legal advice on how to proceed and as a result, an organisation with the name East Lothian Community Benefits SCIO had been registered with OSCR. Community Councils would be invited to nominate a Community Council member to the SCIO. It was agreed to nominate the Chairman. Nothing was likely to happen for some considerable time.15.3 ***Christmas Lights –*** It was noted that North Berwick Trust had granted £20,000 to the Christmas Lights committee to fund the replacement of tree lighting and a PA system for the town |  |
| **16 Date of Next Meeting** | The date of the next meeting would be on Tuesday 6th August 2024 at 7.30 pm in the Hope Rooms (the Community Centre being closed). |  |