**Royal Burgh of North Berwick Community Council**

**Minutes of Meeting held at 19.30 on**

**Tuesday 4th March 2025**

**in the Community Centre, Law Road**

**Present:** Kenny Miller (Chairman), Sally Egan (Vice Chairman via zoom), Kathryn Smith (Secretary), Christiane Maher (Treasurer via zoom), Peter Hamilton, Bill Macnair, Ian Watson (via zoom), Don McKee, Julie Cetingez (via zoom)

**Also present:** ELC Cllr Carol McFarlane, Doug Haig, Jim Goodfellow, Rory Steel 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 30th in person meeting of the Community Council (since Covid). |  |
| **2 Apologies** | ELC Cllrs Jeremy Findlay, Cllr Jacq Cottrell and Jackie Shuttleworth |  |
| **3 Fringe by the Sea 2025 - Update** | 3.1 Festival Director, Rory Steel, gave an update on plans for the 2025 Festival which would run from 1st to 10th August.   * An exciting programme with 250 shows/acts was planned with tickets on sale for the first shows announced going well. The Bluebells show was already sold out. * The format would be the same as in previous years with everything from headline comedy to kids’ stage shows and fantastic films to foodie masterclasses. * There would be a new tent for the Lodge stage and the kids’ tent would be much more open. * They were looking to implement a number of new measures to reduce congestion and issues around parking including suspending parking on both sides of St Baldred’s Road, securing the High School car park for visitors and allocating blue badge parking on St Baldred’s Crescent. Using public transport would be encouraged. * The size of the accessibility platform to the main and Lodge stages would be increased. * The first SAG meeting would take place on 28th May.   3.2 Cllr Macnair again raised the issue of maintenance of the grass after the event which would really need to be reseeded and suggested that a professional grounds man be employed for the purpose. |  |
| **4 Previous Minutes** | Adoption of the Minutes of the meeting held on 4th February which had been circulated previously, was proposed by Cllr Hamilton and seconded by Cllr Macnair |  |
| **5 Matters Arising** | 5.1 ***5.3*** ***Sound equipment/Council Chambers –*** the Chairman had not had sight of a utility statement or the proposed contract for lease of the Council Chambers but some progress seemed to being made. |  |
| **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 19th February speeding on Haddington Road was set as a priority.  6.3 There had been a police pop-up at Tesco on 18th February from 12 noon till 2.00pm but no members of the public had talked to the police officers. It needed to be properly advertised as a drop-in session.  6.4 It was understood that there was a 2-month decommissioning phase for closing the police station. Chief Inspector Leathes was to report what would be happening at the next AELCC meeting.  6.5 The next CAPP meeting would be on 2nd April. |  |
| **7 Planning matters** | 7.1 The February 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 –  ***Aldi 48-52 Dunbar Road*** – installation of air source heat pumps, refrigeration equipment and associated works  ***Anchor Green, by St Andrew’s Old Kirk*** – siting of funfair equipment and kiosk from April to end of September of each calendar year for temporary period of 3 years  ***7 Dirleton Avenue*** - alterations, extension to building [LBC & P]  ***25 High Street*** – alterations to building [LBC & P]  ***1 Kings Knoll, 24 Clifford Road*** – alterations to building, formation of hardstanding, decking areas, steps, ramp, erection of pergola, railings, demolition of railings and part of building [LBC]  ***36 Moffat Place*** – extension to house  ***Seafield, 10 Forth Street*** – alterations and extensions to flat, formation of second floor balcony  ***5 Marine Parade*** – demolition of gate and railings  ***4 & 5 Lorne Lane*** – certificate of lawfulness for an existing use short term holiday let  ***The Bothy & The Byre, Williamstone Farm Steadings*** – alterations, extensions to building, formation of hardstanding area, erection of gates and part demolition of walls; extension to Bothy House, erection of pergola, gates, formation of hardstanding area, planters & outdoor kitchen [LBC & P]  ***117 High Street (Coop) -*** Display of advertisements  7.3 Decisions since last meeting –  ***Seaholm, 14 Westerdunes Park -*** formation of hardstanding area and steps (retro) – **granted**  ***2 Marmion Road (retro), 2 Havana, 2 Cromwell Road (retro)*** ***& 14 Cromwell Road - c***hange of use of flats to short termholiday lets – **granted**  ***48-52 Dunbar Road (Aldi) -*** siting of 2 parcel lockers, installation of 2 cctv cameras and associated works (retro) – **granted**  ***12 Westerdunes Park*** – change of use of landscape strip for widening of vehicular access erection of garage fencing, gate, formation of hardstanding areas and associated works – **granted**  ***Mizzentop, 9A Westerdunes Park –*** alterations to house and garage – **granted**  ***12 Westgate*** – part demolition, alterations and extension to building, alterations to boundary wall and associated works (LBC) – **refused**  ***Flat 1, 12 Dirleton Avenue*** – certificate of lawfulness for existing use short term holiday let – **withdrawn**  ***Units 5, 6 & 7 Castleton Farm*** – alterations and change of use of electric bike hire unit (Class 1A) to food production (Class 4) – **granted**  ***Former garden ground of 1 Dirleton Avenue*** – erection of 1 house and associated works - **refused** |  |
| **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; £80 to St Andrew Blackadder for hire of sanctuary for public meeting; £83.94 to BWF Hosting for web hosting and £120 to Tall Hut for Q1 website maintenance.  8.2 £1,800 from the Area Partnership, ringfenced for defibrillator maintenance, had been received.  8.3 Regarding the transfer of the bank account to RBS, there had been technical difficulties with signing the application on line so the process had to be started again. |  |
| **9 Local Place Plan** | 9.1 Cllr McKee reported that the Local Place Plan had been registered by ELC who should now take 'due cognisance' of it.  9.2 The final payment to Planning Aid Scotland (PAS) would be going through this week per North Berwick Trust.  9.3 PAS would provide 2 hard copies of the Plan. It would also require to be publicised on the website.  9.4 Cllr McKee was thanked for his work leading the team in producing the Plan. |  |
| **10 Parking Management Proposals** | 10.1 The Chairman commented that he had been advised that a Community Council could not go straight to the Ombudsman.  10.2 The stage 1 complaint had been refused by ELC which meant that it could not go to stage 2 and therefore the Ombudsman.  10.3 Cllr Maher had recently heard that there might be a further delay in the implementation of the on-street street waiting restrictions due to come into effect on 12th May and the on-street parking charges effective from 2nd June 2025. |  |
| **11 Health & Wellbeing Association** | 11.1 Cllr Egan reported that at the meeting on 18th February the agreed objectives and priorities for the Health & Wellbeing Association (H&WBA) and forthcoming Area Partnership Plan had been agreed.  11.2 The £2,000 grant from the Area Partnership Forum to enable start up small grants for H&WBA projects had benefited from a H&WBA underspend making the total available for small grants during 2025 £3,200.  11.3 She was disappointed that Ageing Well aqua instructors were not available in North Berwick. |  |
| **12 Area Partnership** | 12.1 The Chairman reported the meeting on 25th February had been all about funding.  12.2 All applications had been approved apart from North Berwick Environment & Heritage Trust’s application for £14,172 towards the cost of project development reports on St Andrews Old Kirk, Kirk Ports as it was felt to be premature.  12.3 The Community Council’s application for £1,800 for the defibrillator fund was amongst those approved. |  |
| **13 Defibrillators** | 13.1 The Chairman reported that £3,600 funding had now been received for the defibrillator fund with a further application for £1,800 being considered by the Common Good fund.  13.2 There was a further discussion about whether the boxes should be locked or unlocked. Apparently, there were 26 defibrillators in unlocked boxes in Dunbar none of which had been vandalized.  13.3 It was agreed that the new box at the harbour should be unlocked for a trial period over the Easter period. |  |
| **14. Correspondence** | 14.1 Proposal of Application Notice re coastal erosion proposals by North Berwick Golf Club. There would be 2 public exhibitions in NBGC clubhouse on 13th Match and 20th April from 2-8 pm.  14.2 E-mail from SEPA re a consultation on proposals which would change how they authorise and regulate waste management, water and industrial activities with a closing date of 30th March.  14.3 E-mail from Olly Owen, Chair of NBE&HT re guest speaker from Northern Lighthouse Board at their AGM on 25th March.  14.4 E-mail from Tantallon Terrace resident about Enjoy Leisure’s plan for a Pitch & Putt on Coo’s Green. |  |
| **15 Any other competent business** | 15.1 ***VE Day 80*** – It was confirmed that a commemoration event would be held including lighting a beacon at the harbour on Monday 5th May. Preparations were well under way.  15.2 ***Street Party*** – It was noted that the Highland Games Association would be holding a pipe band parade and street party on 26th July.  15.3 ***Resilience meeting –*** The Chairman & Cllr Cetingez had attended a resilience meeting on 1st March. It was an excellent meeting with much to take to take away from it.  15.4 ***Councillors’ remuneration* –** It was commented that the recent announcement of a 40% increase in senior ELC councillors’ remuneration was an extraordinary thing to do given the currentCouncil financial restraints**.**  **15.5 *Glasclune & Castle Hill shelters –*** It was pleasing to note the high quality of refurbishment being carried out on the shelters. |  |
| **16 Date of Next Meeting** | The date of the next meeting would be on Tuesday 1st April 2025 at 7.30 pm in the Community Centre |  |