**Royal Burgh of North Berwick Community Council**

**Minutes of Meeting held at 19.30 on**

**Tuesday 5th August 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), and Julie Cetingez

**Also present:** ELC Cllr Carol McFarlane, Doug Haig, Jim Goodfellow, Wilma Shaw, Eric Martin and Erin Brown (local press via zoom)

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| **Agenda item** | **Discussion** | **Action** |
| **1 Welcome** | The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming all to the 35th in person meeting of the Community Council (since Covid). |  |
| **2 Apologies**  **Absent** | ELC Cllr Jeremy Findlay and Cllrs Don McKee and Jacq Cottrell  ELC Cllr Liz Allan |  |
| **3 Previous Minutes** | Adoption of the Minutes of the meeting held on 1st July which had been circulated previously, was proposed by Cllr Hamilton and seconded by Cllr Egan |  |
| **4 Matters Arising** | There were none. |  |
| **5 Police Report** | 5.1 This month’s abbreviated police report, which had been circulated beforehand, was taken as read.  5.2 Speeding on Lochbridge Road had been discussed at the July CAPP meeting when it was agreed to ask Alan Stubbs, ELC’s Service Manager – Roads to install a speed recording strip to confirm whether or not speeding was in fact an issue. His response was less than helpful suggesting the police be contacted in the first instance. The road safety team was to be asked to review the location and consider a survey.  5.3 A drugs initiative was set as a priority.  5.4 The next CAPP meeting would be held on 13th August. |  |
| **6 Planning matters** | 6.1 The July 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 –  ***Bass Rock*** – alterations to lighthouse, part demolition of building and walls and associated works  ***6 Glasclune Gardens*** – replacement doors, windows and painting of garage  ***West Links Golf Course*** – coastal reinforcement and protection works, including installation of gabion baskets, mattresses, reinstatement of existing gabions, dune reinstatement, and associated works  ***1 Quarry Court, Abbotsford Road*** – alterations to flat  ***17 & 45 Victoria Road*** – alterations to flats (retro)  ***Former garden ground of 1 Dirleton Avenue*** – erection of 1 house and associated works  ***25 St Baldred’s Crescent*** – alteration, extension to house and formation of decking  ***3A Dirleton Avenue*** – alterations, extension to house, erection of retaining wall and formation of vehicular access.  6.3 The following new applications were viewed, discussed and commented on as follows –  ***Quality Street*** - after discussion it was agreed to object to the planning application for the installation of 4 parking meters on what is a main thoroughfare in the east end of the town due to *inter alia* the visual impact on the area. It did not meet the test in Policy CH2 of the Local Development Plan.  ***Tantallon Terrace -*** after discussion it was agreed to object to the planning application for the installation of 4 parking metres in this busy tourist area due to the visual impact particularly on Bass Rock. It did not meet the test in Policy CH2 of the Local Development Plan.  ***Melbourne Road -*** after discussion it was agreed to object to the planning application for the installation of 4 parking metres due to the visual impact on a scenic area. It did not meet the test in Policy CH2 of the Local Development Plan.  ***Forth Street -*** after discussion it was agreed to object to the planning application for the installation of 5 parking meters due to *inter alia* the visual impact on the busy town centre street. It did not meet the test in Policy CH2 of the Local Development Plan.  6.4 Decisions since last meeting –  ***66 Gilbert Avenue*** – extension to house – **granted**  ***55 Westgate*** – change of use of flat to short-term holiday let (retrospective) - **granted**  ***Land at Castleton Farm*** – change of use of agricultural land for the installation of ground mounted solar panels and associated works – **withdrawn**  ***The Lobster Shack. The Harbour, Victoria Road*** – alterations to building and erection of signage (retrospective) – **withdrawn**  ***1 West End Place*** – certificate of lawfulness for proposed use of house as short term holiday let – **granted**  ***3 Castleton Farm Cottages*** – extension to house – **granted**  ***33 Brodie Avenue*** – extension to house, erection of fencing and gate – **granted**  ***Kingshill, 1B Bank Street*** – alterations, extension to house, formation of dormers, erection of greenhouse and associated works - **granted**  ***79 High Street*** – installation of window - **listed under decided** **but no decision notice**  ***Pointgarry Road*** – installation of parking meter - **withdrawn**  6.5 ***Golf Hotel, 34 Dirleton Avenue*** – Following Scottish Ministers’ decision to call in East Lothian Council’s approval to demolish the hotel against the advice of heritage experts, the owner and developer had held a public meeting, advertised as ‘The Unintended Consequences’, the previous Sunday which Cllrs Maher & McKee had attended. The majority of the attendees had not wanted to see the property demolished. The owner had indicated that if demolition was not approved the building could be sold and could become a hostel for asylum seekers. |  |
| **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 x 2 to the Secretary for the Minutes; £399.51 x 2 donations to Beach Wheelchairs & North Berwick in Bloom, £250 to Cameron McPhair (Picnic in the Park); £49 to Secretary in re-imbursement of balance for Calder Cup prizes; and £7.25 for bank charges  7.2 Next month there would be bank charges of £7.02 for the deposit of £936 from the Picnic in the Park.  7.3 Some progress had been made with Cllrs Egan and Cetingez replacing the Secretary as RBS signatories.  7.4 The Chairman confirmed that the new contactless card reader had now been received. |  |
| **8. Meeting with ELC Chief Executive** | 8.1 The new Chief Executive, Laurence Rockey had attended the last AELCC meeting on 17th July.  8.2 Subsequently, the Chairman along with Ralph Averbuch (Pencaitland) and Malcolm Duck (Gullane) had had a one and a half hour long meeting with him and Eamon John, the new Head of Communities.  8.3 He appeared to be interested in communities and in listening.  8.4 They would continue to meet on a monthly basis and Mr Rockey had committed to attend AELCC meetings. |  |
| **9 Parking Management Proposals** | 9.1 The Chairman commented that at the last meeting of the AELCC on 17th July discussion on the parking proposals threw up lots of objections for different reasons.  9.2 No-one was in favour of the proposals and it was agreed there should be better enforcement of what was already there.  9.3 As Chairman of AELCC he had e-mailed all community councils for their comments on the way forward. |  |
| **10 Health & Wellbeing Association** | 10.1 There had been no Association meeting since 10th June.  10.2 Cllr Egan confirmed that she was the Community Council’s representative and also vice chair of the Association. As such she had agreed to sit on the HSCP Independent Community Panel which was seeking feedback from users of Accessing Rehabilitation Services by 30 September**.**  10.3 The criteria for the small grants to test indicators around health and wellbeing had been changed and hopefully would encourage more applications.  10.4 The next meeting would be on 10th September. |  |
| **11. Banking Hib Update** | 11.1 The Chairman reported that East Lothian Council had now issued the lease for space in the library for the temporary banking hub for a minimum period of a year.  11.2 The Bank of Scotland would be closing on 20th August. |  |
| **12 Community Council Elections timetable** | 12.1 The Secretary reminded members that nominations for community councillors across the county would open on 1st September and depending on the number of nominations received for the places available per community council, elections would be held 9th October.  12.2 The main hall in the Community Centre had been booked for the first meeting of the new Community Council at 7.30 pm on 21st October. Doug Haig had agreed to call the roll and preside over the election of office bearers. |  |
| **13 Correspondence** | 13.1 Emails from 2 residents in Williamstone Court about the disposal of dog waste in bins in the children’s play park and the resultant health risk posed. It was agreed that the bin should be moved to a more appropriate position out with the play park. ELC Cllr McFarlane would take this forward.  13.2 E-mail from resident enquiring as to whether the Community Council had any kind of Community Award Certificate to present to local citizens for a particular achievement. The answer was no but it was thought to be a good idea and would be investigated further.  13.3 The Short-term Let Policy Review had been circulated. The deadline for responses was 12th September. |  |
| **14 Any other competent business** | 14.1 ***Melbourne Place store –*** the rent for the store had been paid by ELC for the last 20 years. The Community Council was now being asked to pay £129 per month which was not acceptable. There was enough space at the back of the Community Centre where the sound equipment was being stored to store the Christmas lights and it was agreed that they would be moved there after Christmas. In the meantime it had been agreed no rent would be paid in respect of the store.  14.2 ***Calder & Crawford Cups –*** the Secretary was pleased to report that the event had been a great success with almost 100 participants taking part in the qualifying competitions. She thanked George Johnstone for organising the event and Cllr Egan for organising the BBQ on the Finals evening.  14.3 ***St Andrew Blackadder Church clock –*** A resident in Tigh Mhor had contacted Cllr Egan about the church clock not striking. ELC Cllr McFarlane would investigate. |  |
| **15 Date of Next Meeting** | The date of the next meeting would be on Tuesday 2nd September 2025 at 7.30 pm in the Community Centre |  |