

**Royal Burgh of Haddington and District Community Council**  
**Minutes of meeting 12<sup>th</sup> January 2021, 7pm (meeting held online)**

**1.Sederunt**

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

**In attendance**

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

**Apologies:** Jim Graham, PC Colin Boyd

Welcome from Chair to all at tonight's meeting

**2. Adoption of minutes - 8<sup>th</sup> December**

Approval of the minutes was proposed by Pat Lemmon and seconded by Therese Laing

**3. Matters arising**

**3.1 Item 8.1 river tyne upkeep:** John H asked who was responsible for the area between the wall at Aldi and the river – assume council? Shamin will investigate and report back *Action Shamin*

**3.2 Item 9.5 Site meeting:** Shamin will be going over the list of action points with Dianne Govenlock and ELC to distribute the jobs needed.

**3.3 TRA's:** it was confirmed that Erica still represents central. Jim said he would be happy to share this area also.

**3.4 Outstanding items:** everyone had been asked to look over the items to see what could be removed from the list.

The following were agreed:

**2017**

All items were removed as complete

**2018**

Feb: items will be checked to see if complete.

March: all items removed as complete

May: Hardgate, parking spaces – remains on list, as does Victoria Terr

June: remove dog bins item as complete.

**2019**

June: leave sunken drain at Tesco entrance

Nov: remove sandbags

**Pot holes:** West Rd and Monkmain removed. Chris will check the area at Stevenson – *Action Chris*

**Uneven pavements:** all items remain on the list

The list has been updated to reflect the above.

**3.5 Traders Licence for Corn Exchange:** Chris reported that he is in conversation with John McM regarding purchase of a traders licence which would cover the CC events for the whole year. During the meeting John McM looked up the cost – would be in the region of £277/£290 annually. It was agreed by all that we ring-fence £300 for this cost. John will email across the application forms – it was agreed that Fiona McE as secretary could sign these. *Action John McM/Fiona McE*

**3.4 Dropped kerbs:** Therese pointed out that there is no dropped kerb on the east side of junction at bottom of Market Street.

#### **4. Knox Academy**

##### **4.1 Update:**

Robert: apologised for missing the meeting last month. He reported that the school has the benefit of Mental Health Youth Workers coming to the school in December. Thanks to beGREEN and Windpower for the outdoor seating supplied to the school and also to the Area Partnership for providing funds to run the breakfast club. Teaching staff are currently operating on a rota system to support key worker provision in the school and working hard at the remote learning provision also. Chris asked about representation on the TRA – Robert has forwarded this to the senior leadership team.

Thomas: feels that things are going ok and the timetable has been well thought out for the pupils

Rachel: S5 parents evening went well, the online provision was a successful alternative. The first pupil council meeting has been held – hoping to have at the end of each month

Shamin wanted to say a huge thank you to the Knox pupils and teachers for the amazing Christmas concert.

Knox reps left the meeting

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

**5.1 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**

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

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: 2 weeks' time – Graham will attend

#### **6. Correspondence – all sent to members via email**

#### **7. Councillors Corner**

##### **7.1 Update from John McMillan:**

I promised to circulate the response to Erin from Mr Reid on her letter re issues at Nungate Bridge and the river (copy below) .

Since the last meeting, I have been involved in Connected Economy Group meetings and grant payments in support of small businesses caused by the lockdown.

Worked with local organisations and businesses to support efforts around the Cabins in town centre, and supported the Promotions and Strategic Groups recently established on tourism for the town.

Feedback to is that town centre had a fair Christmas and with Farmers Market Numbers at c 1500 on 19<sup>th</sup> December that was a significant increase. Good to see awards to local traders and support for EL Gift Card scheme- sales of £47,000 in the last quarter compared with £21,000 in the same period last year.

Local organisations also benefitted from the Cabins – I am sure others will report on that.

I attended the national Business Gateway Board members and fellow Councillors and officials reported similar concerns throughout Scotland from traders , particularly in hospitality and leisure.

Officers are considering developments in Neilson Park and have been in touch with Friends of NP.

PSP will meet on Friday.

Tenet officially opened during last month. Music and Scooter shops open. Reported that all offices in Brewery Park are fully occupied. Initial investigations on Tyne Close site begin on 18<sup>th</sup> January.

Although outside the ward, there has been some publicity for the Papple Steading development application which aims to attract visitors to East Lothian through a museum. Business units, conference and residential facilities on a historic site with links to the Balfours.

Planning, Licensing and Licensing Sub- Committees have continued to meet- no particular Haddington issues.

Rotary did organise the Sleigh which was very well received , particularly in the newer developments where young families welcomed Santa . Special thanks to John Hamilton for liaising on this and supporting Louise Begbie who led from Rotary. I have been asked to report from Rotary on the success of Santa's Sleigh and their support for Farmers' Market through stewarding. The Club is also working on planters for the Mercat Cross and hope to have these for Easter- part of their 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations.

Dear Erin

Thank you for your email which Provost McMillan has kindly passed to me. I have asked Officers to consider the points you raise and can advise on the following points:

- Our Engineering team within Roads Services who manage bridges and structures have inspection and maintenance work scheduled however given your note will arrange to have the sapling and vegetation removed from the bridge
- We will continue to ensure that the pavement and road areas are not obstructed
- The Haddington Flood study will make recommendations regarding riverbank vegetation and silting along with a flood plan and potentially infrastructure investment to manage flood risk
- Ownership of the strip of river bank from behind Robertson Bros to ALDI is unknown. The Council went through a process of trying to determine ownership in order to get a dead Elm removed. We were however unsuccessful and ended up taking the tree down as a preventative measure at cost to the Council.
- In general, maintenance of the river banks comes down to individual land ownership rather than a transfer or statutory responsibility to Council

I hope that this brings some reassurance however I appreciate that further investigation and partnership working will be required to ensure the river is managed and this will remain on officers agendas.

Best Regards  
Tom

Thomas Reid | Head of Infrastructure | Partnerships & Communities - Infrastructure | East Lothian Council | John Muir House, Court Street, Haddington, EH41 3HA | Tel: 01620 827541 Email: [treid@eastlothian.gov.uk](mailto:treid@eastlothian.gov.uk)

**7.2 Neilson Park entrance:** Craig has reported the flooding here – will chase. This is a long-standing issue, perhaps a blocked drain but will investigate.

**7.3 Electric charging points:** John H asked who policed these – there are cars parked permanently in the bays in Seggarsdean and can therefore not be used. Craig said this has been reported to him and confirmed it is an offence to park in a designated bay. Jack asked if there was signage to say this.

**7.4 Scamblers corner:** Fiona-Frances pointed out the problems at this bad junction between Sidegate and High St and asked what could be done about it. It was suggested this would be covered in the Town Centre plans but in the meantime something needs to be done to make it safer for both motorists and pedestrians. Graham said that at the Spaces for People meeting they witnessed the flow of traffic and found that parking at the Locksmiths contributed to the problem – this is historically a bottleneck. Pat said that one suggestion was to remove the parking spaces, although this would affect residents and businesses. Discussion to be had and need to come to a balanced decision in the interest of all. Graham, Shamin and transportation will discuss and bring to the next meeting. Chris will also pass round the central TRA for comment and the CC will consult with residents.

*Action Chris, Shamin, Graham*

**7.5 Athelstandford traffic:** Malcolm has had a word with residents about the speed of the traffic travelling through the village. The 20mph limit is largely ignored and especially the fully laden tractors driving through are a major hazard and very dangerous for those whose property open directly onto the road. Local hauliers' lorries also an issue. It was suggested this be highlighted at the next CAPP meeting. John McM said he was happy to write to the local farmers/hauliers – it was suggested Willie Logan would be open to discussion.

*Action JMcM/Graham*

**7.6 Blue Badge parking spaces:** Fiona-Frances highlights again the problem with people using these spaces without a badge. She felt it also added to the problem as the sign says only up to 530pm – therefore allowing use after this time – she thought this needs to be looked at. Councillors will look into this.

**7.7 Corn Exchange:** Jan asked if there would be storage space for CC items. Graham will check with Dianne about this.

*Action Graham*

**7.8 Spaces for People:** Chris asked for a breakdown of the costs so far, including speed limit changes etc. He hopes that the CC will be given chance to comment on the 20mph signs before they become permanent. Craig said that speeding technologies are going to be deployed to assess the impact in areas such as Haldane Ave, Hospital Road etc. Jack agreed and asked for a commitment by the council not to go ahead without consultation with the CC. John McM agreed there would be consultation – he hopes that the community will look at the benefits and not just the costs but we should wait for the consultation and views before making permanent decisions.

## 8. Treasurers Report: Community Council Accounts, January 2021

### Account balance for month

- CC BoS Account balance: £23,311.64\* as of 10/1/2021 (£14,762 net, incl CC £4,290 pending payments)  
(\* this balance includes the ring fenced Food and Clothes, COVID 19 and Tablet grants (excl cash box monies))
- \*Food/Clothes voucher monies £819.00 as of 10/1/2021 (inclusive of ring fenced BoS account and cash box monies)
- \* Mobile devices monies £0.00 as of 10/1/2021 Budget, and additional donations, all spent.
- Events Group TSB balance: £509.28 as of 10/1/2021 (No cheque(s) pending.)
- Held in cash-box: £369.47 as of 10/1/2021 (CC cash = £114.14 (incl Food and Clothes monies), Events cash = £255.33)

### Highlights

- BoS signatures now changed over to Chris and Fiona, and we now have online banking – which will reduce the overhead of the time of having to write cheques.

### CC BoS Account transaction highlights, since last report. £14,762 net total after pending deductions, ring fenced monies, not incl CC cash box.

- Payment of £50 monthly secretarial fees – paid as cash.
- £6 Direct Debit payment for monthly charge of Resilience mobile phone.
- Honorarium paid out - £250 Chairperson, £350 Treasurer, £100 Secretary.
- Still have £2,404 in the (original) Covid ring fenced budget.

### Food and Clothes Voucher - £5,169 (£4919 nett) ring fenced within CC account: £4,100\* spent to date leaving £819 remaining.

- Additional £1150 withdrawn from account just before Xmas to be held in cash box, with £700 of this given to Pat to cover anticipated claims over holiday period.

### Mobile devices for home use project - £2,131 ring fenced within CC account: £2,705 spent to date leaving £0 remaining (after donations).

- Additional £795 paid out for Qty 5 tablets (reimbursement via Mike Lemmon). This brought this budget into the Red by £573.40, so topped up from donations from Chris £250 and Fiona £100 and a transfer of £223.40 from Pat Moncrieff's donation (Pat's donation now has a balance of £1326, which is included in the usual BoS balance).

### Events Group TSB Account transaction highlights, since last report. £509 net total after pending deductions, not incl Events cash box.

- <no highlight transactions to report>.

## 9. Licencing and Planning

9.1 Signage at new motor bike shop: it was suggested that planning are pretty good on keeping on top of this so no problem foreseen here.

9.2 Letham Development: Civic Square/Primary School. Children got an input on the designs here .

9.3 Retail area: Paul and Therese asked to have a look at these plans *Action Paul/Therese*

## 10. Community Groups

### Blooming Haddington (BH)

**Update (Rab):** Rab had nothing new to report other than to thank the council and volunteers for all their support.

### Hadd Business Community Partnership (HBCP)

**Update (Paul Kinnock):** Paul reported a positive end to a very hard year for local traders with the Shop Haddington campaign deemed a success. The local FB page is constantly updated to keep everyone informed. The Festive Cabins had a good response and this pilot scheme has proven itself – great feedback from both traders and the public and very keen for a return. An evaluation and report will be sent to the Business partnership. There had initially been concern from local businesses that the cabins would be in direct competition but this did not transpire and they hope that this will always be considered going forward. Huge effort from Paul, Karla, Pat etc to get this initiative going – it stimulated footfall in the town centre and must be commended. Any problems and complaints were dealt with swiftly by Paul. Jack wondered about setting up a promotions group to facilitate going forward and to plan for this year. The Gift Cards scheme was also a success – need to build on this also. Erica and Pat said it was great to feel the town alive again and congratulations to all involved from the CC members and all councillors. Tom also suggested it would be worthwhile to relay this to the public as they were in part also responsible for the success – Paul will do this. Paul said that sadly the start of the year has been very hard with the recent lock-down but they are making the most use of grants available to stay afloat until they can re-open.

**Haddington Tourism Strategy + Development Group:** Jack reported that the first meeting has been held. Background information has been discussed re most frequented towns by visitors. Action plan and sub groups suggested to move this forward with representatives from the CC and Business Partnership. It was agreed by all to further this.

Tenants and Residents Association (TRA) (*Chris already emailed round updates*)

Update:

Central: Shamin actioning the bins at Brown Street. Councillors aware of the issues in Kilpair Street also. Letter writing – we have emailed Twinning and Knox to see if there is interest. Stuart is talking to OCK too.

West: at present there is no representative for the West of the town but Shamin hoping to meet with Sue Cairns. This is a large area and includes all the new developments (Letham, Dovecot etc) – very keen to engage with locals. Stuart will work with us HETRA and ELTRAP to raise awareness on setting up a Haddington WEST TRA. There is currently an active group in the Alderson Meadows/Gardens areas.

East: Alan Dutton/Therese. Trying to get repairs done at the Riverside bridge at 3G – site meeting has taken place and Shamin has actioned.

Rotary: John McMillan updated. Just having first meeting of year tonight so nothing to update. Neil Forbes new president.

## **11. Haddington and Lammermuir Area Partnership (AP) (Paul and Pat)**

**11.1 Next meeting:** due on 18<sup>th</sup> Feb therefore no update tonight

## **12. Community Council Sub Groups**

**Resilience:** Pat reported that over the past 4 months they have assisted many families and individuals with help from a clothing grant and funding from the CDT. Barrett Homes have also donated to the food and clothing funds.

**Food bank:** Pat said that Haddington needs an official food bank and will be speaking to Doug Haig and Dianne Govenlock to further this (currently the Bridge Centre is used on an unofficial basis). The need has mainly come about due to the current pandemic, with many people struggling due to loss of earnings etc. Rather than be called food bank they are suggesting calling it the ‘Lammermuir Larder’ and will be accessed on a referral basis. Linda Mitchell will be coming in to help due to her experience and funding and donations will be explored. On that basis Pat asked if the CC could consider a donation of £2000 which would go a long way to cover costs. This was proposed by Paul and seconded by Rab. All agreed with this sum.

Jack said that the resilience group should be commended on the great work they have done over this past year. Malcolm happy to help out where needed too. Pat will let the CC know how and where they can help out going forward.

**Lockdown update:** this has been circulated. ELC have said they are not at present reactivating the resilience teams but have their own systems in place.

**Events Group Meeting Update:** No meetings have been held therefore nothing to discuss. Jan said she was considering standing down from the EG and asked if anyone willing to take over. Everyone agreed she has done some fantastic work – she said she would be happy to still be involved selling tickets etc. It was suggested this was an opportunity for the EG and the promotions group to work together – further discussion to be had regarding this.

**Town Centre Update:** Graham said that issues like Brown St etc had already been covered earlier and are in hand

## **13. Any Other Business**

**13.1 Letham Primary School:** Shamin happy to report that the keys for the school will be with the council on Friday this week.

**13.2 Domestic Abuse:** the chief social work report shows that unfortunately there has been an increase in levels throughout the county. There are support help-lines which will be circulated. Also to post this info on the CC, FB page – Chris will do.

*Action Chris*

**Date of next Meeting:** Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2021 online at 7.00pm.

## **Outstanding Matters Arising from previous minutes**

### **2018**

**Feb** Wynd by Leisure Time -?signage  
Road by car park – Nungate Bridge  
Mill Wynd – tree stump at corner -? Removal  
*ALL THREE ABOVE WILL BE CHECKED*

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

### **2019**

**June** Sunken drain at Tesco entrance

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

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

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