**Royal Burgh of North Berwick Community Council**

**Minutes of Meeting held at 19.30 on**

**Tuesday 5th November 2024**

**in the Community Centre, Law Road**

**Present:** Kenny Miller (Chairman), Sally Egan (Vice Chairman), Kathryn Smith (Secretary), Christiane Maher (Treasurer), Peter Hamilton, Ian Watson (via zoom), Mairi Benson (via zoom) and Julie Cetingoz

**Also present:** ELC Cllrs Jeremy Findlay, Carol McFarlane, Doug Haig, 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 26th in person meeting of the Community Council (since Covid). |  |
| **2 Apologies** | Cllrs Jacq Cottrell & Don McKee, George Johnstone and ELC Cllr Liz Allan |  |
| **3 Previous Minutes** | Adoption of the Minutes of the meeting held on 1st October which had been circulated previously, was proposed by Cllr Cetingoz and seconded by Cllr Egan. |  |
| **4 Matters Arising** | 4.1 ***13 Health & Wellbeing Association –*** Cllr Egan had attended the recent Planning Older People’s Services event from which she had gained further insight of the process to date. She had circulated the engagement and consultation document and was happy to draft a response – all comments welcome. The consultation deadline was 8th December.  4.2 ***15.1 Request for 20 mph speed limit to be extended –*** Alan Stubbs had replied that when the request was raised at the RSWG meeting it was considered not something to be recommended for taking forward at this time but the location would be monitored. When asked why it was not being recommended the reply was that the 20 mph speed limits were working well over the network and there were no plans to review existing speed limits though they would be monitored.  4.3 ***15.2 Remembrance Sunday –*** The Secretary reminded members that the Town Service would be held at Abbey Church at 10.30 am followed by wreath laying and the Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial at noon. Sqn Ldr Iain Edmans had agreed to be Parade Marshal as Sgt Walker, who had done it last year, was unwell. Cllr Egan would deputise for the Chairman.  4.4 ***15.3 NBRFC mini rugby chaos –*** An apology had been received from the rugby club for the traffic chaos caused by the mini rugby event. An undertaking had been given to follow the correct procedure for the event next year. |  |
| **5 Police Report** | 5.1 This month’s abbreviated police report, which had been circulated beforehand, was taken as read.  5.2 At the CAPP meeting on 9th October anti-social behaviour during Hallowe’en and 5th November was set as the priority.  5.3 The next CAPP meeting would be on 20th November. |  |
| **6 Planning matters** | 6.1 The October 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*** – 10B Fidra Road & 10 Lorne Lane  ***32 Pilgrims Way –***extension to house  ***34 Smileyknowes Court –*** extension to house  ***6 Victoria Road –*** alterations to house  ***15 Westerdunes Park –*** alterations and extension to house, alterations to garage  ***Former garden ground of 1 Dirleton Avenue –*** erection of 1 house and associated works  6.2 The following new application was viewed, discussed and commented on as follows –  ***34 Dirleton Avenue [former Golf Hotel] –*** after discussion it was agreed (by a majority) not to comment on the planning application for the demolition of the building but it was agreed to comment on the erection of 14 flats and associated works because of the scale of the proposed building and the impact on the street line of the proposed block.    6.3 Decisions since last meeting –  ***12 Forth Street & 15 Westerdunes Park*** *–* prior notification of windows replacement – **granted**  ***1 Smileyknowes Court –*** extension to house and erection of porch **– granted**  ***2 Melbourne Road –*** installation of roof windows – **granted**  ***3 Warrender Court –*** extension to house (part retrospective) – **granted**  ***32 St Baldred’s Road –*** extension to house – **granted**  ***39 Clifford Road –*** alterations, extension to house to form covered terraced area and formation of hardstanding area – **granted**  ***Change of use to short term holiday let*** – 3 Eastfield Court, Marine Parade, 22A Westgate (retro) & 15A East Roads (retro) – **granted**  ***Etche Ona, 1H Bank Street –*** alterations, extension to house, formation of hardstanding areas, erection of walls and gate – **granted**  ***Certificate of lawfulness for an existing use short term holiday let –*** 25D Melbourne Place ***–* refused**  ***Land to east pf St Andrews House, St Andrew Street –*** part demolition of wall, erection of house and associated works **– refused**  ***Land south of Tantallon Road -*** s42 application to remove condition 10 of planning permission 15/00670/PPM – **granted**  ***80 High Street & land to north of 80 High Street –*** alterations to building, erection of 5 flats and associated works - **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; and £2,000 to the Christmas lights committee.  7.2 £1,000 had been received from the Common Good Fund to help fund the next edition of Local Life.  7.3 The Treasurer had been informed by the Bank of Scotland that as from 14th January the Treasurer’s Account would change to a Community Account and that a £4.25 charge would be made each month for cheques written. She would investigate further. |  |
| **8 Edington Cottage Hospital & Abbey Care Home** | 8.1 The Chairman reported that the response from the new CCO of Lothian Health Board about the closure of the Edington had been disappointing - the community had been consulted about the closure and people wanted to be cared for at home in their final days rather than in hospital.  8.2 It was confirmed that the Abbey had been sold and North Berwick in Bloom and Herbspace had to remove from their premises by mid-December. It was understood that temporary facilities at the Community Centre would be available to both groups. |  |
| **9 Area Partnership** | 9.1 At the next meeting on 12th November 2 applications for funding were to be considered –   * Gullane Community Association – Enhancing Accessibility GVH for a chair lift - £10,000 * North Berwick in Bloom & Glorious Gullane Bloomers to renew plants - £4.000   9.2 It was agreed to support both applications. |  |
| **10 Local Place Plan** | 10.1 The Plan was near to completion.  10.2 Cllr McKee would be meeting with Planning Aid Scotland later that week to finalise the last of the changes before submitting to ELC. |  |
| **11 Parking Management Proposals** | 11.1 Peter Forsyth had offered 3 dates to meet the Chairman along with John McMillan and the 3 elected councillors but none of the dates suited everyone. Further dates were awaited.  11.2 ELC Cllr McFarlane advised that she understood 600 objections had been received.  11.3 The tone of Peter Forsyth’s response to objectors, supposedly answering their objections, had changed from the previous rather aggressive tone.  11.4 it was likely now that the proposals would go to a Public Hearing. |  |
| **12 Banking Hub** | 12.1 The Chairman had met with Lesley Wilson of Cash Access UK who would be operating the hub.  13.2 An acquisition team had been in North Berwick looking at potential sites.  13.3 The hub would provide a teller’s desk 5 days a week with a different bank each day and a separate consulting room for private meetings by appointment.  13.4 Due to new regulations brought in on 18th September, the last bank in town was not allowed to close prior to the provision by Cash Access UK of a temporary hub till a permanent hub was ready which could take up to a year.  13.5 It was understood that the closure of the branch would now be 2nd April.  13.6 It was agreed to arrange a public meeting with Lesley Wison in January. |  |
| **13 Maintenance of Defibrillators** | 13.1 The Chairman reported that the rugby club had arranged funding with the other clubs using the facilities to pay for a new defibrillator which was now in place.  13.2 A successful application had been made to the Russell Bequest for £1,800 for the maintenance of the defibrillator for 5 years. It was confirmed that that sum would be ringfenced specifically for the defibrillator at the rugby club.  13.3 It was agreed to establish a fund to maintain the rest of the defibrillators for which funding applications would need to be made. |  |
| **14 Correspondence** | 14.1 E-mail from St Andrew Street residents requesting a solution to the volume of speeding traffic in the street. It was agreed that a review of the traffic flow by experts was required.  Meanwhile the correspondence would be forwarded to Alan Stubbs.  14.2 E-mail from Glenburn Road residents regarding the traffic and delivery vehicle noise at Aldi and querying whether they had permission for their 24/7 parcel return & collect operation.  14.3 E-mail from ELC confirming that an assessment of the trees within Cromwell Road had been carried out. As a number were found to be important to the amenity value of the town and merit protection, a draft Tree Preservation Order had been drafted. |  |
| **15 Any other competent business** | 15.1 ***On the move:*** Cllr Macnair reported that new crossings on the A198 between Phillimore Square and Strathern Road and at the junction of St Baldred’s Road and Lady Jane Road, and accessible pedestrian links from the Recreation Park car park to the Lodge Grounds were proposed. He pointed out that the type of crossing to be chosen was important.    15.2 ***Robin Grant charity:*** Robin Grant was keen to speak to the Community Council about the viability of his proposed charity. It was agreed to invite him to the January meeting. |  |
| **16 Date of Next Meeting** | The date of the next meeting would be on Tuesday 3rd December 2024 at 7.30 pm in the Community Centre |  |