**Royal Burgh of North Berwick Community Council**

**Minutes of Meeting held at 19.30 on**

**Tuesday 4th February 2025**

**in the Community Centre, Law Road**

**Present:** Kenny Miller (Chairman), Sally Egan (Vice Chairman), Kathryn Smith (Secretary), Christiane Maher (Treasurer), Peter Hamilton, Bill Macnair, Ian Watson (via zoom), Mairi Benson (via zoom) Jacq Cottrell

**Also present:** ELC Cllr Carol McFarlane, Doug Haig, Jim Goodfellow, Brett Walker, Andy Keba Transport Planning UK), Euan Revell & Emily Burt, Helen & Morna Murgray (via zoom). PCs Diane Bath & Laura Jackson and Steven Brown (via zoom) (local press)

*Note: due to a technical problem those on zoom were unable to participate properly in the meeting.*

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| **Agenda item** | **Discussion** | **Action** |
| **1 Welcome** | The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming all to the 29h in person meeting of the Community Council (since Covid). |  |
| **2 Apologies** | ELC Cllrs Jeremy Findlay and Cllrs Don McKee & Julie Cetingez |  |
| **3 Safe Route to Schools** | 3.1 Andy Keba from Transport Planning UK and Euan Revell & Emily Burt from the Law Primary Active Travel Group gave a presentation on the proposed safe route to school.  3.2 Transport Planning UK had given an award of funding to the Law Primary Active Travel Group for the design of a safe and accessible path avoiding Lochbridge Road connecting the schools to Glenburn Road and the communities to the east of the town.  3.3 The aim was to reduce school-area traffic, increase safety, and support healthier travel choices for all residents within North Berwick. The route would provide a safe accessible route connecting communities and children traveling to Law Primary School & North Berwick High School.  3.4 This would involve the existing whindust path being upgraded to a weather resistant surface and the field path being upgraded to a weather resistant surface.  3.5 The landowner had been engaged and a topographical survey had been undertaken. Ecological surveys had been completed.  3.6 A Schools Engagement Session had been held with the Primary and High Schools on Monday 20th January.  3.7 The consultation phase would commence on 17th February, a planning application submitted in the Spring and the construction phase planned for the Summer. |  |
| **4 Previous Minutes** | Adoption of the Minutes of the meeting held on 7th January which had been circulated previously, was proposed by Cllr Egan and seconded by Cllr Maher |  |
| **5 Matters Arising** | 5.1 ***12 Lodge Tree –*** the Chairman had been told that a bench in the area of the tree would not be allowed due to objections from neighbours in the Lodge. It was suggested that the wood could be used to refurbish the benches on the sea front. A tree surgeon was also being sought to do a wood sculpture.  5.2 ***13.1 Gilbert Avenue –*** the damaged areas of grass had now been repaired by ELC.  5.3 ***14.2 Sound equipment/Council Chambers –*** the Chairman had asked for sight of a utility statement and the proposed contract for lease of the Council Chambers but neither was forthcoming yet. |  |
| **6 Police Report** | 6.1 This month’s abbreviated police report, which had been circulated beforehand, was taken as read.  6.2 At the CAPP meeting on 8th January anti-social behaviour at the skate park had been fixed as a priority.  6.3 PCs Bath & Jackson, who were present, reported that there had been thefts of 3 high value vehicles in the town which looked as if they were to order.  6.4 There would be a pop-up at Tesco on 18th February from 12 noon till 2.00pm when members of the public would have the opportunity to talk to the police.  6.5 It was confirmed that the police station was currently open on Tuesdays.  6.6 The next CAPP meeting would be on 19th February. |  |
| **7 Planning matters** | 7.1 The January 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 –  ***13 Westerdunes Park –*** formation of hardstanding  ***1A Westbay Road –*** extension to flat, formation of first floor balcony with balustrading, vehicular access, hardstanding areas, steps and erection of wall  ***Seaholm, 14 Westerdunes Park –*** formation of hardstanding area and steps (retro)  ***13, 15A-15D & 17 Balfour Street*** – alterations to flats  ***2 Marmion Road –*** change of use of flat to short term holiday let (retro)  ***Engine Cottage, Abbotsford Road –*** prior notification – replacement windows  ***The Harbour, Victoria Road –*** alterations to building and erection of signage (retro); display of advertisement (retro)  ***6 Abbey Road –*** erection of fencing (retro)  ***The Scottish Seabird Centre –*** installation of seawater heating pump system and associated works  7.3 The following new applications were viewed, discussed and commented on as follows –  ***Land at Castleton Farm –*** after discussion, including reference to an e-mail highlighting an apparent breach of various planning conditions at the Drift which were to be investigated by planning enforcement, it was decided not to comment on the application for change of use of agricultural land for the installation of ground mounted solar panels and associated works.  ***Land north west of Haddington Road –*** after discussion it was agreed not to comment on the planning application for the construction of a community park and pump track (wheeled sport facility), access paths and associated works.  7.4 Decisions since last meeting –  ***Marine Lodge, 12A Westgate & 15B Melbourne Road*** ***–*** prior notification of replacement windows - **granted**  ***Whitehaven, 11 Glenorchy Road*** – formation of dormer – **granted**  ***14B Westgate*** – installation of secondary glazing – **granted**  ***Flat 1, 10 Westbay Road*** – internal alterations – **granted**  ***28C Dubar Road*** – extension to house – **granted**  ***6 Lorne Square*** – demolition of gate – **granted**  ***6 Lorne Square*** – alterations to flat and erection of gates - **granted**  ***29 Craigleith Avenue –*** extension to house – **granted**  **30 St Baldred’s Road** – extension to house – **granted**  ***NBGC West Links*** – formation of 2 irrigation bore holes – **granted**  ***7 Balfour Street*** – change of use of flat to short term holiday let (retro) – **granted**  ***Land adjacent to the Harbour, Victoria Road*** – demolition of building & steps; erection of community building (class 10), storage or distribution buildings (class 6), heightening of breakwater wall 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; and £155.88 for the zoom subscription renewal.  8.2 £152 from the sale of the bottle of whisky and £1,800 from the Stella Moffat Trust, ringfenced for defibrillator maintenance, had been received.  8.3 With regarded to the transfer of the bank account to RBS, it was agreed that the Treasurer and Secretary were authorised to request and be issued with debit card(s) for use in relation to the operation and giving instructions in relation to the bank account. |  |
| **9 Local Place Plan** | 9.1 Cllr McKee reported that the final version of the Local Place Plan had been submitted to ELC and their response was awaited. |  |
| **10 Parking Management Proposals** | 10.1 The Chairman confirmed that he had written to the Chief Executive requesting that she exercise the power to hold a public hearing on the Parking Management proposals. As no satisfactory response had been received, he would be writing to the Ombudsman.  10.2 With regard to the work at the east end of the High Street ELC had decided to proceed by way of a ETRO which meant there would be no consultation period. It had been agreed to object to this procedure but ELC refused to accept the complaint. The Chairman had written to the Ombudsman who had asked for sight of the correspondence.  10.3 Following representations from some of the retailers regarding the absence of loading bays ELC’s response had been to form a loading bay in the amenity space in front of the police station and to remove the planters at the front for a trial period. It was felt that this was a knee jerk reaction by ELC officials without consultation with Norh Berwick in Bloom or other interested parties.  10.4 Following a frank discussion it was agreed to do nothing at the moment  *Note: Subsequently in light of further consideration by members the decision was taken to support the On the Move unanimous decision to ask ELC to reverse their last-minute change to the previously agreed plan for the east end of the High Street.* |  |
| **11 Health & Wellbeing Association** | 11.1 Cllr Egan reported that the Planning Older People’s Services (POPS) final draft had been approved to be signed off by the IJB.  11.2 She also advised that the priorities for the Health & Wellbeing Association and forthcoming Area Partnership Plan had been identified during workshops prior to Christmas, and had now been pulled together into a useable format.  11.3 The central aim was to work to reduce barriers to inclusion and accessibility, improve people’s connection with each other and to their sense of belonging so that all members of the community could live healthier lives.  11.4 She added that there would be a meeting on 18th February to finalising priorities, aims, objectives and format. |  |
| **12 Area Partnership** | 12.1 The Chairman reported on the meeting on 21st January as follows –   1. the Community Council’s application for £1,800 towards the defibrillator maintenance fund had been successful. 2. Robin Grant had given a presentation on the background and aims of his new charity. |  |
| **13 Defibrillators** | 13.1 There was a discussion about whether the boxes should be locked or unlocked. It was understood that the current recommended advice from the Ambulance Service was that they should be unlocked.  13.2 A new box at the harbour was required as the current one was out of commission. An agreement had been reached with the Harbour Trust that they would purchase a new one.  13.3 Although Cllr Hamilton was doing a great job looking after the defibrillators it was agreed that a back-up was needed. |  |
| **14. Correspondence** | 14.1 E-mail from BT Digital Voice about an event in the Community Centre between 10.30 and 13.30 on 5th February  14.2 E-mail from ‘a very grumpy woman’ about the way ELC had railroaded their proposals through, ignoring residents’ and businesses’ preferences, and adding her appreciation of the Community Council’s work on their behalf. |  |
| **15 Any other competent business** | 15.1 It was noted that work on the shelter at the Glasclune path was being carried out. There had been comments that the hedge along the path had become overgrown. |  |
| **16 Date of Next Meeting** | The date of the next meeting would be on Tuesday 4th March 2025 at 7.30 pm in the Community Centre |  |