**Royal Burgh of North Berwick Community Council**

**Minutes of Meeting held at 19.30 on**

**Tuesday 7th January 2025**

**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, Don McKee and Julie Cetingoz (via zoom)

**Also present:** ELC Cllr Liz Allan (via zoom), Kirsty Towler, Stefan Aalten-Voogd, Robin Grant 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 28th in person meeting of the Community Council (since Covid) and wishing everyone a Happy New Year. |  |
| **2 Apologies** | ELC Cllrs Jeremy Findlay & Carol McFarlane, Cllr Peter Hamilton and Doug Haig |  |
| **3 Robin Grant - presentation** | Robin Grant gave a presentation on a new charity which had been set up in December and was due to be launched by the end of January to deal with the ‘coastal erosion’ of health services, choice, involvement and trust.  He explained that the catalyst for the North Berwick Coastal Area (NBCA) Health & Social Care (H&SC) Charity was the loss in North Berwick of Edington beds, the Minor Injuries Unit, the Abbey Nursing Home and the NBCA link worker.  A satisfaction survey for the North Berwick Coastal Area last June had identified that health services (60%) and care of the elderly (32%) needed most improving and the priorities for improvement were hospital A&E, GP services and support for the elderly.  A new charity was required as (1) H&SC issues in the NBCA were different from the rest of East Lothian and there was no single charity positioned to promote, support and raise funds for larger H&SC proposals in NBCA; (2) some health charities did not have a specific NBCA focus; (3) local charities cover specific areas; and (4) some North Berwick charities/bodies had a remit beyond health e,g North Berwick Trust & the Area Partnership.  The best charity model was the NHS Lothian Charity - fundraising for H&SC provision over and above the statutory provision by the NHS (or ELC) to provide added value/ enhance service within the NBCA.  The first proposal was to improve the chain of survival by BCPR training, PAD training, GoodSAM app + the ‘Circuit’; and increase the number of first responders. |  |
| **4 Previous Minutes** | Adoption of the Minutes of the meeting held on 3rd December which had been circulated previously, was proposed by Cllr Maher and seconded by Cllr Macnair. |  |
| **5 Matters Arising** | None |  |
| **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 8th January. |  |
| **7 Planning matters** | 7.1 The December 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 –  ***2 Havana, 6 Cromwell Road & 14 Cromwell Road* -** change of use of flat to short term holiday let  ***Gentofte, 9 Westerdunes Park*** – alterations to house  ***14B Westgate*** – installation of secondary glazing  ***Flat 1, 10 West Bay Road*** – internal alterations  ***12 Westerdunes Park*** – change of use of landscape strip for widening vehicular access, etc  ***Whitehaven, 11 Glenorchy Road*** – formation of dormer  ***Mizzentop, 9A Westerdunes Park*** – alterations to house and garage  ***28C Dunbar Road*** – extension to house  ***15B Melbourne Road*** – replacement windows [LBC]; prior notification of above  ***6 Lorne Square*** – demolition of gate  ***Units 5, 6 & 7 Castleton Farm*** – alterations, change of use of electric bike hire unit [class 1A] to food production [class 4]  7.3 The following new applications were viewed, discussed and commented on as follows –  ***48-52 Dunbar Road (Aldi) –*** after discussion it was agreed to object to the retrospective planning application for siting 2 parcel lockers, installation of 2 closed circuit television camera and associated works on the ground of noise disturbance to the residents of Glenburn Road.  ***12 Westgate –*** afterdiscussion, including listening to the comments of a neighbour, it was agreed to object to the planning application for alterations and change of use of the bank building to form 1 house, formation of off-road parking, hardstanding areas and associated works on the ground of loss of office space.  7.4 Decisions since last meeting –  ***2 Frampton Court, 26 Dirleton Avenue –*** prior notification of replacement windows – **granted**  ***31 St Andrew Street –*** formation of vehicular access, hardstanding area, step, alter ground levels and erection of wall – **granted**  ***27B Marmion Road* –** alterations to flat **– granted**  ***103 Lochbridge Road –*** extension to flat, erection of garden building, formation of vehicular access and hardstanding areas ***–* granted**  ***2A Church Road –*** painting of shopfront; display of advertisement - **granted**  ***6 Victoria Road*** *–* alterations to house – **granted**  ***Certificate of Lawfulness for existing use short term holiday lets –*** 10B Fidra Road & 10 Lorne Lane – **granted**  ***15 Westerdunes Park –*** alterations and extension to house,alterations to garage ***-* 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; £1,200 for Local Life; and £100 rental for public meeting to St Andrew Blackadder.  8.2 The Treasurer reported that signatures for the application for the transfer of the bank account to RBS were required. It would take 6-8 weeks to complete. |  |
| **9 Local Place Plan** | 9.1 Cllr McKee commented that Planning Aid Scotland (PAS) were being pressed to complete.  9.2 He expected the final draft February/March.  9.3 He confirmed the final payment to PAS would only be made when the completed Plan was accepted by ELC. |  |
| **10 Parking Management Proposals** | 10.1 The Chairman reported that Peter Forsyth had been asked where the revenue from the Common Good Fund would go. He had also been asked for sight of the objections.  10.2 He had written to the Chief Executive requesting that she exercise the power to hold a public hearing. The sub group was still working on how to force a public hearing and overturn the decision.  10.3 There had been no further information regarding the work at the east end of the High Street though there were rumours that it would be happening in February. The Secretary would enquire further. |  |
| **11 Health & Wellbeing Association** | 12.1 Cllr Egan had submitted her draft response to the East Lothian Health & Social Care Partnership (ELHSCP), Planning Older People’s Services (POPS) public engagement and consultation document on 6th December. She thanked members for their comments.  12.2 She advised that the Health and Wellbeing Association (H&WBA) had not met since her last update but she had shadowed Hilary Smith, Chair of the Coastal Area H&WBA, to a meeting on 10th December of the Older People’s Independent Community Panel, a group set up by Andrew Main (AM), Lead Officer for POPS, and Chaired by Maureen McFarlane, Manager of East Lothian Volunteer Centre (VCEL).The Panel comprises officers from the ELHSCP and people who manage third sector / work with older people and provide independent advocacy and other services across East Lothian, as well as representatives from the various area partnerships who have a vested interest in the supply and quality care for Older People.  12.3 It had been agreed at the meeting that **–**   * an ‘easy read’ version of the POPS final draft and recommendations and Integrated Joint Board decision would be beneficial as part of a final stakeholder update – and / or a brief information video on line to deliver the key information. AM agreed to discuss this further with Kate Thornback (KT), Engagement and Communication Officer within the ELHSCP. * KT was arranging a meeting for interested parties from the Independent Panel to attend and participate in the Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) to consider the potential negative and positive impacts from the final recommendations / decisions within the final Draft of the POPs report and how these might affect Older People, their families and communities.  Proposed date Monday 3 February 12.30-14.30 via MS Teams. * The next full meeting of the ELHSCP Independent Community Panel of experts would take place on Tuesday 25th February 2025 from 1pm – 3pm. |  |
| **12 Lodge Tree** | 12.1 The tree was now down and the stump had been grinded.  12.2 Cllr Macnair had the trunk at Gilsland. A decision would have to be made about what to do with it. Someone with wood carving skills would need to be found and it was suggested that ideas could be sought on social media. |  |
| 1. **Correspondence** | 13.1 E-mail from Gilbert Avenue resident regarding damage caused by council vehicles to a newly laid grass areas – ELC had admitted liability but nothing had been done yet and the damage was worsening.  13.2 E-mail from Transport Planning UK regarding an award of funding to the Law Primary Active Travel Group for the design of a safe & accessible path connecting the schools to Glenburn Road and the communities to the east and requesting a slot on our agenda to update on progress – it had been agreed that they would attend next month’s meeting. |  |
| **14 Any other competent business** | 14.1 ***Defibrillators:*** The Secretary reported that there had been a problem with access to the defibrillator outside Cake as it had been blocked by bins. Cllr Hamilton had spoken to the manager of the shop who would speak to the company emptying the bins about keeping access clear. It was agreed that the notices around the town needed to be updated and it was suggested that notices regarding the nearest defibrillators be posted in the venues of the Scone Café, the Beacon and the Day Centre.  14.2 ***NBCC sound equipment:*** The Chairman commented that the new sound equipment could not now be stored in the Community Centre. He had asked if it could be stored in the Old Council Chambers and had been offered the lease of the Chambers for £1 and utilities. He would investigate further. |  |
| **15 Date of Next Meeting** | The date of the next meeting would be on Tuesday 4th February 2025 at 7.30 pm in the Community Centre |  |