**Royal Burgh of North Berwick Community Council**

**Minutes of Meeting held at 19.30 on**

**Tuesday 1st April 2025**

**in the Community Centre, Law Road**

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

**Also present:** ELC Cllr Carol McFarlane, Doug Haig, Jim Goodfellow, Mitchell Stevenson 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 31st in person meeting of the Community Council (since Covid). |  |
| **2 Apologies** | ELC Cllr Jeremy Findlay |  |
| **3 Previous Minutes** | Adoption of the Minutes of the meeting held on 4th March which had been circulated previously, was proposed by Cllr McKee and seconded by Cllr Egan subject to item 11.2 being amended *to ‘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.’* |  |
| **4 Matters Arising** | 4.1 ***14.1 Pitch & Putt on Coo’s Green –*** It had been confirmed by Enjoy Leisure that after considering all feedback and reviewing the expansion of the current facility, the proposed pitch & putt would no longer proceed and the project had ceased with immediate effect. |  |
| **5 Police Report** | 5.1 This month’s abbreviated police report, which had been circulated beforehand, was taken as read.  5.2 It was noted that there would be a community engagement van at the Community Centre from 10 am till noon every Tuesday for the next few weeks.  5.3 The Chairman commented that speeding in Lochbridge Road had been raised with him by a resident. It was agreed to raise this at the next CAPP meeting.  5.4 The next CAPP meeting would be on 2nd April. |  |
| **6 Planning matters** | 6.1 The March 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 –  ***5 Marine Parade*** – erection of canopy, gate & railings to wall  ***2 Fidra Road*** – demolition of gate, widening of vehicular access, erection of gate and formation of hardstanding area  ***11 Fidra Road*** – alterations, extensions to house, formation of dormer windows, decked area, installation of air source heat pump  ***Kingshill, 1B Bank Street*** – alterations, extension to house, formation of dormers, erection of shed, greenhouse and associated works  ***Mizzentop, 9A Westerdunes Park*** – alterations, extension to house, erection of domestic workshop & formation of decking area  ***10A Balfour Street*** – alterations to flat  ***1 Richardson Crescent*** – extensions to house and extensions to garage as ancillary residential accommodation  ***3 Castleton Farm Cottages*** – extensions to house, formation of first floor balcony with balustrade  ***9 & 9A Marmion Road*** – alterations, heightening of roof and formation of roof terrace with balustrades to flats  ***15D Balfour Street*** – change of use of flat to short term holiday let (retro)  ***Land north of 5 Rhodes Holdings*** – conversion, extension, alteration and change of use of agricultural buildings/land to buildings for business (class 4) and non-residential institutions (class 10) and associated works  6.3 The following new applications were viewed, discussed and commented on as follows –  ***Flat 3, 6 Cromwell Road -*** after discussion it was agreed not to comment on the planning application for replacement windows and doors provided the window frames to be replaced were replaced with timber  ***16 Forth Street –*** after discussion it was agreed not to comment on the planning application for alterations, 1st floor extension to house, and formation of ramps with handrails and balustrading  6.4 Decisions since last meeting –  ***36 Moffat Place*** – extension to house – **granted**  ***Seafield, 10 Forth Street*** – alterations and extensions to flat, formation of second floor balcony – **granted**  ***5 Marine Parade*** – demolition of gate and railings – **granted**  ***13 Westerdunes Park*** – formation of hardstanding area – **granted**  ***1A West Bay Road*** – extension to flat, formation of first floor balcony with balustrading, vehicular access, hardstanding areas, steps and erection of walls – **granted**  ***The Bothy & The Byre, Williamstone Farm Steadings,*** ***Gasworks Lane*** – extension to Bothy House, erection of pergola, gates, formation of hardstanding area, planters, and outdoor kitchen – **granted**  ***The Harbour, Victoria Road (Lobster Shack)*** – alterations to building and erection of signage (retro) display of advertisements (retro) - **granted**  ***12 Westgate*** – alterations, extensions and change of use of bank to form 1 house, formation of off-road parking, hardstanding areas and associated works – **refused**  ***Balgone Dean, Kingston*** – part change of use of agricultural land to domestic garden ground and for grazing and keeping horses, erection of domestic garage/gym/bike store, ancillary domestic accommodation and domestic stable block (part retro) – **granted** |  |
| **7 Treasurer’s Report** | 7.1 The Treasurer had circulated a note prior to the meeting which 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; £42 to BWF Hosting for web hosting add-ons; £167.62 to Zurich for insurance including cover for the sound equipment; £7,217 balance due to Planning Aid Scotland re Local Place Plan; and £4.75 bank charges  7.2 £1,500 from the Common Good Fund, ringfenced for defibrillator maintenance, had been received.  7.3 Final checks by RBS regarding the transfer of the bank account from BoS were ongoing and details should arrive within the next week or two. |  |
| **8 Parking Management Proposals** | 8.1 The Chairman commented that he had received an e-mail from Duncan Fraser with details of a way to move forward without incurring costs.  8.2 It was confirmed that implementation of the parking proposals had been delayed as planning permission was required for installation of parking meters in the Conservation Area.  8.3 Craig Hoy MSP was raising at Holyrood the issue of the misuse of ETROs by ELC.  8.4 It was noted that Stantec was conducting the consultations on parking management in the other towns to be affected. |  |
| **9 Health & Wellbeing Association** | 9.1 Cllr Egan reported that there would be a meeting of the Association the following week.  9.2 She was disappointed that applications for small grants were slow in coming in. |  |
| **10 Defibrillators** | 10.1 The Chairman reported that £5,100 had now been received for the defibrillator fund, including the further £1,500 from the Common Good fund. North Berwick Trust had agreed to top up to £10,000 if required.  10.2 Loco in Lochbridge Road had agreed to host a defibrillator and had asked if the Community Council would adopt it to look after which was agreed.  10.3 After investigation Cllr Watson commented that it was not possible to change the existing lock on the defibrillator at the harbour. Claymore had been asked to look at it to see if it could be disabled. Once the cost of converting it was known a decision would be taken whether to replace it.  10.4 The Chairman commented that the defibrillators were not insured for damage. He had been quoted £45 for the appropriate cover which it was agreed should be accepted. |  |
| **11 V E Day 80** | 11.1 The Secretary updated the arrangements for the Beacon Lighting ceremony which would take place at the Harbour on 5th May starting at 8.30 pm.  11.2 The pipe band will play a set of tunes for about 20 minutes; Churchill’s VE Day message will be relayed; the local Veterans’ leader will read the Tribute; a lone piper will play before the Beacon is lit by the Lord Lieutenant to the accompaniment of the Voices Choir singing ‘I vow to Thee my Country’; the Choir will then sing ‘We’ll meet again’ & ‘Sweet Caroline’ (singalongs) and conclude with Elvis’s ‘If I Can Dream’.  11.3 No Safety Advisory Group meeting was required.  11.4 The Chairman had organised the stewards.  11.5 Sound engineer, Cam Hair would be required to set up the sound system and was likely to charge a fee for doing so. |  |
| **12 Resilience Planning** | 12.1 The Chairman & Cllr Cetingez had attended an ELC resilient communities’ workshop on 1st March. It was an excellent meeting with much to take to take away from it.  12.2 Cllr Cetingez gave a short overview of the meeting.   * The **Aim** was to bring together communities, partner and voluntary agencies to promote the benefits of Community Resilience within East Lothian and provide guidance and information in support of this endeavour. * The **Objectives** were to –   promote and highlight Resilient Communities;  assist communities to increase their resilience in the event of any emergency or other unexpected event;  provide communities with advice, information and reassurance on ways they can be better prepared for emergencies and unexpected events;  highlight responder agencies, including the voluntary sector, and the challenges they face;  provide an opportunity for networking and sharing of information and best practices;  provide communities with a way forward for Resilient Communities in East Lothian.  12.3 Cllr Cetingez then commented on two items on the Agenda, namely Climate Change and Community Resilience in Action, highlighting Eyemouth’s Response Team in the latter.  12.4 In conclusion it was agreed to (a) refresh the Resilience Plan, (b) work more closely with others to build a community hub, (c) refer to the Eyemouth community example to introduce basic first aid training and more and (d) ask for grants and funding to prepare for emergency climate events. |  |
| **13 Correspondence** | 13.1 ***Community Council elections –*** the proposed timetable and voting places for the community council elections in October had been circulated for information. It was felt a more central location for voting such as the Hope Rooms would be preferable to the Sports Centre to attract a higher turnout.  13.2 ***Trees in Dirleton Road –*** a commuter had written expressing concern that the tarmac on the pavement along Dirleton Road had been laid right up to the tree trunks which would have a detrimental effect on the trees. It was pointed out that the tarmac was in fact porous/permeable and was therefore not damaging the trees. |  |
| **14 Any other competent business** | 14.1 ***Community Bus –*** Cllr Macnair reported that the proposed community bus would not be happening due to lack of funding. It was understood that the service bus routes were changing and that Pilgrims Way would be included.  14.2 ***Beach footprint signs –*** it was agreed to acquire 4 new signs this year.  14.3 ***Provost’s lamp post –*** the Chairman pointed out that the lamp post in Quality Street required renovation. A skilled sign writer would need to be found and the cost explored.  14.4 ***Glasclune & Castle Hill shelters –*** it was agreed to write to the Rotary Club to thank them for raising funds and managing the refurbishment of the shelters. |  |
| **15 Date of Next Meeting** | The date of the next meeting would be on Tuesday 6th May 2025 at 7.30 pm in the Community Centre |  |