

Royal Burgh of Haddington and District Community Council

Minutes of meeting 8th December 2020, 7pm (meeting held online)

1.Sederunt

Chris McEwan (Chair), Pat Lemmon (Vice Chair), Fiona McEwan (Secretary), John Hamilton (Treasurer), Therese Laing (Planning), Morgwn Davies, Rab Moran, Graham Samuel, Fiona-Frances Adam, Jack Worden, Jim Graham

In attendance

Cllr John McMillan, Cllr Craig Hoy, Cllr TomTrotter, Cllr Shamin Akhtar, Thomas Guy (pupil KA), Rachel Broadley (pupil KA), Diann Govenlock (ELC), Karla Green (HBCP), Cameron Ritchie (Courier), Anna Faulkner (minutes' secretary).

Apologies: Jan Wilson, Erica Muirhead, Paul Darling, PC Colin Boyd

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT the cc would like to apologise to anyone who could not attend last month due to a technical issue with email. Our investigations found that our new email service we introduced had flagged a number of emails as spam and as such were missed.

To mitigate this and make access requests easier we have implemented a new online form system on the CC website for the public to use and allows for greater tracking and transparency of requests. We would however like to highlight that these new procedures do have an earlier cut of time of Monday at 2pm in order for us to be able to process the requests and ensure that each request is dealt with.

2. Adoption of minutes - 10th November

Approval of the minutes was proposed by Pat Lemmon and seconded by Jim Graham

3. Matters arising

3.1 Item 8.7 Trim trail/exercise stations: an email has been sent round regarding this and it has unanimously been agreed that this be removed from the river walkway. This is supported by the majority of comments on the Courier article last week.

3.2 Outstanding items: everyone to have a look through the Outstanding matters and see what can be removed from minutes and we can discuss at next meeting

4. Athelstaneford seats – Malcolm Vickers

Malcolm was invited to say a few words in support of his application to join the CC. He has lived in the village for around 10 years, having formally been an HR director. He is keen to represent the village and would like to know what his role as a community councillor would entail. Chris will send him some information but gave a quick overview of the responsibilities which include planning issues, organising and running events in the town, liaising with other community groups of town issues, direct access to local councillors and basically sit between the public and ELC. Malcolm was asked to leave the meeting whereby a short discussion plus vote was taken – it was unanimously agreed we invite him to join the CC (proposed by Rab and seconded by Jim). He re-joined the meeting and accepted the position.

5. Knox Academy

5.1 Update: Rachel reported that study leave will be starting for the prelims. They have also been busy collecting for the food bank and are very pleased with the donations. Aiming to start pupil council meetings next week – with input from the younger year groups

5.2 Children in Need: Thomas reported that S6 pupils took part in this fundraising activity with a 'dress down' day. Over £700 was raised – well done to all involved.

Thanks to Rachel and Thomas – they left the meeting.

6. Police Report – circulated (*Chris summarised the report and asked for any comments to go direct to police*)

6.1 Info within reports: Morgwn said we do not get very much information within these reports. Graham pointed out that these can only give basic information as could jeopardise any case going to court but he will take this back to the police for their comment. **Action Graham**

6.2 CAPP priorities – Graham attended the first meeting a couple of weeks ago and the following priorities were agreed:

1. ASB in and around High Street/Neilson Park
2. Pencaitland Road – speeding. Parking around schools
3. ASB Herdmanflat, Alderston House

Next meeting: tba

7. Treasurers Report: Community Council Accounts, December 2020

Account balance for month

- CC BoS Account balance: £25,824.64* as of 4/12/2020 (£18,994 net, with £4,290 pending payments)
(* this balance includes the ring fenced Food and Clothes voucher grants (excl cash box monies) and the new Mobile devices use grant)
- *Food/Clothes voucher monies £2,319 as of 4/12/2020 (spread across ring fenced BoS account and cash box monies)
- * Mobile devices monies £221.00 as of 4/12/2020
- Events Group TSB balance: £509.28 as of 1/12/2020 (No cheque(s) pending.)
- Held in cash-box: £821.11 as of 4/12/2020 (CC cash = £565.78 (incl Food and Clothes monies), Events cash = £255.33)

Highlights

- Lending library monies of £2,369.29 now transferred to the Food and clothes voucher scheme.
- £200 cash donation received from Victoria Inn, this actually donated in Jan, so shows on last year's Xmas light ledger.
- £2283 paid out so far for this year's Xmas lights.
- £2131.60 grant received from ELC for mobile devices for home use. This will be ring fenced within the CC BoS account.
- Events account is getting low – although its only really Xmas lights activities that's using this account at the moment.

CC BoS Account transaction highlights, since last report. £18,994 net total after pending deductions and ring fenced monies.

- Payment of £50 monthly secretarial fees.
- £6 Direct Debit payment for monthly charge of Resilience mobile phone.
- £135 paid out to Print Factory for Qty 3 Town advertising banners.

Food and Clothes Voucher - £4,919 ring fenced within CC account: £2,600* spent to date leaving £2,319 remaining.

- Now showing the monies transferred from the now closed Lending library funding.
- £1,300 paid out for Food and Clothes: £300 cheque to Bridge Centre, £1000 cash transfers to Pat Lemmon.

Mobile devices for home use project - £2,131 ring fenced within CC account: £1,910* spent to date leaving £221 remaining.

- £2,131 grant awarded for home use mobile devices, with £1,910 paid out already for Mobile devices.

Events Group TSB Account transaction highlights, since last report

- Xmas lights this month: £888 paid for hire of 2 cherry picker visits to town to erect this Xmas lights, £277 paid to Blachare for miscellaneous light parts and £278 paid to Blachere for Qty 4 refurbished lights.
- £200 cash donation received from Victoria Inn, this actually donated in January, so shows on last year's Xmas light ledger.

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

- EC: £200 from last January's donation from Victoria Inn received during the month.

7.1 Change in account signatories: John reported this is in hand

7.2 Honorarium: Chris as Chair requested that any honorarium for this position should be directed to the fund for the Tablets. Fiona McEwan as Secretary requested the same but for the honorarium to be directed to the clothing and food voucher scheme.

Action John H

7.3 Christmas lights: Graham said he has spoken with Steven Gibson who confirmed that the icicle drop lights are now discontinued so may have to look at alternatives.

Bill for lights: John H suggested Steven contact the CC before presenting them with a bill. John asked if need be could he transfer monies from the CC account to pay for lights. Graham said yes to this and Chris agreed

8. Correspondence – all sent to members via email

8.1 Letter from Erin Low: regarding the upkeep of the Nungate Bridge and River Tyne. John McM has passed this onto the relevant officers who have replied to her. John will send a copy to Chris McE. *Action John McM*

8.2 Liz McDougal: asked for a tree for the hospital. This has been refused to due infection control but will certainly keep in mind for next year.

8.3 Margaret Cantley: thanked the CC for support given during the lock-down. She is very grateful and said she would be keen to help the CC.

8.4 David Barrett: letter regarding access to public meetings. The CC have apologised for the problems last month regarding access to the online meeting. Hopefully the new system will prove easier to use. David also suggested the

CC have a communications author. Chris said that under CC guidelines, all correspondence should go through the secretary and response from the CC likewise and that all correspondence is agreed by all.

9. Councillors Corner

9.1 Update from John McMillan:

Herdmanflat-

There were questions about security and use and officers have commented as outlined below.-

We have 24 hr security on the site and are liaising regularly with Police Scotland.

We are working with Health & Social Care on developing a business case for extra care housing. As for the existing buildings that is harder and may involve some market housing potentially for elderly and other uses of the Garleton Building have been thrown around including multi-generational care training.

Herdmanflat site presents a unique opportunity for an innovative project that could deliver an integrated extra care housing solution, with a range of tenure options and housing types. Earlier this year we reached an agreement with NHS Lothian to purchase the site in two parts.

“Improving care for older people in East Lothian is a longstanding area of policy focus. There is a commitment to shifting the balance of care to deliver better outcomes for older people, and our younger adults with more complex needs. There is a commitment to shift the balance of care by maintaining provision of care home and NHS continuing care places and increasing intensive home support.

“East Lothian’s rapidly ageing population, particularly for households headed by someone aged 75 and over, will mean increased demand for health, housing and social care services.

“The idea is that such a development could provide homes for life so that residents would not have to move if their care needs change, because the building design and construction should be flexible and adaptable to accommodate an individual’s changing needs.

“Working closely with the Scottish Government, subsidy towards the acquisition of the grounds for the future development of housing was secured and work is now being undertaken in partnership to explore the potential future of the site. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic we will need to give further consideration to the appropriate model of development proposal for Herdmanflat.

Letham Mains School- Should be ready for occupancy after the February break.

Officers in Licensing, Environmental Health. Planners, and Roads Officers, and Police have been working closely with businesses to ensure compliance and EDU staff have been working on grants to businesses, and Town Centre promotions including Cabins. All in line with ELC’s ‘Stay safe, support local, and love East Lothian’ campaign.

Licensing, Licensing Sub and Planning Committee met during November.

Corn Exchange being handed over by contractor around 18th December, some decorating to be completed under separate works.

Personally: meetings on tourism, jobs, twinning, grants and traffic and parking, particularly around Community Hospital. Stewarded at Farmers’ Market- numbers up from under 900 at end of October to under 1200 at end of November. Attended Cosla and Business Gateway meetings with particular emphasis on children and young people jobs, broadband and transport. Attended Enjoy Leisure and Food and Drink Boards and LEADER meeting.

Residents at Letham Mains Holdings will have a power outage on Thursday. Arrangements made with SPEN and through Sandy Baptie. Good response to needs in that area.

Discover Ancient Egypt exhibition is now in JG Centre.

9.2 Santa Sleigh:

Rotary are taking over the organisation of this but unfortunately their insurance does not cover them. John McM has been looking into this and confirmed that this sadly won't happen this year.

9.3 Gates in High Street: Craig reported that the gates will be made safe, along with any dangerous drain covers. Covid restrictions have hampered this work recently.

9.4 Nungate Bridge/wall/leaking: Graham suggested that water seepage may be due to blocked drains. Tom said that the holes are there to allow drainage from the road into the river but he will investigate whether blocked drains are also involved. John McM added once again that these problems should be reported right away and not kept until the next meeting.

Action Tom T

9.5 Site meeting: Graham, Pat, Karla and Shamin recently had a walk round the town and made a list of issues needing addressed - Graham asked if anything had come if this. Shamin confirmed she had passed the minor roads issues onto the roads dept but she will chase and report back.

Action Shamin

9.6 Haddington Athletic: Graham wanted to congratulate them for their recent achievement. John McM agreed and passed on his best wishes to Drew Donaldson.

9.7 Christmas lights/tree: Shamin wanted to thank Chris, Pat and Graham for all their work with the lights and the tree at both the corn exchange and Nungate. Tom echoed this – the lights look fantastic and are much appreciated.

9.8 Craig Hoy update: Craig reported that 3 cherry trees have been removed from the corner at Park Lane as they were causing damage to the wall. He apologised for the lack of communication with residents regarding this – they have all now had contact with ELC. New trees will be planted but in a different position.

9.9 Speed reduction measures (Hopeton Drive/Whitt Drive, Lynlea Ave): this has been raised previously – will be taken forward in the new year.

9.10 Door step callers: Fiona-Frances was concerned about recent activities with people calling round doors. The councillors suggested that the police should be called right away if worried about this.

10. Licencing and Planning

10.1 Therese reported new signage for Café Luca (previously the Pantry). Also, application for change of use from offices to houses in Lodge Street. Chris said he was confident the council would make sure the signage is in keeping with the town centre. He also suggested we ask the council for some training in planning matters – Therese said she would be happy to take part in this. John McM also said to look out for the planning committee meetings – welcome to sit in on these meetings and see how things work.

Action Chris

11. Community Groups

Blooming Haddington (BH)

Update (Rab): damage to the planter at Animal Magic has been fixed. Oriental Garden been tidied. Not much else to report but to say a huge thanks to the council and local businesses for their support this year. Chris thanked Rab and all those involved for the amazing work they do.

Hadd Business Community Partnership (HBCP)

Update (Karla Green): Karla thanked the CC for the temporary shop local signs. Last few weeks have seen meetings with PSP, CAPP, Spaces for People, plus the sight meeting round the town. Some businesses have reported they are doing well, some not so. The shop local message has been pushed forward with businesses such as Gibsons, The Reading Room and Animal Magic taking part in the Light up your Window scheme. A special mention also to the Victoria Inn for their decorations – many thanks to all involved.

Recovery Grant: 7.5k has been received from the covid recovery grant plus 5k from the supporting communities grant

Christmas Log Cabins: all the paperwork has been completed for these to go ahead. Will be set up in Court Street, Lodge Street, John Gray Centre. Local businesses were worried about the competition but it was confirmed they would be selling different produce – similar to the previous craft fairs. Jim agreed with this, he thought there would be a conflict of interest and asked if he could have a list of the proposed traders and products. Although if there was no direct conflict and they increase footfall to the town then this should be a positive. Craig agreed, we have had craft fairs in the town before and worth taking this opportunity. John McM agreed – he sat on the group that approved this and all these concerns were discussed. Advertising and promotion will be on social media, local paper etc.

Karla left the meeting.

Haddington Community Development Trust (HCDDT)

Update: Jack reported the closing AGM was held on 30th November where it was unanimously agreed to wind up the trust and disperse any remaining funds. It was agreed to split 3 ways – OCK for community garden, Bridge Centre (clothing/food vouchers) and Rotary (to support youth development in Haddington)

Website: Graham has met with Eric Bateman and it has been agreed the CC will take over the website. This could take around 6/7 weeks for the process to complete. Graham and Chris will work together on the website – Jack thanked them as it has great potential and is a very positive for the town.

John McM said it was sad to see the Trust go and we should remember their successes (Corn Exchange, Website) to name a few. This item will now be taken off the agenda.

Tenants and Residents Association (TRA) (Chris emailed round update)

Update: Antisocial behaviour, litter, drugs, vandalism all covered. Damage to CCTV in Ross's Close- ASB team looking into this. Derelict building in Brown Street (owned by Council and going to look into it)

Vandalism to cabins – this is a concern but the wardens and police are aware.

Chris suggested it would be a good idea to have a member of the CC on each TRA. Therese for Nungate (Hadd East), Jim for Hadd Central (although Erica may already be on this ?)

12. Haddington and Lammermuir Area Partnership (AP)

12.1 Paul already sent round an email update. Five applications have been received and all awarded. We need to continue to identify projects as there is money left in the budget

13. Community Council Sub Groups

Resilience: Pat confirmed that to date 110 people have benefitted from the clothing/food grants. Plus 12 Tablets have now been supplied to the Care Homes. She confirmed that although the resilience group has stepped down they are still active and keep in touch with the community. Pat said she would send round a report to all. **Action Pat**
Gift Appeal – this have received many gifts

Events Group Meeting Update: the virtual switching on of the lights went well – thanks to all involved. This group will reconvene in the new year

Town Centre Update: nothing to report. Will reassess in the new year

14. Any Other Business

14.1 New businesses: Jim said it was encouraging that 2 new businesses have opened in the town (music shop and a bike/scooter shop). John McM said there was another one opening soon, an advisory group.

Date of next Meeting: Tuesday 12th January 2021 online at 7.00pm.

Outstanding Matters Arising from previous minutes

(It was suggested all CC members look through this list and update/remove as necessary etc)

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)