**Royal Burgh of North Berwick Community Council**

**Minutes of Meeting held at 19.30 on**

**Tuesday 1st October 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, Jacq Cottrell (via zoom), Sally Egan and Julie Cetingoz (via zoom)

**Also present:** ELC Cllrs Jeremy Findlay, Carol McFarlane & Liz Allan (via zoom), Doug Haig, Jackie Shuttleworth (FbtS), Kirsty Towler, Jim Goodfellow 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 25th in person meeting of the Community Council (since Covid). |  |
| **2 Apologies** | Cllr Mairi Benson & Rory Steel (FbtS) |  |
| **3 Fringe by the Sea - update** | 3.1 Jackie Shuttleworth gave an update on the success of the 2024 event which ran from 2nd to 11th August.   * There had been 86,130 visitors over the 10 days compared to 74,750 in 2023. * 42,750 tickets had been sold. * The estimated benefit to the county’s economy was £9.9m. * It had the biggest programme with 260 events. * 95% of visitors rated the festival ‘excellent’ or ‘very good’ with joyful, friendly and vibrant being the most common descriptions of the FbtS experience. * More than £6,300 was raised for charities including Leuchie, Brain Power, East Lothian Food Bank, RNLI and MND Scotland. * Over 50 community groups had participated. * Over 3,300 trees were planted through Citizen Ticket’s   Tickets for Trees partnership with The National Forest Company.   * 99% of the rubbish generated went to recycling, composting or energy from waste. * She concluded by thanking the sponsors for their support.   3.2 It was noted that although traffic management plans had been introduced including additional blue badge parking spaces and parking at the High School there had still been problems in the neighbouring streets with inconsiderate and illegal parking. It was also pointed out that the signage for parking was not clear. Engagement with residents directly affected had been disappointing.  3.3 The proposed date for the 2025 event was 1st to 10th August. |  |
| **4 Previous Minutes** | Adoption of the Minutes of the meeting held on 3rd September which had been circulated previously, was proposed by Cllr Johnstone and seconded by Cllr Maher. |  |
| **5 Matters Arising** | 5.1 ***13 Police Station Closure -*** The Chairman with a Dunbar CC representative had met with Chief Inspector Ben Leathes who had stated that the use of the North Berwick building had been surveyed and found to be minimal. Its closure would free up staff for the street. In any event phone calls were being dealt with from Haddington. Maintenance of the building would cost £50,000. It would be better for the police to look at ways to better engage the public.  5.2 ***15 Defibrillator at Rugby Club*** – Cllr Hamilton reported that the defibrillator was now dead after having been used the previous weekend. 25th October was the deadline for an application for funding for a replacement from the Area Partnership. In the meantime, the Chairman would approach the Rugby Club to establish if they had a defibrillator on the premises that could be relocated externally temporarily. He would also enquire if the various clubs using the facilities would be able to make a contribution towards the costs. |  |
| **6 Police Report** | 6.1 This month’s abbreviated police report, which had been circulated beforehand, was taken as read.  6.2 The next CAPP meeting would be on 9th October. |  |
| **7 Planning matters** | 7.1 The September 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 –  ***55 Forth Street*** – extension to house and formation of steps  ***1 Melbourne Place & 3 Melbourne Place –*** alterations to house and formation of dormer  ***The Coach House, Marly Knowe –*** alterations and extension to building  ***28 Macnair Avenue*** – formation of first floor balcony and balustrade  ***71B High Street*** – change of use to short term holiday let  ***118-120 High Street (Coulters)*** – repainting of building; display of advertisements  ***Lower Deck, 10B Marine Parade*** – extension to flat, heightening of walls, formation of hard standing area and erection of gate  ***53 Westgate*** – alterations to house  ***47 Dirleton Avenue*** – extension to house  7.3 Decisions since last meeting –  ***Change of use of flat/ ancillary residential accommodation to short term holiday let (retrospective)*** – 35 Old Abbey Road & 55 Old Abbey Road - **granted**  ***3A York Road*** *–* erection of shed – granted  ***3 Marmion Road –*** prior notification of replacement windows - **granted**  ***The Coach House, Marly Knowe*** - replacement windows – **granted**  ***8 Tantallon Terrace –*** erection of gate and railings to wall – **granted**  ***24 Victoria Road*** *– extension to house -* **granted**  ***11 Nungate Road*** *–* extension to house – granted  ***100 High Street –*** repainting of shop front; display ofadvertisements ***-* granted**  ***18 & 19 Hamilton Court, Cromwell Road –*** alterations to one flat to form two flats and installation of air source heat pump – **granted**  ***Land to east of St Andrews House, St Andrew Street (CAC) –*** part demolition of wall; erection of 1 house and associated works – **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; £148.80 for defibrillator accessories; £77.32 in re-imbursement for BBQ food; £120 to Tall Hut for Q3 website maintenance; £13.79 to BWF for website hosting. |  |
| **9 Edington Cottage Hospital & Abbey Care Home** | 9.1 The Chairman reported that a new CCO had been appointed at Lothian Health Board to whom he had written but had received no reply.  9.2 A closing date had not been fixed yet for the Abbey.  9.3 The bid for a Community Asset Transfer was proceeding but funding was an issue. A fully fledged business plan was still being worked on. |  |
| **10 Area Partnership** | 10.1 The AGM had been held the previous week when a presentation on the Local Place Plan had been given.  10.2 The next meeting would be on Tuesday 12th November. |  |
| **11 Local Place Plan** | 11.1 The final survey for comment had closed on 10th September.  11.2 The Steering Group had met the previous week to consider the comments and had agreed a few changes. It was now back with Planning Aid Scotland to finalise before submission to ELC.  11.3 It would be signed off at the Community Council’s mid-month business meeting. The other groups would do likewise as the Plan was created by the community. ELC would then register it for consideration with the Local Development Plan. |  |
| **12 Parking Management Proposals** | 12.1 It was felt that the 4 Orders relating to the Parking Management Proposals had been more complicated than the previous ones.  12.2 Peter Forsyth had been writing to objectors supposedly answering their objections and asking them to withdraw their objections. It was agreed that this was highly irregular.  12.3 The following day the Chairman, Cllr Maher, Jeff Knight, Duncan Fraser and John Reglinski would be meeting to discuss where to go and thereafter to arrange a meeting with Peter Forsyth.  12.4 It was understood that ELC’s intention was to go to a Public Hearing. |  |
| **13 Health & Wellbeing Association - update** | 13.1 Cllr Egan had attended the H&WA AGM on 6 September 2024, this being her first meeting. It was subsequently agreed that she would represent NBCC at future meetings and work closely with the H&WA and NBCC on health-related issues.  13.2 The AGM had been well attended. Hilary Smith was willing to continue as Chair but would welcome expressions of interest for the position in the future. There was discussion about succession planning and a suggestion from members that having a vice chair, who could support the Chair, would be a way forward.  13.3 Two highly informative presentations were given. The first was from Robin Grant, retired NHS consultant and local activist for improving health and wellbeing across the North Berwick Coastal Area (NBCA) Partnership. He presented various data sets and explained that deprivation and health inequalities were not always in deprived areas as was the case in North Berwick Coastal where there was a higher-than-average older population who increasingly experience inequality of access to services in terms of geography and changes to local provision. He outlined the positives and the challenges and what improvements were needed for future health and care provision as well as proposals for setting up a North Berwick Coastal Care (NBC) Charity.  13.4 Cllr Egan outlined the proposal briefly and how the intention was to raise funds to benefit health and wellbeing projects in the NBCA. She also explained how the Lothian Health Foundation currently operates and manages legacy funding and other donations across Lothian. She suggested that Robin Grant be invited to a future NBCC meeting.  13.5 The second presentation was from Laura Chant, NHS Lothian. She presented on the changing demographics, a range of Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) data and local health outcome data and spoke about the wider inequalities faced by adults and children within the NBCA. This included variations in life expectancy which overall was higher in the NBCA compared to East Lothian and Scotland as a whole. However, there was variation across the NBCA with North Berwick South female life expectancy being significantly higher than North Berwick North and Gullane whereas male life expectancy was higher in North Berwick North and Gullane and lower in North Berwick South. Some of the Data was surprising, not least that rates of cancer, coronary heart disease and dementia being higher in the NBCA than East Lothian and Scotland as a whole.  13.6 The H&WA agreed to consider the data more fully and work with both to agree how they could influence the Health & Social Care Partnership (HSCP) in agreeing priorities and securing resources for the future.  13.7 Cllr Egan commented that there was an East Lothian HSCP, Planning Older People’s Services (POPS) drop-in session on Tuesday 29 October 10.30-14.30 in The Hope Rooms and encouraged NBCC members to attend the event. |  |
| **14 Correspondence** | 14.1 Invitation to attend a site walkover on Friday 11th October regarding new crossings on the A198 between Phillimore Square and Strathearn Road linking to the station and at the junction of St Baldred’s Road and Lady Jane Road which is on the safe route to school and John Muir Way and also accessible pedestrian links from the Recreation Park car park to the Lodge Grounds. The Chairman and Cllr McKee agreed to attend.  14.2 E-mail seeking to bring back the open-air pool. It was agreed to invite her to a future meeting.  14.3 E-mail from Scottish Water updating plans for their state-of-the-art new waste water treatment facility. |  |
| **15 Any other competent business** | 15.1 ***Request for 20 mph speed limit to be extended –*** The Secretary had written to Alan Stubbs, Service Manager – Roads at ELC suggesting that the 20-mph speed limit on the east entrance to the town should start just before Lime Grove instead of the Tesco roundabout due to the speed of the traffic on that stretch. He replied that a TRO would be required for any change. A quarterly Road Safety Working Group was due to meet shortly and he undertook to table the request for consideration at the meeting.  15.2 ***Remembrance Sunday – 10th November –*** The Town Service would be held at the Abbey Church at 10.30 am. The Secretary had attended a SAG meeting that morning when the arrangements for the event were approved. Cllr Johnstone had agreed to be chief steward again. It was agreed to project a poppy on the Lighthouse corner gable from 4th to 11th November in support of the Poppy Scotland’s Light Up Red campaign  15.3 ***NBRC mini rugby chaos –*** The Secretary, as a resident of St Baldred’s Road, had written to the Rugby Club regarding the traffic chaos caused in the street during their recent mini rugby tournament. There had been gridlock in the street for several hours. An initial apology had been given but a full explanation was awaited. It was obvious that the Club had not gone through the required process for holding such an event.  15.4 ***NBCC – AGM –*** It was confirmed that the AGM would take place at 7.00 pm before next month’s monthly meeting on 5th November.  15.5 ***Christmas Lights switch on –*** It was confirmed that the switch on would take place at 4.30 pm on 30th November. Volunteers for stewarding and bucket rattling were required. |  |
| **16 Date of Next Meeting** | The date of the next meeting would be on Tuesday 5th November 2024 at 7.30 pm in the Community Centre and would be preceded by the AGM at 7.00 pm. |  |