**Royal Burgh of North Berwick Community Council**

**Minutes of Meeting held at 19.30 on**

**Tuesday 3rd September 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), Jacq Cottrell, Sally Egan and Julie Cetingoz

**Also present:** ELC Cllr Liz Allan, Doug Haig, Euan Revell, Cathy Duncan, Eddie Clark, David Wellwood and Steven Brown (local press)

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| **Agenda item** | **Discussion** | **Action** |
| **1 Welcome** | The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming all to the 24th in person meeting of the Community Council (since Covid). |  |
| **2 Apologies** | ELC Cllrs Jeremy Findlay & Carol McFarlane, Cllrs Don McKee & Bill Macnair. |  |
| **3 NBHS Indoor Sports Facilities Assessment** | 3.1 Euan Revell of the NBHS Parent Council gave the background to the Assessment of indoor sports facilities which he had prepared.  3.2 The Parent Council had become aware of both a possible shortfall in indoor sports facilities, and concern regarding the condition of existing facilities in the school, and through the report, the aim was to highlight areas of the school’s estate that would benefit from improvement.  3.3 The increasing roll was also reflected in the recently completed extension, enabling the school to accommodate a total of 1200 pupils. The need for a four-court sports hall was identified in 2018/19, and provisional plans were drawn up for the school. but it was not constructed. It was understood there were no current plans for its development.  3.4 In subsequent years NBHS Health and Wellbeing team had seen a significant increase in demand for their facilities and a corresponding increase in wear and tear on these spaces. Demand on space was such that NBHS increasingly relied on the public Enjoy Leisure facilities to provide an acceptable level of physical education. At times the school had also asked to use Law Primary School facilities, and invited children to play outside in poor weather.  3.5 An audit of the existing facilities was carried out and compared against Sport Scotland recommendations which highlighted the shortcomings in the current facilities.  3.6 It recommended *inter alia* that contingency plans should be drawn up to ensure NBHS could have additional sports hall facilities should the roll increase beyond 1200 pupils.  3.7 It was suggested that there should be a meeting with ELC, the Parent Council and North Berwick Trust to discuss a way forward.  *Note: The Assessment document can be found on the NBCC website – northberwickcommunitycouncil.org.uk.* |  |
| **4 Previous Minutes** | Adoption of the Minutes of the meeting held on 6th August which had been circulated previously, was proposed by Cllr Hamilton and seconded by Cllr Egan. |  |
| **5 Matters Arising** | There were none. |  |
| **6 Police Report** | 6.1 This month’s abbreviated police report, which had been circulated beforehand, was taken as read.  6.2 PC Diane Bath had taken over from PC Neil Whittingham as community police officer.  6.3 At last month’s CAPP meeting on 21st August there had been little to discuss.  6.4. PC Whittingham had been present at Law View in the morning when the schools went in but there had been no speeding issues, no doubt due to his presence. It was suggested there should be a police presence at 3.00 pm.  6.5 It was pointed out again that it was national policy not to enforce 20 mph speed limits.  6.6 No priorities were set for the month.  6.7 The next CAPP meeting would be on 9th October. |  |
| **7 Planning matters** | 7.1 The August 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 –  ***Change of use of flat to short term holiday let*** – 3 Eastfield Court, Marine Parade & 22A Westgate (retrospective)  ***2 Forth Street*** – replace timber framed windows with uPVC units – permission nor required  ***12 Forth Street & 3 Marmion Road*** – prior notification of replacement windows  ***1 Smileyknowes Court –*** extension to house and erection of porch  ***2 Melbourne Road –*** installation of roof windows  ***3 Warrender Court –*** extension to house (part retrospective)  ***3A York Road*** – erection of shed  ***39 Clifford Road*** – alterations, extension to house to form covered terraced area and formation of hard standing  ***32 St Baldred’s Road*** – extension to house  ***The Lodge, 1 Westerdunes Park*** – 1st floor extension to garage with external staircase, balcony and handrails for ancillary residential accommodation  ***11 Dirleton Avenue*** – alterations to building  ***The Coach House, Marly Knowe, Windygates Road*** – replacement windows  ***8 Tantallon Terrace*** – erection of gate and railings to wall  ***Etcha Ona, 1H Bank Street*** – alterations, extension to house, formation of hardstanding areas, erection of walls and gate  ***Loanfern, 8A Westerdunes Park*** – alterations to house, formation of hardstanding areas, steps, decking, erection of walls and garden room  7.3 Decisions since last meeting –  ***Certificates of lawfulness for existing use short term holiday lets –*** 78C High Street, 18 Melbourne Place, 13C Melbourne Place & 15D Balfour Street – **refused;** 10C Marine Parade & 16 Melbourne Road – **granted**  ***Change of use of flat to short term holiday let (retrospective) –*** 61 Westgate, 25 Westgate & The Studio, Grange Road – **granted;** flat 27 1 Station Road - **refused**  ***2 Forth Street –*** replace 9no timber framed windows with uPVC windows – **permission not required**  ***4 Eastfield Court, Marine Parade & 4B Forth Street –*** prior notification of replacement windows - **granted**  ***Land north west of Haugh Road Car park –*** display ofadvertisement ***–* granted**  ***22 Westgate –*** extension to flat, formation of hardstandingarea, erection of garden room and fencing (part retrospective***) –* granted**  ***44 Forth Street –*** alterations to house and boundary wall, formation of balcony, erection of store and raised planters **– granted**  ***Clova Cottage, 18E Westgate –*** erection of garden building, erection of gate and fencing – **granted**  ***13B Melbourne Road –*** installation of external staircase with balustrading, formation of hardstanding area – **granted**  ***Castleton Farm, Tantallon –*** erection of garden room – **granted**  7.4 **Pre-application presentation -**  Euan Revell explained that for a number of years he had owned the piece of garden ground next to the dentist at the corner of Dirleton Avenue and Station Road. He was now proposing self-building a single storey eco home on the site which would be NPF4 compliant. A formal application would be forthcoming shortly. |  |
| **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; £353.08 x 2 being 2 donations to Brain Power & AUGB; £10 for BBQ gas; £64 for balance of Calder Cup prizes; £7.18 to ELC for Picnic posters.  8.2 £111.01 had been received from NBiB being the balance of the putting entry fees paid on their borrowed card reader. |  |
| **9 Edington Cottage Hospital & Abbey Care Home** | 9.1 The Chairman reported that new funding had been found by the GPs for a minor injuries service which was now available at the Health Centre though the facilities were restricted with none out of hours. It had not been well publicised.  9.2 Cllr Egan would attend a Health & Wellbeing Association meeting at 10.00 am in the Community Centre the following Friday to discuss what was required in the Coastal Ward.  9.3 With regard to the Abbey, the Chairman commented that ELC was being unco-operative when asked for access and sight of the titles. He would be going to a viewing of the property the following day.  9.4 There was potential for a community hub. Craig Hoy MSP was offering help and was looking for funding  9.5 There were lots of restrictions on the property but a Community Asset Transfer was still viable. The AGM of the North Berwick Community Development Company at 7.00 pm on 5th September in the Community Centre would discuss taking this forward. |  |
| **10 Area Partnership** | 10.1 The next meeting would be on 24th September. |  |
| **11 Local Place Plan** | 11.1 It was noted that there would be a Public Engagement Drop-in session at the Community Centre from 1.00 pm to 8.00pm the following day.  11.2 It was felt that the form of survey on-line was not good. People were encouraged to comment before the deadline on 10th September. |  |
| **12 Parking Management Proposals** | 12.1 The 4 Orders relating to the Parking Management Proposals were published and the consultation opened on 23rd August but not all of the information relating to the TROs was available till 5 days later. An extension to the consultation period was requested but was refused.  !2.2 Peter Forsyth offered a meeting to discuss the TROs but then went off on leave for 2 weeks.  12.3 Peter Forsyth was asked twice if he intended to hold a public meeting to explain the TROs to avoid the possibility of ‘misinterpretation’ which he claimed had occurred on the previous consultation but did not reply.  12.4 It was agreed that there was not enough time to organise a petition and if necessary, the Community Council would organise a public meeting. |  |
| **13 Police station closure** | 13.1 It was disappointing that it had been announced that North Berwick was one of 3 police stations in East Lothian to be closed when Chief Inspector Ben Leathes had indicated at an earlier meeting with the Chairman that there was no indication that this would happen.  13.2 It was agreed that the Community Council should object to the closure as North Berwick was furthest from the A1 corridor.  13.3 It was accepted that the building was not fit for purpose but solutions for maintaining a presence in the town should be considered such as sharing facilities at the fire station or retaining a room in the building.  13.4 The Chairman would write to Chief Inspector Leathes to find out what was happening in the town and what their plans for the future were. |  |
| **14 Correspondence** | 14.1 E-mail from interim Joint Laws Advisory Group confirming arrangements for Thursday 26th September starting with a site visit to North Berwick Law at 9.30 am followed by the JLAG meeting commencing at 1.00 pm at North Berwick Community Centre.  14.2 Various e-mails from Tantallon Road & Melbourne Road residents regarding campervan proposals. |  |
| **15 Any other competent business** | 15.1 ***Defibrillator at Rugby Club –*** Cllr Hamilton reported that the defibrillator at the rugby club had been disconnected as the replacement children’s pads had been discontinued. After discussion, it was agreed that it should be reconnected in the meantime and that an application for funding for a replacement should be submitted to the Area Partnership for consideration at their November meeting.  15.2 ***Knitted poppies –*** Ian Paxton of the Pipe Band had asked the Chairman if knitted poppies could be put on the railings at the War Memorial for the remembrance period. The proposal was agreed. |  |
| **16 Date of Next Meeting** | The date of the next meeting would be on Tuesday 1st October 2024 at 7.30 pm in the Community Centre. |  |