

Royal Burgh of Haddington and District Community Council

Minutes of meeting 10th November 2020, 7pm (meeting held online)

1.Sederunt

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

In attendance

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

2. Apologies: Cllr Shamin Akhtar, PC Colin Boyd

Jan said a huge thanks to everyone for all their support over the many years she has been with the Community Council (over 24 of them as Chair). She also thanked all those she had worked with in the community during her time, she cannot thank everyone enough. She also wished Chris all the very best in his new post – he worked so hard with the resilience team during the current pandemic and she knows he will do a great job as Chair.

Craig added his congratulations to Chris on taking over the post of Chair. Jan is a hard act to follow and wished her well. John McM also added his best wished to Chris, he is sure he will do a great job. And many thanks to Jan for all she's done over the years. Shamin concurred.

3. Minutes of 13th October

Approval of the minutes was proposed by Rab Moran and seconded by Therese Laing

4. Matters arising - none

5. Treasurers Report: Community Council Accounts, November 2020

Account balance for month

- CC BoS Account balance: £26,850.03* as of 15/10/2020 (£4K pending payments – Xmas light junction boxes)
(the above balance includes the ring fenced Lending library and Food and clothes voucher grants, excluding Cash box monies)
- *Lending Library monies £2,369.29 as of 8/10/2020 (this figure included in the CC BoS Account balance above)
- *Food/Clothes voucher monies £1,250.00 as of 3/11/2020 (this figure inclusive of the CC BoS Account and CC Cash box balances)
- Events Group TSB balance: £1,952.93 as of 31/8/2020 (No activities in last 7 months, hence date showing - No cheque(s) pending.)
- Held in cash-box: £543.32 as of 3/11/2020 (CC cash = £483.79 (incl Food and Clothes monies), Events cash = £59.53)

Highlights

- Lending library monies can now be used for Food and clothes voucher scheme, so from next month they'll show as the one balance.

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.
- £500 transferred from BoS account to Cash box, from Food and Clothes monies.

Lending Library - £2,975 ring fenced within CC account: £605.71 spent to date leaving £2,369 remaining.

- No new transaction recorded.

Food and Clothes Voucher - £2,550 ring fenced within CC account: £1300* spent to date leaving £1,250 remaining.

* This figure doesn't include the £250 used from the Pat Moncrieff donation. This section only reports on the Grant monies.

- £250 cash from Food and clothes monies given to Pat Lemmon for onward distribution.

Events Group TSB Account transaction highlights, since last report

- <Events meetings currently suspended>

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

- £250 cash for Food and voucher paid out to Pat Lemmon.
- £500 transferred from BoS account to Cash box, from Food and Clothes monies.
- <nothing to report> apart from ongoing secretarial payments to Anna.

6. HBCP (Hadd Business Community Partnership) – Karla Green

Karla congratulated Chris on his new post. She also thanked Jan for her many years of service and hard work in the town.

6.1 Update: businesses are taking a while to recover, many are struggling for survival. Due to all the restrictions the hospitality and travel industries are also very hard hit. The recent reports of possible further restrictions are very worrying and many are dreading how this will continue to affect business.

Anti-social behaviour continues to be a topic of discussion with some police involvement. Shop Local Promotion ongoing

6.2 Banners for town entrances: Erica asked if this had been pursued. This is still in discussion, whether signs or banners are produced – more likely banners as signs are more expensive. Suggestions are requested for the design of such. Erica said she had brought this up at every meeting, with not much progress. It would be a shame to lose out on Christmas trade for not having enough signage at either end of the town. Pat said that Tom Reid has asked for ideas on this and only one has been forthcoming – please bring any ideas forward. Graham confirmed that Historic Scotland deal with signage and therefore need to be consulted on this and also cannot be on the main A1 for legal reasons. On the other hand, Therese pointed out that banners would be a quick fix to make the most of passing trade and could be in the area of the new developments. Pat said that there was a sub group dedicated to looking at Christmas in Haddington – she will pass this onto them. Chris suggested the CC help with the banners – Graham agreed. Karla will speak with Graham to move this forward. All were in agreement with this.

7. Knox Academy

Robert congratulated Chris on his new position and wished him all the best. And many thanks to Jan for all her years of dedication to the town and for the warm welcome extended to Knox.

7.1 Update: Thomas said they were all coping with the restrictions within the school – face masks are now to be worn all the time and regular hand washing encouraged. Tom asked if they felt there had been any disruption within the school due to restrictions – Thomas felt not, in fact he suggested it may have even brought them all closer perhaps.

7.2 Children in Need: S6 pupils are taking part in this fundraising activity with a ‘dress down’ day.

7.3 Community achievements: Rachel said a meeting had been held and these were going to be recognised and awards given on Thursday.

7.4 Poppy Scotland: boxes have been distributed to local shops and Tesco - although they are not able to be present within Tesco this year due to the restrictions. Thanks to Cameron for publicity in the Courier. A 2-min silence will be observed within the school tomorrow at 11am.

Robert said a huge thanks to staff and pupils for keeping things as normal as possible during what has been a very difficult time for all.

(Karla left the meeting)

8. Councillors Corner

8.1 Drain covers, high street: Rab reported the gratings opposite Erica’s shop and also down towards Dino’s. Craig has reported these but will chase. John McMillan arrived at the meeting and reminded everyone not to wait till the next meeting to report any issues like this – phone them into the council direct for action.

8.2 Speeding: Erica said there are still concerns about speeding on the Pencaitland Road, at Dovecot and the West Road. Quite a few residents are commenting on this, despite the flashing 20mph speed signs.

Chris also said there was a real problem with the corner at Lynn Lea Avenue – cars speed round, cutting the corner. John McM suggested an onsite meeting in this area and to email the councillors direct to pursue. Rab suggested speed bumps, speed table etc. The area partnership may also be able to help with this.

Dropped kerbs – Pat asked if this had been pursued – Erica confirmed that these are planned for Pencaitland Road.

8.3 Spaces for All: meeting on Monday to discuss areas in the town.

8.4 Victoria Bridge: before lockdown this was an area which had been suggested for double yellow lines due to congestion - Fiona McE asked if there was any update. John McM said it all depends on the availability of the lorry but will look into it and report back. It was pointed out that it took no time at all to put up the 20mph signs.

8.5 Hardship Fund: Pat asked John whether there were any further developments here. He said they are expecting a new set of grants to become available but nothing as yet. He suggested keeping an issues log as there are many similar problems across the county.

8.6 Corn Exchange: Jan asked if there was any news on the refurb. It was said to still be the end of November for completion

8.7 Trim Trail, river walkway: Fiona McE asked what was happening with this. In many cases there are just poles left which look a mess. John McM agreed that this was a controversial project at the time and that it was the responsibility of Landscape + Countryside Dept. Graham pointed out that the map at the start of the walk is out of date and that most of the boards have been vandalised. It was suggested they either be maintained or removed – John McM said they were put in with the best intentions but not very well received at the time.

9. Blooming Haddington (BH)

9.1 Update (Rab): Hanging baskets are now down, 3-tier planters are all done as well as the tattie boxes planted out. Going to be working on the Memorial park to have a tidy up. Thanks to Rab and all the volunteers for all the hard work they put in. They got a big thanks from the council too.

10. Town Centre Update

10.1 Graham said a number of meetings have been held. A couple of sub groups have been formed and discussions held on both short and long-term plans. Short term includes plans for Christmas with some ideas being floated. Long term plans include discussions with Eric Bateman and include the website. Pat thanked John McM for organising the recent inter-town meeting, along with other groups (economic development, ELC etc). There has been a commitment of support from ELC which is very encouraging.

John said a very positive meeting had been held – one area discussed is for a virtual high street. Going to be promoting local businesses – council officers giving a huge amount of help on this.

11. Police Questions – report received from PC Colin Boyd. *Any issues please contact direct*

11.1 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: 16th Nov, 730pm on Microsoft Teams

11.2 CAPP Meetings: John McM suggested it would be helpful to the police if someone chaired the CAPP meetings and produced a note of the minutes of such. Anyone would be welcome to volunteer for this.

12. Planning Applications

12.1 Newton Port/Calders Loan: an application has been lodged for 2 houses in this area. After much discussion on this it was agreed we give our comments to reflect our reservations on the look of the proposed buildings – this has to be in keeping with the area. Access, both for residents and plant vehicles is also an issue. Sight-lines remain a problem too.

12.2 Former Red Flame premises, Newton Port: similar issues were discussed around access and parking etc on the proposals to change this building into flats. Jack suggested it would be a shame to see this building go or not be used. John agreed and said we are correct to raise our concerns and still have time to comment and if need be have this called in. He also suggested he arrange a briefing for CC members with Keith Dingwall to go over planning processes.

13. Correspondence – all sent to members via email

13.1 Zoom meetings: there have been some issues connection to zoom – Chris and Graham will look into alternatives. Also suggested a user guide for the public might be useful. Erica said it might be an idea to put this on the FB page to explain the issues for anyone trying to get into the meeting. Jan pointed out that anyone joining can only speak at the discretion of the chair.

13.2 Emails: Pat suggested that any matters not directly for CC be directed to correspondence. Chris agreed there are many ways people can report problems – perhaps we need to make this clear. Graham has given info for Cameron to put in the Courier and will put this info on the FB page also.

14. Haddington Community Development Trust

14.1 Update: Jack reported that the final board meeting was held last week where it was agreed, after consultation with members, to wind up the Trust. Final dispersal of funds was agreed 50% to ELC and the other to go to community groups OCK, Bridge Centre (food/clothing vouchers) and the Rotary.

An AGM will be held to formally disband at the end of Nov/beg Dec – Fiona-Frances and Jan said they would attend as they are still members.

15. Events Group

15.1 Christmas lights: it had previously been suggested we hold a virtual switching on ceremony – this to happen on the last Sunday in November. One set of lights not working at the B of S – this to be passed to Steven. John H asked if Chris was still involved with the Christmas lights – he has had no response regarding them. The CC has still got 4k to pay but the last update was over a year ago. Market Street still to be put up at time of the meeting and one box was broken next to the Mercat. Chris will get in touch with Steven. Jan confirmed that she spoke with Steven a few weeks ago and the trees have been ordered. Pat thanked ELC for paying for the trees this year.

15.2 Santa Sleigh: John H confirmed the Rotary are taking over the santa run – Louise Begbie dealing with it.

16. Area Partnership (AP)

16.1 Traprain Law: connecting pathways – no answer has been received on this – one to pursue in the new year.

16.2 Tablets: Pat reported an application has been made for 20 Tablets to help with social isolation.

17. AOCB

17.1 Final note for the minutes – Chair retiral: Jack wanted it formally noted that past and present Community Council members thank her for her immense commitment and dedication and wish her all the very best.

Jan said it had been a pleasure to be at the helm – she has had so much help from members and the people of Haddington – it has been a privilege and she appreciates all their thanks. She knows Chris will be a great Chair and she will look forward to relaxing now. He hoped she would still be on hand to guide him forward!

Date of next Meeting: Tuesday 8th December 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)