**Royal Burgh of North Berwick Community Council**

**Minutes of Meeting held at 19.30 on**

**Tuesday 1st July 2025**

**in the Community Centre, Law Road**

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

**Also present:** ELC Cllr Carol McFarlane, Doug Haig, Jim Goodfellow and Wilma Shaw

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| **Agenda item** | **Discussion** | **Action** |
| **1 Welcome** | The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming all to the 34th in person meeting of the Community Council (since Covid). |  |
| **2 Apologies**  **Absent** | ELC Cllr Jeremy Findlay and Cllrs Bill Macnair and Jacq Cottrell  ELC Cllr Liz Allan |  |
| **3 Previous Minutes** | Adoption of the Minutes of the meeting held on 3rd June which had been circulated previously, was proposed by Cllr Maher and seconded by Cllr Hamilton |  |
| **4 Matters Arising** | 4.1 ***5.2*** ***Beach footprint signs –*** The Chairman confirmed that 3 of the newly designed signs were in place and the remaining one would be put up shortly.  4.2 ***11 Picnic in the Park –*** Twocheques for £399.51 would be presented to Beach Wheelchairs and North Berwick in Bloom at 2.00 pm the following Monday.  4.3 ***12.2 Station CCTV –*** This item did not appear to have been discussed at the last On the Move meeting. |  |
| **5 Police Report** | 5.1 This month’s abbreviated police report, which had been circulated beforehand, was taken as read.  5.2 The next CAPP meeting would be held on 2nd July.  5.3 Speeding on Lochbridge Road was still an issue and would be raised at the next meeting. |  |
| **6 Planning matters** | 6.1 The June 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 –  ***4 Grieve Turn*** – extension to house  ***1 West End Place*** – (a) alterations, extension to house, formation of hardstanding; (b) certificate of lawfulness for proposed use of house as short term holiday let accommodation  ***Flat 5, 18 Fidra Road*** – replacement windows  ***3 Castleton Farm Cottages, Tantallon*** – extensions to house  ***9 York Road*** – (CAC) demolition of gate; (P) formation of vehicular access, hardstanding areas, steps, erection of sheds, gates, pergola, walls, handrails and associated works  ***The Abbey Retirement Home, Old Abbey Road*** – alterations to building and part demolition of building  ***12 Clifford Road*** – erection of shed and heightening of wall  6.3 The following new applications were viewed, discussed and commented on as follows –  ***11 Victoria Road*** - after discussion it was agreed not to comment on the planning application for the replacement of 2 small dormers with one larger one and the formation of a roof terrace with glass balustrade.  ***1 The Stables, Greenheads Road*** - after discussion it was agreed to object to the planning application for the extension to the house, formation of decked and hardstanding areas, erection of walls, fencing, outbuildings and associated works on the ground that the design of the extensions, particularly the amount of blackened timber cladding, was detrimental to the Conservation Area.  ***School Road*** – after discussion it was agreed to object to the planning application for the installation of a parking meter due to the visual impact on the area. It did not meet the test in Policy CH2 of the Local Development Plan.  ***St Margaret’s Road*** – after discussion it was agreed to object to the planning application for the installation of 2 parking metres due to the visual impact on a beautiful area. It did not meet the test in Policy CH2 of the Local Development Plan.  ***High Street*** – after discussion it was agreed to object to the planning application for the installation of 4 parking meters due to the visual impact on the busy town centre and the listed buildings therein. It did not meet the test in Policy CH2 of the Local Development Plan.  ***Westgate*** - after discussion it was agreed to object to the planning application for the installation of 2 parking metres due to the visual impact particularly on the Bank Street corner. It did not meet the test in Policy CH2 of the Local Development Plan.  ***Kirkports*** – after discussion it was agreed not to comment on the planning application for the installation of 2 parking meters.  6.4 Decisions since last meeting –  ***26 Glenorchy Road*** - alterations to roof, extension to house – **granted**  ***21 Stair Park*** – extensions to house – **granted**  ***The Scottish Seabird Centre, Victoria Road*** – installation of seawater heating pump system and associated works – **granted**  ***Flat 1, 12 Dirleton Avenue*** – change of use of flat to short term holiday let (retrospective) – **granted**  ***6 Dunbar Road*** – formation of dormer – **granted**  ***Carrick, Abbotsford Road*** – alterations, extension to house, formation of dormer window, 1st floor roof terrace, erection of garden room and associated works – **granted**  ***Gentofte, 9 & 12 Westerdunes Park*** – demolition of wall (retrospective) and erection of fence – **granted**  ***49 Forth Street*** – installation of CCTV camera (retrospective) - granted  ***4 West Bay Road*** – demolition of fencing and gates; erection of fencing, gates, formation of hardstanding, seating areas, installation of railings and lighting – **granted**  ***Bass Cove, 2 Melbourne Place*** – alterations to flat (part retrospective) – **granted**  ***The Harbour, Victoria Road [the Lobster Shack]*** – alterations to building and erection of signage (retrospective); alterations to building – **granted**  ***13, 15A – 15D & 17 Balfour Street*** – alterations to flats – **granted**  ***Engine Cottage, Abbotsford Road*** – prior notification of replacement windows – **granted**  ***Gentofte, 9 Westerdunes Park*** – alterations to house (retrospective) - **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 £4.75 for bank charges  7.2 ELC’s budget allocation for 2025/26 had been received – Administration Budget - £964 and Local Priorities Scheme - £8,363 making a total of £9,327.  7.3 Donations of £936 from the Picnic in the Park and £128 from Luca’s from the same event had been received.  7.4 The Budget for 2025/26 was approved. |  |
| **8 Parking Management Proposals** | 8.1 The Chairman commented that at the last meeting of the AELCC, which the new Chief Executive had attended, there was a considerable strength of feeling about the imposition of parking management schemes on towns in the county which many felt were completely unnecessary, being done against the will of the residents, with ELC ignoring the objections.  8.2 It was suggested that there should be a collective approach and to this end it was proposed to meet on 17th July to discuss the way forward. |  |
| **9 Health & Wellbeing Association** | 9.1 Cllr Egan had attended the Association meeting on 10th June when the subject discussed was trauma education.  9.2 She commented that there was enough money for small grants of £200 to test indicators around Health & Wellbeing but only a few applications had been received.  9.3 The next meeting would be on 10th September. |  |
| **10 Area Partnership** | 10.1 Doug Haig reported that at the Partnership meeting held on 24th June a grant application for £10,000 from the Law Primary Parent Council towards the cost of the safe route to schools’ project had been approved subject to matched funding being obtained. |  |
| **11. Banking Hib Update** | 11.1 The Chairman reported that that the temporary banking hub would be in the library but the lease with East Lothian Council was still to be agreed.  11.2 The Bank of Scotland would now be closing on 20th August. |  |
| **12 Correspondence** | 12.1 E-mail from a PhD researcher at James Hutton Institute in Aberdeen regarding how post-pandemic remote working was affecting rural and coastal communities across the UK. It was agreed that Cllrs Cottrell & Cetingez would contact her as both had experience of remote working. |  |
| **13 Any other competent business** | 13.1 ***Defibrillators –*** Cllr Hamilton reported that the light on the defibrillator in the High Street needed to be replaced.  13.2 ***Local Place Plan –*** Cllr McKee reported that ELC’s Evidence Report had been rejected by the Scottish Government as there was a lack of explanation from the stakeholders as to what body of evidence was taken into account. |  |
| **14 Date of Next Meeting** | The date of the next meeting would be on Tuesday 5th August 2025 at 7.30 pm in the Community Centre |  |