**Royal Burgh of North Berwick Community Council**

**Minutes of Meeting held at 19.30 on**

**Tuesday 3rd December 2024**

**in the Community Centre, Law Road**

**Present:** Kenny Miller (Chairman), Sally Egan (Vice Chairman), Kathryn Smith (Secretary), Christiane Maher (Treasurer), Bill Macnair, Ian Watson (via zoom), Mairi Benson (via zoom) Jacq Cottrell (via zoom), Don McKee (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 27th in person meeting of the Community Council (since Covid). |  |
| **2 Apologies** | Cllr Peter Hamilton (late) |  |
| **3 Previous Minutes** | Adoption of the Minutes of the meeting held on 5th November which had been circulated previously, was proposed by Cllr Cetingoz and seconded by Cllr Macnair. |  |
| **4 Matters Arising** | 4.1 ***4.3 Remembrance Sunday –*** The Secretary confirmed that all had gone well on the day. She thanked George Johnstone for organising the stewarding. It was a pity that the new sound system had not been available for the Act of Remembrance as the sound had not been good. The hospitality from North Berwick Rugby Club was appreciated and was now in the Club’s calendar for years hence.  4.2 ***12 Banking Hub –*** A public meeting with Lesley Wilson of Cash Access UK who would be operating the hub had been arranged for 13th January in the St Andrew Blackadder Sanctuary at 7.30 pm.  4.3 ***13 Maintenance of Defibrillators –*** The Chairman had contacted North Berwick Trust and, although it would not meet its normal criteria, the request for funding would be put to its Funding Group for consideration.  4.4 ***14.1 E-mail from St Andrew Street residents –*** Alan Stubbs, Service Manager – Roads had passed on the request to the senior officials leading on the parking review for their views in the first instance. A model of the impact of such a change would be required and that would come at a cost. |  |
| **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 20th November festive drink driving/ road traffic initiative was set as a priority.  5.3 The next CAPP meeting would be on 8th January. |  |
| **6 Planning matters** | 6.1 The November 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 –  ***Oakwood, Hamilton Road*** – alterations, extension to house & formation of hardstanding area  ***31 St Andrew Street*** – formation of vehicular access hardstanding area, step, alter ground levels & erection of wall  ***27B Marmion Road*** – alterations to flat  ***Flat 1/12 Dirleton Avenue*** – certificate of lawfulness  ***6 Lorne Square*** – alterations to flat & erection of gates  ***29 Craigleith Avenue*** – extension to house  ***30 St Baldred’s Road*** -extension to house  ***West Links Golf Course*** – formation of 2 irrigation boreholes  ***103 Lochbridge*** – extension to flat, erection of garden building, formation of vehicular access & hardstanding areas  ***5 York Road*** – alterations, extension to flat, formation of vehicular access, raised terrace, steps, erection of gates & piers  ***7 Balfour Street*** – change of use of flat to short term holiday let (retro)  6.3 The following new application was viewed, discussed and commented on as follows –  ***2A Church Road –*** after discussion it was agreed not to comment on the planning application for the painting of the shop front and display of an advertisement.  6.4 Decisions since last meeting –  ***32 Pilgrims Way –*** extension to house – **granted**  ***34 Smileyknowes Court –*** extension to house **– granted**  ***55 Forth Street –*** extension to house and formation of steps **– granted**  ***1 Melbourne Place & 3 Melbourne Place*** – alterations to houses and formation of dormer – **granted**  ***The Coach House, Marly Knowe –*** alterations and extension tobuilding **– granted**  ***28 Macnair Avenue -*** formation of first floor balcony andbalustrade **– granted**  ***71B High Street –*** change of use of flat to short term holiday let ***–* granted**  ***118-120 High Street [Coulters]*** *–* repainting of building; display of advertisements – **granted**  ***Lower Deck, 10B Marine Parade –*** extensions to flat, heightening of walls, formation of hardstanding area and erection of gates – **granted**  ***53 Westgate –*** alterations to house ***–* granted**  ***47 Dirleton Avenue –*** extension to house ***–* granted**  ***The Lodge, I Westerdunes Park –*** 1st floor extension to garage with external staircase, balcony and handrails for ancillaryresidential accommodation ***–* granted**  ***11 Dirleton Avenue -*** alterations to building ***-* 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; £120 to Tall Hut for Q4 website maintenance; and £71.60 for poppy wreaths.  7.2 £35.90 had been received from ELC in re-imbursement for the Lord Lieutenant’s wreath; and £1,800 had been received from the Russell Bequest and ringfenced for the maintenance of the NBRFC defibrillator.  7.3 The Treasurer commented that there would be a monthly charge of £8.50 for on-line banking with the Bank of Scotland. It would appear, however, that RBS would make no charge on new accounts for the first 2 years. She would explore further with the Haddington Branch. |  |
| **8 Edington Cottage Hospital & Abbey Care Home** | 8.1 There was nothing further to report. |  |
| **9 Area Partnership** | 9.1 At the meeting on 12th November 2 applications for funding viz. £10,000 for a chair lift for Gullane Village Hall and £4,000 to renew plants for North Berwick in Bloom & Glorious Gullane Bloomers were approved  9.2 The next meeting would be on 21st January. |  |
| **10 Local Place Plan** | 10.1 The Steering Group had made all the changes necessary and the Plan was now with Planning Aid Scotland and was passed to the graphic designers that day.  10.2 Cllr McKee commented that it was not a done deal until it was accepted and registered with ELC. |  |
| **11 Parking Management Proposals** | 11.1 The 77-page Update on the proposals, which was now on the ELC website, would be discussed at the ELC meeting on 10th December. The meeting would be live streamed.  11.2 It was noted in the Update that the recommendation was that there should not be a public hearing as this was discretionary and not mandatory.  11.3 It was agreed that all the issues had not been addressed and the public was being denied the opportunity for further comment.  11.4 The sub group would be meeting Peter Forsyth the following Thursday.  11.5 The legal process stipulated that there was an obligation to have a public hearing. |  |
| **12 Health & Wellbeing Association** | 12.1 Cllr Egan was preparing the response to the Planning Older People’s Services consultation survey. |  |
| **13 Lodge Tree** | 13.1 Sadly, the tree at the entrance to the Lodge had reached the end of its life and the dangerous limbs had been removed already.  13.2 It had been agreed that the space would be used for the NBCC tree which it was hoped would be a 5m high chestnut or oak.  13.3 A tree surgeon had been spoken to about making benches from the wood but funding would be required. It was suggested that sponsorship from local businesses could be sought. |  |
| **14 Correspondence** | 14.1 There was none. |  |
| **15 Any other competent business** | 15.1 ***Christmas Lights Switch-on* –** The Chairman commented that this had been a brilliant event and thanked the organising committee very ably led by Cllr Benson. £777.63 (rounded up to £800) had been collected for charity. The group would have to look at collecting electronically in future.  15.2 ***Local Life –*** Due to the costs involved it was agreed to drop out of contributing to the publication in the meantime and to see what the reaction was.  15.3 ***On the Move:*** Cllr Macnair reported that the journey hub at the station was going out to consultation. |  |
| **16 Date of Next Meeting** | The date of the next meeting would be on Tuesday 7th January 2025 at 7.30 pm in the Community Centre |  |