

Royal Burgh of Haddington and District Community Council

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

1. Sederant

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

In attendance: Cllr John McMillan, Cllr Shamin Akhtar, Cllr Tom Trotter, Cllr Craig Hoy, Callum Colquhoun, Karla Green (HBCP), Cameron Ritchie (Courier), Anna Faulkner (minutes' secretary).

Apologies: None

Public announcement: the CC held a special meeting in private tonight (645pm) as subject matter was of a confidential and sensitive nature. Two officials from ELC were in attendance to make sure that correct procedure was followed. The CC have been advised not to discuss the details of said meeting.

2. Adoption of minutes - 12th January

Corrections:

Item 10. Comm Groups (HBCP) Karla asked that the following sentence be noted as **incorrect** - 'Lots going on and hoping that by summer the town centre groups might take over the chair of this group'

Item 7.2 Business Grants: should read '30 schemes', not '30 teams'

Approval of the minutes was proposed by Fiona-Frances Adam and seconded by Pat Lemmon

3. Matters arising

3.1 Item 5.2 Athelstaneford speeding: Graham reported has been made a CAPP priority this month. Malcolm thanked the police as their input has been very successful – there has been a marked decrease in the speed of traffic (namely tractors/lorries) through the village. More work to be done to educate car drivers. A notice will be put up in the nursery to remind parents to keep their speed down. *Action Steven*

3.2 Updated Constitution and Code of Conduct: copies have been sent to all members for comment. Both have been adopted as below:

Constitution – Proposed by Jack and seconded by Erica

Code of Conduct – proposed by Rab and seconded by Jan

3.3 Callum Colquhoun: invited to meeting to discuss some ideas to address youth behaviour in the town. His suggestions include sport/music, youth club's/disco and using the 3G pitch to its potential. He is also keen to pursue purpose-built shelters in the town for the youths to use – on the outskirts of the town, perhaps using cargo containers, although a level of 'NIMBY' will be expected. Other potential areas include Herdmanflat and Neilson Park Pavillion. Resurrecting the boxing club could also be considered. Chris thanked Callum for coming and presenting his ideas, lots to think about. Shamin agreed – said the Area Partnership has identified funding possibilities and a children and youth network has been established - meeting to be held on 25th March 330-5pm - Jim and Therese will attend this meeting. Robert Flood/KA happy to be part of discussions.

4. Knox Academy

4.1 Rachel reported that the online provision is working well with lots of support from the school. Pupil council meetings have been held. Thomas agreed – said they have also been able to attend classes within the school.

4.2 Return to school: Robert said the next stage would be a phased return to classes within the school with the hope that all classes could resume full time after the easter break

4.3 Poppy Scotland: a successful virtual gathering was held on 27th Feb. Hopeful to back running as normal later in the year.

Shamin thanked the pupils for sharing their experiences within the school and to all pupils and teachers for the huge amount of work it is taking to get the school ready for re-opening. She attended the youth summit which was great.

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

5.1 CAPP priorities this month:

- 1. Speeding West Road, Haddington and Athelstaneford**
- 2. Youth engagement, prevent alcohol purchase Haddington**
- 3. Prohibition on driving Neilson Park Road/Victoria Road, Haddington**

Next meeting 12/04/21 at 1830 via Microsoft Teams.

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

6.1 RAGES: agreed to invite Tom Dickson to the next CC meeting to discuss their ideas. *Action Fiona McE*

6.2 ELC - various circulars, courses and updates

6.3 Mr David Barrett - Various correspondence

6.4 Stuart Pe-win – social distancing notices (Shamin replied)

6.5 Daisy Whiteside – college interview (John actioned)

6.6 Donovan Aitchison – genealogy query – a few links sent to help

6.7 Helen Fraser re shop fronts – replied to say we have already raised this matter

6.8 Valerie Duncan – funding request from Girl Guides. Discussion was had surrounding this request. Although technically out-with our area it does benefit those living here and the building can be used for other purposes. Pat added that throughout lock-down the guides have kept going on a virtual basis and deserve our support. After some discussion proposals were put forward, 1 for £500 donation and 1 for £1000. Result:3 votes for £500 and 7 votes for £1000 – proposed by Fiona McEwan and seconded by Graham Samuel. Therefore, the motion to give them donation for £1000 was carried. *Action JH/CMcE*

7. Councillors Corner

7.1 Update from John McMillan:

ELC Budget meetings which decided on a rent freeze for tenants and Council Tax Freeze took up a considerable amount of time, and a summary of the budget is attached. Papers are available online and all such meetings are now broadcast live and available as recordings.

Funds have been set aside for Economic Development and Tourism and this will allow some discretion in support for projects which may attract jobs and support businesses to set up and grow, as well as supporting tourism and ideas to encourage visitors.

ELC continues to pay a range of support grants to businesses and also has a Discretionary Fund which tries to support local businesses who have fallen through the gap.

Planning Committee is delayed until end of March.

Other local CCs have concerns about the Hutting Development at Bolton Muir Wood and Papple Steading.

Licensing Sub Committee meets on Thursday to determine taxi/ window cleaner and HMO licenses.

Capp meeting was well attended, and included members from the newly constituted Haddington West TRA which was facilitated by Sue Cairns with Cllr Akhtar and myself attending.

PSP was held on Friday last.

Police and Community Wardens met with HRFC to improve security around the clubhouse.

Council Officers attended a meeting with residents to address issues in Brown St.

The Tourism Strategy Group met under Jack Worden, and liaised with Council.

Personally worked with a number of businesses and residents on a range of issues –roads, housing, lighting, parking and disabled parking and storage of market cabins which were dealt with by officers and Police.

Attended Connected Economy Group meetings, and Business Gateway meetings in ED role. Attended East Lothian Food and Drink Board as they move into their second 5 years in existence.

Farmers' Market held at end of February- numbers around 500 reported, but seen as success by traders

Note that Michael Williams MBE will retire as Lord Lieutenant on 15th March and Roderick Urquhart will assume the role.

Super links between OCK, Lammermuir Larder and Meadowpark (Knox) in terms of volunteering.

Pleased to see positive posts from John Gray Centre publicising their work and archives.

7.2 Mill Wynd/Care Home: Jim pointed out that there used to be a mirror on this corner to help with sightlines. John McM will look into it. *Action JMcM*

7.3 Clerkington, river walk: Graham reported that this was overgrown – is it worth speaking to the contractors to clear up.

7.4 Patch of wasteland by Care Home: Graham also asked who owns this bit of land and are there any plans for it – could do with a tidy up. Craig didn't think it was council property but will look into it. **Action CH**

7.5 Athelstaneford village hall: Malcolm asked if the white lines that identify the pathway in front of hall could be re-painted. Shamin will pass this onto transportation. **Action SA**

7.6 Shamin update: further to the recent walkabout Shamin reported that there is money set aside in the budget for the following - a) Haddington Town House refurbishment/rewiring and b) replacement of play equipment

7.7 Gritting: John H asked who was responsible for the gritting of areas within the new housing developments – there appears to be a recurring problem whilst the development is not signed off. Shamin agreed that developers are responsible for this until the sign-off and will be reminded as such. On this subject Graham added that he had requested another grit bin for the Clerkington area and not heard anything. Shamin will chase. **Action SA**

7.8 Kilpair St/Brown St: Craig reported that it has been agreed to remove the bins here and Brown Street. Larger bins will be installed. CCTV cameras will be repositioned with notices installed re fly-tipping. Erica asked if there were plans for the derelict building – on that note Craig confirmed it was owned by ELC and as tenants move out this area may be developed further. Graham noted the bins seem to be increasing down the side of the Bookies – Craig will look into this. **Action CH**

7.9 Aldi building: Jack asked if there were any plans for this area when Aldi move out. Nothing on the cards as yet.

8. Treasurers Report: Community Council Accounts, March 2021

Account balance for month

- CC BoS Account balance: £20,291.31* as of 3/3/2021 (£12,041 net, incl CC £4,300 pending payments + the ring fenced Project monies) (* this balance includes the ring fenced Food and Clothes, COVID 19 and Tablet grants (excl cash box monies))
- Events Group TSB balance: £369.68 as of 10/2/2021 (No cheque(s) pending.)
- Held in cash-box: £169.47 as of 5/2/2021 (CC cash = £114.14 (incl Food and Clothes monies), Events cash = £55.33)

Highlights

- Nothing of significance this month.

CC BoS Account transaction highlights, since last report. £12,041 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.
- COVID ring fenced monies balance is: £2,404
- £200 transferred from bank account into cash box as a float.

Food and Clothes Voucher - £5,169 (£4919 nett) ring fenced within CC account: £969 *remaining (includes the £750 left from Pat Moncrieff's donation).

* The above figure now includes what's left of the £1000 pledged from the Pat Moncrieff's donation - £750 left at time of print.

- Additional £300 withdrawn from account and given to Pat on 6/2/21.

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

- No transactions.

8.1 Events Group account: currently sitting at zero funds. It was agreed that John continue to use the CC account to pay any EG bills.

9. Licencing and Planning

9.1 Carehome/Nursery: no objections

9.2 Naming of retail park: seem to be set on calling it Haddington Retail Park – disappointed there was no consultation on this

10. Community Groups

Blooming Haddington (BH): Rab said that Louise has created a list of jobs to do starting with Lady Kitty's on 28th March and meeting every fortnight thereafter.

Hadd Business Community Partnership (HBCP): Karla reported a survey of the log cabins showed 85% in favour and 90% in favour of more markets in the town. The BA is making contact with funders with lots of ideas being floated. They would also like to organise a celebration of some sort once lock-down over. John McM happy to be involved with this – stated there is money set aside to support businesses and events to bring people into the town. Pat added that ELCH and the Health + Social Care Partnership are keen to put up a memorial somewhere – John McM said that the SG may be considering providing funding for this.

Tenants and Residents Association (TRA):

Central:

East:

West: this group was reconvened a couple of weeks ago. The usual concerns were raised re speeding etc. Sue Cairns also attended the recently CAPP meeting and is currently printing posters/leaflets and running a social media campaign.

Rotary: no update

Athelstandford: Steven and Malcolm engaging with villagers. They have put to the council about speeding issues and also salt bins. No reply as yet

11. Haddington and Lammermuir Area Partnership (AP)

11.1 Pat and Paul attended a very productive meeting on 18th Feb. Lots of positive suggestions and continue to encourage groups to apply to the fund. Social media, 'what's on' leaflets, news letters etc all in the pipeline. Pat thanked the AP for the recent donation to the Lammermuir Larder.

11.1 Agreed applications for funding as follows:

ELC Outdoor Learning Service Biking North, Adventure - £1,100
Haddington East TRA Mental Health Peer Support Group - £1250.00
Support From the Start, Early Years Recovery Project - £15,144.08*
Haddington RFC, Contribution to Youth Dev Manager - £6250.00*
Knox Academy, Bike Project - £5,000 +
ELC Ranger Services, Summit Pond - £2,500.00
Knox academy, Improve Digital Learning - £1,033.40

12. Community Council Sub Groups

Resilience:

Snow clearance – plenty of volunteers on hand for this

Pat update: to-date £4814 has been paid out in clothing grants, with around £685 left. So far the Lammermuir Larder has provided food for 112 individuals and 31 pets (due to a generous donation from the Edinburgh dog and cat home). Donations and grant funding has been secured from Pat Moncrieff (Church of Christ), IFAN, Mactaggart and Mickel, ELC Period Poverty, HLAP, East Lothian Food bank in Tranent and the Cray Trust. Currently working with many support agencies in Haddington and its surrounding areas and Our Community Kitchen. All this would not have been possible without the CC start-up funding and The Bridge Centre for allowing us to base our initiative there and use their resources.

Spare Tablets: Chris said there were a number available and please get in touch if they could be used for home learning etc.

Events Group Update: nothing to report

Town Centre Update: meeting held with Graham, Shamin, Diann and Callum Redpath – the list has been broken down – will follow this up

Haddington Tourism Strategy + Development Group: meeting has been held. Jack reported regarding the Common Good Fund - thanks to everyone who gave information regarding finances, constitution and applications. Discussions had around history tour, signage, caravan park etc. Available funding opportunities have been circulated – members are encouraged to bring forward any other ideas.

13. Any Other Business

13.1 Playpark for Athelstandford: Steven brought this to the meeting – it was suggested he take this to Shamin.

Date of next Meeting: Tuesday 13th April 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)