**Royal Burgh of North Berwick Community Council**

**Minutes of Meeting held at 19.30 on**

**Tuesday 6th May 2025**

**in the Community Centre, Law Road**

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

**Also present:** ELC Cllr Carol McFarlane, Doug Haig, 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 32nd in person meeting of the Community Council (since Covid). |  |
| **2 Apologies**  **Absent** | ELC Cllr Jeremy Findlay and Cllrs Jacq Cottrell & Mairi Benson  ELC Cllr Liz Allan |  |
| **3 Previous Minutes** | Adoption of the Minutes of the meeting held on 1st April which had been circulated previously, was proposed by Cllr Cetingez and seconded by Cllr McKee |  |
| **4 Matters Arising** | 4.1 ***11 V E Day 80 –*** The Beacon Lighting ceremony at the Harbour the previous evening had been a great success with around 500 people attending.  4.2 ***14.1 Community Bus –*** Cllr Macnair commented that the issue of the lack of advertising of the change of routes of the service buses and the misleading time tables had been raised at a recent On the Move meeting and that ELC had been asked to publicise the routes in a manner that was clear. |  |
| **5 Police Report** | 5.1 This month’s abbreviated police report, which had been circulated beforehand, was taken as read.  5.2 The priorities set at the CAPP meeting on 2nd April were speeding in Lochbridge Road and speeding in Haddington Road.  5.3 It was noted that there was still a problem with pavement parking in Gilbert Avenue.  5.4 Cllr Macnair reported that graffiti had been sprayed on the wall of the refurbished Glasclune Shelter which was due to be formally opened soon. This would be reported to ELC’s ‘graffiti hit squad’.  5.5 The next CAPP meeting would be on 14th May. |  |
| **6 Planning matters** | 6.1 The April 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 –  ***Gentofte, 9 Westerdunes Park*** – alterations to house  ***Gentofte, 9 & 12 Westerdunes Park*** – demolition of wall; erection of fence  ***Canty Bay House, Tantallon*** – change of use of agricultural land to domestic garden ground, erection of polytunnel and seating area (retro)  ***10 Redholm, Greenheads Road*** – alterations to building (LBC); alterations to flat  ***The Harbour, Victoria Road [The Lobster Shack]*** – alterations to building and erection of signage (retro) (LBC); alterations to building (retro)  ***30B High Street*** – certificate of lawfulness for existing use – short term holiday let  ***Woodville, 17 Cromwell Road*** – change of use from care home (class 8) to form 1 house  ***Bass Cove, Melbourne Place*** – alterations to flat  6.3 The following new applications were viewed, discussed and commented on as follows –  ***Links Lodge, Links Road -*** after discussion it was agreed that there was insufficient information in the planning application for the installation of solar panels to comment at present but the right to object was reserved once more information was available.  ***48 Forth Street –*** after discussion it was agreed not to comment on the retrospective planning application for the installation of a cctv camera but to question the justification for a camera in that position.  ***The Abbey Retirement Home, Old Abbey Road –*** after discussion it was agreed by 5 votes to 2 with 2 abstentions to object to the planning application for alterations, change of use of buildings to form 1 house, 6 short term holiday let units and associated works as the short term holiday let units were considered to be contrary to the community priorities contained in the North Berwick Local Place Plan which, having been registered by East Lothian Council, were bound to be considered in planning applications.  ***Melbourne Place –*** after discussion it was agreed to object to the planning application for the installation of 3 parking meters. Whilst the two located within the Imperial Car Park had no dominant visual impact, the third on the corner of Melbourne Place and Quality Street did as it is in a prominent junction which has been enhanced with elaborate flower displays. It did not meet the test in Policy CH2 of the Local Development Plan.  ***Pointgarry Road –*** after discussion it was agreed to object to the planning application for the installation of 2 parking meters located prominently at the fence alongside the 18th fairway of the West Links because of their visual impact. They did not meet the test in Policy CH2 of the Local Development Plan.  ***Quadrant –*** after discussion it was agreed to object to the planning application for the installation a parking meter at a particular beauty spot, as it would be obtrusive in an area beautified by the anchor and extensive planting. It did not meet the test in Policy CH2 of the Local Development Plan.  [*note - Policy CH2 of the Local Development Plan states that “All development proposals within or affecting a Conservation Area…...****must****be located and designed to preserve or enhance the character and appearance.”*]  6.4 Decisions since last meeting –  ***11 Fidra Road –*** alterations, extensions to house, formation of dormer windows, decked area, installation of air source heat pump - **granted**  ***117 High Street [Coop] –*** display of advertisement – **granted**  ***Anchor Green, by St Andrew’s Old Kirk, the Harbour –*** siting of funfair equipment and kiosk from April to end of September for a temporary period of 3 years – **granted**  ***7 Dirleton Avenue –*** alterations, extension to building – **granted**  ***1 Kings Knoll, 24 Clifford Road -*** alterations, extension to building, formation of hardstanding, decking areas, steps, ramp, erection of pergola, railings and part of building – **granted**  ***4 & 5 Lorne Lane –*** certificates of lawfulness for existing use short term holiday lets – **granted**  ***5 Marine Parade –*** erection of canopy, gate and railings to wall - **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; and £7.25 bank charges  7.2 The Treasurer’s Report for 2024/25 had been circulated.  7.3 The 2025/26 Budget would be discussed at the mid-month business meeting by which time it was hoped the ELC funding for the year would be known. |  |
| **8 Parking Management Proposals** | 8.1 The Chairman commented that the ‘traffic sub group’ was still of the view that they should still be pursuing the idea of a public hearing.  8.2 It was noted that Stantec was conducting the consultations on parking management in the other towns to be affected. It was felt that community councils should work together in opposing the plans.  8.3 It was understood that there was doubt about the ownership of the Kirkports/Law Road car park and that ELC’s parking notices had been removed. |  |
| **9 Health & Wellbeing Association** | 9.1 Cllr Egan reported that -   * There had been no meetings recently. * Applications for small grants were slow in coming in. * A Local Outlook Improvement Plan Development 2026/36 was being developed. |  |
| **10 ELC Asset Review** | 10.1 The Chairman had met with Tom Reid of ELC who assured him that no building in North Berwick – Community Centre, Hope Rooms, Library & Museum - would be sold but that the Council wanted to lose the running costs of them.  10.2 A public consultation was proposed. |  |
| **11 Area Partnership** | 11.1 The Chairman commented that a number of presentations and updates had been given at the meeting on 29th April.  11.2 Although not on the agenda an application by Fringe by the Sea for £5,060 to improve accessibility to the main venues was approved by an e-mail vote. |  |
| **12 Variation of License – County Hotel** | 12.1 After discussion on the application to vary the premises licence for the County Hotel, 15-17 High Street, it was agreed to object to the application as it was unclear why the existing Local Conditions 2 to 5 detailed in section 3(a) of the application were to be removed as they were essential health and safety requirements for any premises like this. It was also noted that the extension of the terminal hour on Thursdays to 1.00 am which was previously midnight was also concerning as there were residential properties in the immediate vicinity of the premises. |  |
| **13 Correspondence** | 13.1 There was none |  |
| **14 Any other competent business** | 14.1. ***Beach footprint signs –*** the Chairman confirmed that the signs had been made. He had asked the Youth Project to design the text for them.  14.2 ***Picnic in the Park -*** the Chairman confirmed that the temporary licence for the event, due to take place on 8th June, had been obtained. |  |
| **15 Date of Next Meeting** | The date of the next meeting would be on Tuesday 3rd June 2025 at 7.30 pm in the Community Centre |  |