**Royal Burgh of North Berwick Community Council**

**Minutes of Meeting held at 19.30 on**

**Tuesday 2nd September 2025**

**in the Community Centre, Law Road**

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

**Also present:** ELC Cllr Carol McFarlane, Jim Goodfellow, Wilma Shaw, and Anna McAlinden (local press)

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| **Agenda item** | **Discussion** | **Action** |
| **1 Welcome** | The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming all to the 36th in person meeting of the Community Council (since Covid). |  |
| **2 Apologies**  **Absent** | Cllrs Sally Egan, Julie Cetingez & Jacq Cottrell and Doug Haig  ELC Cllr Liz Allan |  |
| **3 Previous Minutes** | Adoption of the Minutes of the meeting held on 5th August which had been circulated previously, was proposed by Cllr Macnair and seconded by Cllr Hamilton |  |
| **4 Matters Arising** | 4.1 ***11 Banking Hub –*** The Bank of Scotland had closed on 20thAugust. A community banker would be available in the library on the following 3 Wednesdays till a temporary hub opened in the bank building on 12th September pending completion of the paperwork between ELC and Cash Access UK for a temporary hub in the library.  4.2 ***13 Short term let policy review –*** it had been decided not to submit a community council response due to lack of information on current policy.  14.3 ***14.3 St Andrew Blackadder Church clock –*** it was understood that the clock needed another specialized part so it might be some time before it could chime. |  |
| **5 Police Report** | 5.1 This month’s abbreviated police report, which had been circulated beforehand, was taken as read.  5.2 At the last CAPP meeting on 13th August the following was discussed –   * Speeding in Lochbridge Road and Alan Stubbs response to the request for a traffic survey. It was agreed to request again a traffic survey and the community protection officer would speak to him about it. * Disturbances at the Auld Hoose. The residents had sent a petition to *inter alia* the licensing officer and the police were aware of the situation. * During the drugs initiative a mobile camera had been put up outside the Hope Rooms.   5.3 There had been an increase in graffiti around the town and this was set as the priority for the month.  5.4 It was noted that ELC supported the ban on pavement parking and that it was their intention to implement the legislation but further engagement by Transport Scotland was planned with COSLA and SCOTS to discuss the implications and funding and the outcome of that process was awaited before progressing.  5.4 The next CAPP meeting would be held on 1st October. |  |
| **6 Planning matters** | 6.1 The August 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 –  ***29 Marmion Road* –** replacement doors  ***Flat 1 & 10 High Street*** (LBC) – replacement windows  ***Kingshill, 1B Bank Street*** – installation of roof window & satellite dish  ***Lower Deck, 10B Marine Parade*** – widening of vehicular access, formation of hardstanding area, steps, walls & associated works  ***1 Fidra Court*** – alterations, extension to house, formation of dormers, hardstanding areas & steps  ***24A St Andrew Street*** – renewal of pp 22/00747 – alterations and change of use workshop to 1 house and associated works  ***4 Marly Knowe, Windygates Road*** – replacement windows  ***The Coach House, Marly Knowe, Windygates Road*** – replacement windows & door  ***27 Station Hill*** – display of advertisement  ***57 Dirleton Avenue*** – extension to flat  ***13F Melbourne Place*** – alterations to flat, formation of dormer windows and roof terrace  6.3 The following new application viewed, discussed and commented on as follows –  ***18 Clifford Road*** – after discussion it was decided not to comment on the planning application for the erection of a garden building containing ancillary residential accommodation and workshop building but on condition that it should not be sold or let as a separate unit.  6.4 Decisions since last meeting –  ***10A & 10B High Street*** *–* replacement windows– **withdrawn**  ***25 St Baldred’s Crescent –*** alteration, extension to house andformation of decking ***–* granted**  ***6 Glasclune Gardens* –** replacement doors, windows and painting of garage doors – **granted**  ***4 Grieve Turn*** – extension to house – **granted**  ***11 Victoria Road*** – replacement of two small dormers by one larger one, formation of roof terrace with glass balustrades – **withdrawn**  ***12 Clifford Road –*** erection of shed and heightening of 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; £29.20 to ELC for Picnic in the Park posters; £114 to Jake Scott for certifying accounts; £100 to David Booth for Calder & Crawford Cup posters; £120 to Tall Hut for Q3 website maintenance; and bank charges of £12.69.  7.2 £368.68 had been received from Highland Games Association being the balance of the putting entry fees paid on their borrowed card reader. |  |
| **8 Parking Management Proposals** | 8.1 The Chairman commented that discussions were ongoing with the AELCC.  8.2 The Chairman reported that he understood that automatic number plate recognition (APNR) would be operating in the Community Centre car park. |  |
| **9 Health & Wellbeing Association** | As Cllr Egan was on holiday there was nothing to report. |  |
| **10 Community Council Elections** | 10.1 It was noted that only 4 of the current community councillors had indicated definitely their intention of standing for re-election.  10.2 The Chairman was concerned that the quorum of 6 for the community council to continue might not be reached and urged members to reconsider standing or to encourage others to stand. |  |
| **11 Correspondence** | 11.1 Reminder about funding for Changing Places applications closing on 20th October. The Chairman commented that the North Berwick Community Development Company would be applying for funding for toilets at the station.  11.2 Invitation from Archerfield Walled Garden to view exhibition to showcase plans for new children’s attractions on 10th September ahead of planning application  11.3 Invitation to William PurvesCarers’ Connect on 25th September  11.4 E-mail thread about provision of further defibrillators in the town – to be discussed at a later date  11.5 E-mail about the ‘Ferrygate pong’ – it was noted that since Ferrygate was in a low nitrogen area nitrogen manure could not be used. The issue should be raised with SEPA. |  |
| **12 Any other competent business** | 12.1 ***Remembrance Sunday*** – The Secretary confirmed that she was happy to deal with the arrangements for this year’s event on 9th November. The event notification form had been submitted to ELC and she was meeting with SAG on 1st October.  12.2 ***JLAG meeting–*** At the next meetingon 25th September Cllr Macnair intended proposing that a dedicated programme of cutting back the gorse on the Law was required as he was concerned about the risk of a fire starting.  12.3 ***North Berwick Community Development Company AGM –*** At the meeting on 9th September the Chairman was standing down as Chair of the company.  12.4 ***Aldi –*** Cllr Hamilton commented that the buzzer at the Aldi crossing was too loud.  12.5 ***Skatepark lights*** – Cllr Hamilton commented that the lights, which were on till 11.00 pm, were too bright and causing light pollution.  12.6 ***Police Station*** – It was noted that the lamp and brass plaque had been removed from the outside of the building without listed building consent.  12.7 ***Local Place Plan*** – Cllr McKee reported that he was preparing an updated version of the Local Place Plan for the website.  12.8 ***Tree benches in Quality Street*** - Complaints had been received regarding the bird mess on the benches. The Chairman commented that he had repainted them prior to the Keep Scotland Beautiful judging.  12.9 ***Lodge grounds*** – Cllr Macnair was pleased to note that area of grass in the Lodge used by Fringe by the Sea had been top dressed and reseeded and was looking good. |  |
| **13 Date of Next Meeting** | The date of the next meeting, which would be the last of the current community council, would be on Tuesday 7th October 2025 at 7.30 pm in the Community Centre |  |