

Royal Burgh of Haddington and District Community Council

Minutes of meeting 11th August 2020, 7pm (meeting held online)

1. Sederunt

Jan Wilson (Chair), Chris McEwan (Vice Chair), Fiona McEwan (Secretary), John Hamilton (Treasurer), Pat Lemmon, Paul Darling, Erica Muirhead, Morgwyn Davies, Rab Moran, Theresa Laing, Graham Samuel

In attendance

Cllr John McMillan, Cllr Craig Hoy, Cllr Shamin Akhtar, Cameron Ritchie (Courier), Anna Faulkner (minutes' secretary).

2. Apologies: Jim Graham

New members- Jan welcomed Theresa to the CC and welcomed back Graham, who had previously been a member. We look forward to working with them both.

3. Minutes of 14th July

Approval of the minutes was proposed by Pat Lemmon and seconded by Erica Muirhead

4. Matters arising

4.1 Item 4.1 Resilience Team: this has now been 'stood down' from the 31st July – no calls have been received in the last week. Should the need arise in the future they will however be able to step up their emergency response. OCK are still delivering meals around the town. Huge thanks to all involved – Chris, Pat, Fiona, Graham, Rab, Jim, Erica and to Jan for manning the phones.

4.2 Items 9.1/9.2 Traprain Terrace/Seggarsdean play park: Shamin confirmed that this area mentioned at last meeting has all be cleared up. Also, the play park has now all been installed. Still requires some picnic benches – looking at doing later in the month.

4.3 Food/Clothing vouchers: Pat said they have been working with Doug and Diane to get this off the ground. Have put out the information via ELC website, as well as teachers, family workers etc so they are getting straight to those who need them most. A referral form has to be completed by professionals and sent to Pat. Nettie at the Bridge Centre will keep a note of all referrals and once confirmed, the money will be released. This is all possible due to a very generous donation from a local resident. If this pilot scheme goes well they will look at applying to the Area Partnership for ongoing financial support for this scheme.

5. Treasurers Report: Community Council Accounts, Aug 2020

Account balance for month

- CC BoS Account balance: £29,204.03 as of 27/7/2020 (£4,500 pending payments, £4K junction boxes + £500 cheque for Food voucher initiative)
(the above balance includes the ring fenced Lending library and Food voucher grants)
- Lending Library monies £2,369.29 as of 7/8/2020 (this figure included in the CC BoS Account balance above)
- Food Voucher monies £2,250.00 as of 7/8/2020 (this figure included in the CC BoS Account balance above)
- Events Group TSB balance: £1,952.93 as of 3/5/2020 (No activities in last 4 months, hence date showing - No cheque(s) pending)
- Held in cash-box: £143.32 as of 7/8/2020 (CC cash = £83.79, Events cash = £59.53)

Highlights

- £2500 grant received from ELC for Food voucher initiative. This figure will show and therefore included in the CC BoS account totals.
- £500 cash withdrawal initiated for use with Food voucher initiative. (Monies expected to be available mid week). £250 withdrawn from the ELC Food voucher grant and £250 used from the Pat Moncrieff donation.

CC BoS Account transaction highlights, since last report

- Payment of £50 monthly secretarial fees.

- £6 Direct Debit payment for monthly charge of Resilience mobile phone. (Showing here for first time although being paid for last few months)

Lending Library - £2,975 ring fenced from CC account: £605 spent to date leaving £2,369 remaining.

- No new transaction recorded.

Food Voucher - £2,500 ring fenced from CC account: £250 spent to date leaving £2,250 remaining.

- £250 withdrawn (initiated, expected mid week) for use as cash payments to clients.

Events Group TSB Account transaction highlights, since last report

- <No transactions. July and August summer recess>.

Cash transaction highlights, since last report (CC: from CC cash, EC: from Events Cash)

- <nothing to report> apart from ongoing secretarial payments to Anna.

6. HBCP (Hadd Business Community Partnership)

6.1 Update: Erica said July business has been steady. Feedback from the businesses is that customers are feeling safe and happy shopping in the town centre. They prefer the smaller, independent shops due to smaller numbers and are happy with the safety measures in place. They also do not feel there is a need to change the parking or put in barriers in the town centre – there is ample room to move around and keep their distance from others. Over-riding opinion is that there is no need to reduce the number of parking spaces in the town centre.

6.2 Town centre parking signs: it was felt that more signage is needed at either end of the town to direct visitors to parking available within John Muir House. It was suggested some spaces (approx. 80) be cordoned off for this purpose – would the council consider this? Pat and Graham agreed with this suggestion and also thought that advertising the long stay parking would be a good idea too.

6.3 20mph signs/Knox pupils lunch time: West Road, Court St/Station Rd, Pencaitland Rd all display the 20mph when there is most pupil movement during the day. S4-6 are allowed down the street at lunch time, which creates a lot of pupil movement – it was suggested they look at this. On the other hand, there are businesses who rely on this increased demand during lunch periods.

7. Knox Academy Update – no update avail

It was suggested we email Robert to invite to join meeting online next month – *Action Fiona McE*

8. Blooming Haddington – although Rab was present online at the start of the meeting he seemed to lose contact therefore update will be given next month.

9. Councillors Corner

9.1 Seggarsdean Park: Graham thanked Shamin for all her work getting this up and running. One comment was that there was only one rubbish bin and this was not enough for the park – could there be another provided nearer the park.

9.2 Thanks to Shamin: Pat thanked Shamin for being an active and positive presence on FB. And also many thanks for getting the area at Traprain Terrace cleared up, the disabled paint on gate and for the link re facemasks on FB. Shamin said they are not quite finished with the play park at Seggarsdean – plan to put in picnic benches, goal posts and will take on board the need for another bin.

9.3 Social Media: Pat pointed out that not everyone has access and uses social media and therefore could the councillors' details be made available.

9.3 Communication and consultation: there is plenty of talk about consultation within the town but Morgwyn asked who has actually been consulted on all the proposals – he felt that there are many who are not aware of what is happening in the town. The councillors agreed that we need to look at how we consult and make sure that all areas are represented. Chris suggested we have a dedicated representative/s from the CC to be involved with all the meetings and consults on this matter. Pat volunteered and suggested Graham be the second member – this was agreed. John McM also suggested all emails pertaining to such matters are circulated to all the CC members via the secretary. Pat thought that it would be a good idea if the Courier published details of all the councillors (for those not on social media). John thought it would be better to go back to their monthly surgeries. It was suggested we need more than a weeks' notice of meetings and feedback – all CC members to give their comments to Pat/Graham as the dedicated representatives of the CC.

John McM said there are a number of residents groups in the town (Nungate TRA, Maltings, Pencaitland Rd/Acredales) Graham said that they have their own residents group at Clerkington and the new builds have a FB page

so there are groups that aim to keep in touch about what's happening in the town and during the COVID19 situation. Jan said that she had had feedback that the new residents were impressed by the Residents Group but that we need to work hard to make sure all the new people to the town are informed and integrated.

9.4 Enjoy Leisure: Pat asked if ELC are involved with assisting EL. It was confirmed that EL is of charitable status and is run by a board but that they do receive funding to promote active living and well-being from ELC. There is assurance that they have the backing of ELC (letter of comfort). This states that ELC supports them financially, morally and ethically.

9.5 John McMillan update (email):

Update since the last meeting-

Congratulations to new members and best wishes for their time on CC. Commiserations to those who were unsuccessful and respect for offering their services

Attended Leaders' Meetings to discuss, note and approve Council Business under emergency powers.

These included an award to Blooming Haddington from Common Good Fund.

Licensing Board continues to meet and has discussed occasional licences for the Green Car Park as temporary beer garden. Other licences granted under delegated power to officers.

Local planning matters as normal with a Planning Committee on Tuesday, but no Haddington applications.

Meetings locally and at national and local level on economic development and tourism issues – hospitality, town centres and employability and the rural community. Meetings at Business Gateway and with Visit Scotland and Scottish Enterprise through our Connected Economy Group. Lots going on and support to businesses at £17m plus. Problem Solving Partnership meets on Friday and there have been ongoing contacts with CI Mitchell, local officers, ASB team and EH officers about a relatively few issues.

Progress on Mitchell's Close with security issues.

During July, stewarded Farmers' Market with Rotary – 370 at 11th July and 720 on 25th July. Well organised and welcoming but numbers down on 'normal' days.

Spaces for People project met with CC and HBCP last night- constructive dialogue, considering options for safe access, to promote town centre access, and prevent spread of the virus. Options with those who had attended, and offices stressed that no action without community approval and CC and HBCP agreed to consult and reply by next Monday. Points raised about current shoppers being content with current arrangements, but other residents and shoppers lacking confidence and worried about social distancing and queuing on narrow pavements. Return to school and numbers on High St with young people (some businesses depend on this custom) at lunchtime also discussed as well as safe routes to school.

Latest News today- the proposal for the Gateside site has been stopped and MKM will not continue with the builders' merchants yard. They have sold to developers for a care home project.

9.6 Dunder Dy: Rab said that the entrance is full of potholes

10. Police Questions – report received from PC Colin Boyd

CAPP priorities

1. Parking in the areas around the Haddington primary schools during the prohibition times.
2. Youth issues within Neilson Park.
3. Anti-Social Behaviour in and around Ross's Close, Haddington

Next meeting: date to be confirmed

11. Planning Applications

11.1 MKM: it was confirmed that they have pulled out of their proposals for a builders merchant. The land has been sold onto developers for a Care Home. Members and residents were pleased with this decision – a care home will create 80/100 jobs in the town.

11.2 Tyne Close: re objections – it had been suggested that the CC had made objections to this proposal. This was not the case – we had made comment and all these had been taken into account. It was suggested David Barrett needs to take this up with ELC planning dept and not the CC. It was also suggested that Paul copy all members into his emails regarding planning matters. Chris reiterated that all our comments had been addressed which is possibly why this had not shown that we had replied to this.

12. Correspondence – all sent to members via email

13. Haddington Community Development Trust

13.1 Update: Jack Worden the CC representative not present at this meeting. No update available.

14. Events Group

14.1 Nothing to report

15. Area Partnership (AP) – any updates are sent out to Fiona and Paul

15.1 Spaces for All: Paul has sent out an email re this to the outer lying areas.

15.2 Stuart Gibb: John McM said he has met Stuart who is keeping well and sends his good wishes to the CC. Jan asked John to pass on our good wishes to Stuart when he next sees him – he was a tremendous support to the CC and was instrumental in getting many projects of the ground and completed and for that we thank him.

16. AOCB

16.1 Common Good Fund: BH have been granted a sum from the CGF which is richly deserved. Many thanks again to Rab for all the time and effort he puts in watering all the hanging baskets and planters round the town.

16.2 Pipe Band: posters will be out soon to advertise a competition for residents who have shopped locally. Names are put in a draw and the winner gets a full band performance at a time that suits them. It is a way of the band thanking shopkeepers for opening up during the lockdown.

16.3 Corn Exchange upgrade: proposed completion date is currently the end of November.

16.4 VJ Day: Sat 15th Aug at 6am – pipers will be playing to mark this event.

16.5 Armistice Day: it was suggested we still need to order the wreaths for this although not sure how the event will be run. Will write to all the organisations who are usually involved to ask if they also require wreaths. We may get direction from the Lord Lieutenant regarding this – Fiona will make contact with his secretary. *Action Fiona*

Date of next Meeting: Tuesday 8th September 2020 online at 7.00pm.

Outstanding Matters Arising from previous minutes

2017

14/2 Roads issues: pole in pavement, Pencaitland Rd, diversion signs, dumped cones etc
Athelstaneford: speeding signs, signage at cemetery

11/4 Lights out on Nungate Bridge

13/6 Ball Alley – pole sticking up
Tyne Walkway – flooding(behind St Mary's)

10/10

Traders licence – concession available

12/12 Station Court – disrepair of the road

2018

Feb Wynd by Leisure Time - ?signage
Road by car park – Nungate Bridge
Mill Wynd – tree stump at corner -? Removal

March Whittingham Drive
Unlit bollard at PO/Gateside development
Traffic lights at Ideal Garage junction – sequencing

May Hardgate – parking spaces
Victoria Terrace – double lines on pavements

June Dog bin at golf course

2019

June Sunken drain at Tesco entrance

Nov Sandbags

Transportation Dept. -Pot Holes and Broken Slabs throughout the Town & Athelstaneford

Pot Holes: Ideal Garage junction, Stevenson, West Road surfaces, Whittingham Drive, Sidegate, Monkmain Road

Uneven Pavements: High Street, Market Street, Court Street. St. Anne's Place, Mitchells Close (11/1/11)