

Royal Burgh of Haddington and District Community Council

Minutes of meeting 9th February 2021, 7pm (meeting held online)

1.Sederant

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

In attendance: Cllr John McMillan, Cllr Shamin Akhtar, Cameron Ritchie (Courier), Anna Faulkner (minutes' secretary).

Apologies: Erica Muirhead, Morgwn Davies, Cllr Tom Trotter, Cllr Craig Hoy, Paul Darling

2. Adoption of minutes - 12th January

Correction: Item 3.1 River Tyne upkeep – wrongly reported, John referred to the recent letter by Erin Low

Approval of the minutes was proposed by Pat Lemmon and seconded by Fiona McEwan

3. Matters arising

3.1 Item 3.2 site meeting: Shamin, Graham, Dianne and Callum Redpath met to discuss and distribute the list of jobs. Will also involve transportation and the Area Partnership.

3.2 Item 3.4 Dropped Kerbs: Therese has reported this on the ELC website and is being looked at. As ever it is much better to report directly to ELC via their website - a reference number is issued and can be followed up if not actioned. Chris suggested ELC put this info out on social media so this can be shared. John McM said he would also feed this back to head of media team at ELC.

3.3 Item: 3.5 Traders Licence: It was previously agreed we go ahead with this but we cannot apply just yet as need to specify dates.

3.4 Item 5.1 Info on Police Reports: Graham had checked with the police and confirmed that no more information could be published within their monthly reports as cannot identify individuals as may jeopardise the case.

3.5 Item 5.2 CAPP meeting: John McM pointed out that these meetings are open to individuals, not just to the CC members.

3.6 Item 7.2 Neilson Park entrance/flooding: John McM covers in his update.

3.7 Item 7.3 Elec charging points: PC Colin Boyd confirmed that the policing of such lies with the Traffic Wardens.

3.8 Item 7.4 Scamblers Corner: discussion ongoing for long term solutions but for the short term the road markings/parking bays will be looked at.

3.9 Item 7.7 Corn Exchange: Dianne working on the storage space within.

3.10 New member for Athelstaneford: Steven Spence introduced himself – he currently manages the Esso station in North Berwick, enjoys helping people and feels he would be able to do this as part of the CC. Chris gave an overview of what the CC deals with, liaising with other community groups, running events, volunteering etc. Steven stepped out of the meeting and after a short discussion and vote Rab proposed him and Malcolm seconded, there were no members opposed. Steven was brought back into the online meeting and welcomed to the CC. Chris will send him the guidelines etc.

Action Chris McE

4. Knox Academy – no update as schools on holiday

5. Police Report – circulated (*any comments to go direct to police*)

5.1 CAPP priorities:

1. Speeding in Gifford

2. Adults buying alcohol for youths

3. Speeding in Bolton

Next CAPP meeting 01/03/21 at 1830 via Microsoft Teams

5.2 Speeding in Athelstaneford: Graham has emailed the details of this to Colin Boyd – no feedback as yet, will chase.

Action Graham

5.3 PSP meeting: John McM reported a very positive meeting held recently. Fewer incidents are being reported and everybody has been full of praise for Colin Boyd who has been running pop-up surgeries in surrounding villages. Chris suggested we invite Callum Colquhoun to the next meeting – he has made several suggestions in a recent email

and we should be further discussing how we can all work together (Comm Wardens, CC, Police). Fiona will write to him.

Action Fiona McE

John McM/Shamin also in agreement with this and suggest meeting with Callum and reps of the CC – Therese and Jim volunteered to be part of this. A note will be sent out with details of meeting.

Action JohnMcM/Shamin

6. Correspondence – all sent to members via email and listed below

6.1 Jan reported that Rachel Dykes had got in touch with local councillors regarding ‘talking books’. She thought it would be a good idea if the CC could advertise for them ie via the website, FB page etc. She wondered if John and Shamin could put this to their media team and also an article in the Courier. Thanks to John also, the media team do a great job.

Action John McM/Shamin

6.2 An anonymous donor offered to donate a planted Xmas tree to the Community Hospital.

6.3 David Barrett - Various correspondence and requests

6.4 Lawrence Greenhorn - plaque handed in from Avant homes in regards to Peter Anthony Burnell Phillips

6.5 ELC - Various circulars and updates

6.6 Colin Docherty - Disappointment at the removal of exercise points on Tyne Walkway

7. Councillors Corner

7.1 Update from John McMillan:

Update on Brown St

a meeting with councillors and others also one of the residents from Kilpair Street which is adjacent to Brown Street regarding issues with the storage of bins in this area on Wednesday the 24th February.(awaiting confirmation)

I am sure you are well aware of the problems Waste Services and Street Cleansing are having in this area due to these bins, both departments have cleared away excess rubbish which has been left lying around these bins on numerous occasions whether it has been placed there by local residents or from other properties/businesses in surrounding area, this is a drain on both departments resources due to the time and manpower required to continually remove excess bags and other material left beside bins.

We have tried to have residents from the flats return their bins to an area to the rear of the flats, unfortunately due to some residents from the surrounding area continually parking cars on the area that the taxi office used to use obstructs the gate leading to this area where they could have used as a storage area for their bins.

I have been informed by housing officer that deals with flats in Brown Street used for temporary housing that only 4 of these flats are occupied at present, and when permanent housing has been found and allocated to the remaining occupants these flats will remain empty and returned to the council, this will mean 7 less bins in this area this would leave 4 x 240 ltr bins in this area.

We will then be in a position to speak with the residents using the remaining 4 bins and advise on how best they could go about containing all their domestic waste within their allocated bin.

Neilson Park

In answer to a local resident- This has become a problem since the Butts path was resurfaced, as this has raised the height of the Butts path which prevents the water running out into Neilson Park Road as it used to.

We are proposing to carry out some remedial works within the park to camber the path, this will encourage the water to run off onto the grass where we will put in a small French drain to hold the water until it disappears naturally.

These works will be programmed in for the beginning of the next financial year.

During the month I attended the PSP and noted the trend of fewer reported incidents. There was very positive feedback for the work of Police and our Community Wardens to address issues.

The only incident I am aware of is of people climbing on the roof of HFRC pavilion. Police and Wardens aware and addressing this.

Council Meetings

The Council is still in RESPONSE phase to the Covid emergency

I was involved in the following business-

Cabinet met and heard about proposals to plant 2 million trees in East Lothian as part of climate change strategy.

We discussed draft budget (to be finalised in March) and heard of potential deficit and ways of funding that, all dependent on Scottish Government funding.

Licensing and Licensing Sub-Committee met and dealt with applications for alcohol sales, and taxi driver and window cleaner licenses.

No Planning Committee, but Local Review Body met to discuss an application for a fence in the Inveresk Conservation area.

The Local Access Forum (a body that brings together landowners, walkers, cyclists, horse riders and others with a key stake in access and safety in the countryside) met and tried to resolve issues. Hopes Car Park and problems at Gosford were discussed, and consideration of how to encourage people

to access our coast and countryside responsibly.

ELC is consulting on Land Management Rules to address issues on wild camping and responsible access.

Chaired a major cross-party meeting on economic development in Cockenzie, Blindwells and QMU – all involving potential jobs in East Lothian and our future and this will play a part in the Council's Spatial Development Strategy and infrastructure plans going forward.

Chaired the Town Centre Sub Group today which was very positive- towns reporting a good Christmas trading , and looking forward to recovery. The Sub Group will continue to meet. Dunbar is the pilot for the Virtual High St digital package and they are aiming to launch this on 1st March- plans for rollout to come.

Council reported that £4m+ had been distributed on 25th January to businesses affected by lockdown, and these grants will be repeated around 22nd February. Council has a Discretionary Grant which seeks to support those who have fallen through other funding gaps.. £427,000 in total available to such businesses. Applications will be assessed and hopefully businesses will hear around 23rd February.

On Environmental Health and Trading Standards , officers reported having dealt with 1000+ Covid related inquiries from business- contact – ehts@eastlothian.gov.uk for advice. Brexit and related issues also being addressed.

Arrangements in hand for the opening of schools, but the operation of Take Aways when the schools open is a topic being addressed by EH/TS officers as an example of challenges.

Twining

Twining Association organised a very happy Burns Night with Aubigny sur Nere- French Consul Mme Laurence Pais and toasted the Auld Alliance; the Mayor of Aubigny proposed a toast to our two towns.

7.2 Business Grants: Jim was very pleased at the efficiency of getting these grants out – thanks to the economic development team. John McM said positive feedback was always welcome – there are about 30 teams out there working to support businesses. Priorities and criteria need to be met but all applications are considered.

7.3 Tourism Group: Jack asked what financial support would be available to the group. John McM reported that he has put to a number of sources and will feed this back to the group.

7.4 Letters to businesses: Jim reported that several businesses have received letters from the council regarding shop frontages etc and asked where these had come from. John McM said a member of the public had complained and the council had to respond. Regulations had been breached but the council are looking at ways of supporting said businesses. Jack thought that the efforts by local businesses are great and those who do not make the effort to maintain buildings are much worse. Any contribution to the upkeep of the buildings has to be commended. John McM will have the enforcement charter sent out for info to CC members.

Action John McM

8. Treasurers Report: Community Council Accounts, February 2021

Account balance for month

Highlights

- Correction: The £300 paid to Bridge Centre in Nov '20 for Toy Appeal was incorrectly showing as coming from Food and Clothes monies, now showing as paid from the CC account. Ref Email from Pat 11th Nov 2020.

CC BoS Account transaction highlights, since last report. £12,215 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.
- £2000 paid from CC account to the new Lammermuir Larder initiative – paid online to Haddington Bridge Centre's bank account.
- COVID ring fenced monies balance is: £2,404

Food and Clothes Voucher - £5,169 (£4919 nett) ring fenced within CC account: £1269 *remaining (includes the £750 left from Pat Moncrieff's donation).

- Additional £500 withdrawn from account to be held in cash box, with £300 of this given to Pat on 15/1/21.
- The £300 donation to Bridge Centre for Xmas Toy appeal incorrectly showing as coming from this project's monies in Nov 2020, now corrected to show it came from main CC account.
- * The above figure now includes what's left of the £1000 pledged from the Pat Moncrieff's donation - £750 left at time of print.

Events Group TSB Account transaction highlights, since last report. £369 net total after pending deductions, not incl Events cash box.

- £339.60 paid out for a refurbished 2metre star banner –received in Nov '20, but invoiced just this month. Brings this year's lights' total to £2,623.
- £200 from Events cash box tx'd into the Events' TSB account as its getting low.

8.1 Subscription to Courier: it was agreed we go ahead with this so Graham, as press officer, can save all the press releases. Subs will be paid from CC budget. Cameron will also find out if we can store digitally

Action John H/Cameron Ritchie

9. Licencing and Planning

9.1 Carehome: plans for a 60-bed care home at Gateside. Meeting has been held with residents at Aubigny Row and as such the boundary has been moved back.

9.2 Signage for retail park: this looks to be in keeping with the area. Some reservations about the area to be called Haddington Retail Park – some would prefer it to be called Gateside Retail Park. Jan agreed and after some discussion and a vote, 8 people agreed with this. Chris will send round the link, Fiona will write to the developers and Paul will put a note into the planners to this effect.

Action CMcE/FMcE/PD

9.3 Licencing sub-committee: John McM said no issues to raise. He did report that there is a taxi drivers business grant available although less than half of them have chosen to apply.

10. Community Groups

Blooming Haddington (BH): Rab had nothing new to report other than work continues in the town.

Hadd Business Community Partnership (HBCP): Grants for businesses and shop frontages covered earlier. Feedback from town re Christmas was very positive, council funding and shop local schemes. John McM reported Dunbar had demonstrated their virtual high street – discussion will be had re rolling out to all the towns. Lots going on and hoping that by summer the town centre groups might take over the chair of this group.

Tenants and Residents Association (TRA):

Central: Letter writing (Stuart Pe-Win), OCK – going to move forward with this. They will in future be holding meetings quarterly

East: Therese has had a chat with Alan Dunton – nothing happening at present but will chat with him again.

West: No representatives for this area. Sue Cairns, development officer, holding meeting 25th Feb. John McM and Shamin sit on the panel and said that some funding is available and they can help direct where this goes to.

Rotary: no updated from Louise tonight. They have however been holding regular fortnightly meetings.

Athelstandford: lots of issues regarding speeding and heavy vehicles through village (already reported at previous meeting). A general feeling that residents not sure how and where to report this – Chris reiterated the ELC central line and website for reporting problems, with ref nos etc. Malcolm will take this back to the residents. It was also suggested they can apply for the ‘fake policeman’ – take to the next CAPP meeting.

11. Haddington and Lammermuir Area Partnership (AP)

11.1 Minutes have been circulated – urged members to have a look

11.1 It was reiterated that communities can apply to this fund for local projects. John McM reported that the government is currently working on a Prosperity Fund.

12. Community Council Sub Groups

Resilience: Pat reported a spend of £4602 on food and clothing grants. Leaving a balance of £894 plus £2000 from the CDT. Lammermuir Larder (LL) got off the ground last week with 8 referrals and 25 individuals, with Social Work Dept and GP's getting involved. They have also received a grant of £1000 from McTaggart and Mickle and will be investigating further funding from the Area Partnership. Also talking about possibility of frozen food provision, meat vouchers and also developing a cook book. Lastly they are progressing ‘Period Poverty’ with ELC.

Jan asked if people can donate either food or money to the project. Current businesses involved are Coop, KevinWatt, butchers, Mains, Rosehall Store and Animal Magic – all have donations boxes available. Or can send money donations to the Bridge Centre, marked for LL – this can also be done online (Graham will send the details to Jan) **Action**

Graham

Therese suggested the shops mentioned above could put a note in their window informing the public that they accept donations. FB can also be used and an article in the courier would be very helpful. Graham has already set up a small website where the details are also on the CC website. The LL is also available for the residents in Athelstaneford so our new members will make sure this info reaches them.

Events Group Update: Fiona McE confirmed that the festival and all events around this will be cancelled due to the ongoing pandemic. They are hoping to run a few small events, like shop window displays and also perhaps some socially distanced events for the kids.

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

Haddington Tourism Strategy + Development Group: meeting to be held next week. Current ideas being discussed include caravan park behind golf club, history/ghost tours etc. It was suggested that Jack and Therese have a chat about how the schools can also get involved.

13. Any Other Business

13.1 Young Scot Award: Shamin will send round info on this – looking for any young people (11-27) who have gone above and beyond and could be considered for this award. **Action Shamin**

Date of next Meeting: Tuesday 9th March 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)