

# **Royal Burgh of Haddington and District Community Council**

## **Minutes of meeting 11<sup>th</sup> May 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, Erica Muirhead, Morgwn Davies, Steven Spence, Malcolm Vickers

**In attendance:** Cllr John McMillan, Cllr Shamin Akhtar, Cllr Tom Trotter, Robert Flood (Knox), Diann Govenlock (ELC), Cameron Ritchie (Courier), Anna Faulkner (minutes' secretary).

**Apologies:** Cllr Craig Hoy, Police, Paul Darling, Jim Graham, Karla Green

### **2. Adoption of minutes - 13<sup>th</sup> April 2021**

**Approval of the minutes was proposed by Jack Worden and seconded by Rab Moran**

### **3. Matters arising**

**3.1 Item 6. ELCH garden project:** this has not been progressed – no contact made with community groups like BH, Amisfield or VCEL yet.

**3.2 Item 9.2 Brown Street:** fencing erected recently has been done so for safety reasons. John McM has included information on this in is update.

### **4. Community Reports**

**Knox Academy:** schools not long back after the Easter break and currently in the middle of assessments. Although extra pressure on both staff and pupils, everyone seems to be coping well but looking forward to getting back to normal. Pat thanked the Knox for their donation of 27 boxes for the Lammermuir Larder.

**Blooming Haddington:** Rab reported 200 lavenders planted in Lady Kitty's. Work scheduled for the Monument Garden over the weekend.

**HBCP:** Karla not at meeting therefore no update avail. Pat asked how the businesses feel about the easing of restrictions and being back to trading again. Erica thought in general it has been quite slow – perhaps some are still a bit wary of going out and about but they are hopeful that things will pick up. All agreed that it has been a very trying time for all businesses. On a positive note there are plenty of enquiries for shops in the town, with all the vacant units under offer at present.

**Area Partnership:** further to meeting held 29/4 the annual report has been published (report will be shared with CC members). The chair has asked that all the community groups submit evaluations. Children and Youth Network meeting scheduled for 3/6. And the next full AP meeting 24/6.

**Roads project:** Pat said they are looking for projects – she will get the info on criteria out to all. She also said there are still many other groups who could benefit from the funding the AP can provide and that this information needs to be made available to all community groups.

**Tenants and Residents Assoc:** no update avail

### **Police/CAPP/PSP:**

#### **CAPP priorities this month:**

1. Speeding on Haldane Avenue, West Road, Pencaitland Road and Briery Bank, Haddington
2. Youth disorder, town centre Haddington
3. Speeding in East Saltoun

**Next meeting 24/05/21 at 1830 via Microsoft Teams.**

**PSP:** currently disbanded but can be resurrected if need be. Shamin, Graham and Diann all involved in the Child and Youth network – need to make sure they are supported.

**Speeding:** meeting was held in Gifford recently. Speed bumps on the Duns Road. Ticketing is ongoing for drivers caught speeding - hoping that this will act as deterrent. Speeding also noted in many parts of Haddington – 20mph not

being adhered to. Thoughts needed on what can be done to address this. More speed signs needed – perhaps AP money could be used for this. Police have been reactive and proactive and have been out in areas like Pencaitland Road.

**Tourism Development Group:** Item brought forward on agenda. Jack reported a number of workshops/brainstorming sessions have been held – report to following. Couple of projects in discussion include caravan/camping site and an Historic/Cultural group with some interest in a Visitors Centre for Haddington, so all very positive. Next meeting due June. Jack left the meeting.

## 5. Correspondence – various circulars sent to members via email

**Craig Hoy:** Congratulations to Craig on his recent election as regional MSP. He kindly offered to donate his ward councillor salary during the period of overlap. Many suggestions were put forward as where best to use this (OCK, Bridge Centre, Lammermuir Larder, Rotary, Wee Red Upcycle etc) – for ongoing discussion/decision (also mentioned in Craigs update below).

## 6. Councillors Corner

### 6.1 Update from John McMillan:

I thought you might like to see the paper presented to Council on 27<sup>th</sup> April covering the Covid emergency.

From my role in Economic Devpt, there are two items of particular interest- the business grants paid out, and the Recovery Fund of £600k in support of business (Appendix4).

During the month Cllr Trotter and I sat on the Licensing Sub Committee and dealt with one local issue.

Licensing Committee also met, as did Planning with no local issues.

Capp met and was very well attended with great response from local police and community wardens, The Town Centre PPS met and agreed to wind up.

Reports of anti-social behaviour around Knox fields and Neilson Park – increased Police and Community Warden and Outreach staff presence.

The East Lothian Local Access Forum met , and updates were given by the Countryside Rangers on Hopes and paths leading into the Clerkington Policies.

There have been recent inquiries about properties in Haddington from businesses seeking to set up and grow.

The Farmers' Market attracted over 1, 000 visitors at the end of April

Corn Exchange- with health and safety issues and staff returning from other duties, I am informed that it will be mid-June before it is likely to open.

### 6.2 Update from Craig Hoy:

I was glad to hear of reports of speed checks on the West Road as part of the enforcement action around the reduced limit. This is something I would like to see further and will keep the pressure up with Police Scotland for further enforcement action.

In other news the local PSP on ASB issues has been wound up although I asked that through the CAPP meeting we receive regular updates should a problem re-emerge which we need to nip in the bud.

In terms of other news you are likely to have seen that I was elected as one of our regional MSPs at the weekend. I have said I will of course remain as the ward councillor until the election and will be donating my council salary to a local charity during this period of overlap. I would welcome suggestions from the CC of a local organisation

**6.3 Abbotsview:** Fiona-Frances reported some residents have complained that whilst repairs were being done, the workmen had taken over parking bays with vans – this prevented access to garages etc. Shamin will look into this (Fiona will give her the details)  
*Action Shamin/Fiona-Frances*

**6.4 Whittingham Drive/football club:** problems arising where cones are being placed across the entrance to the road leading down to the cemetery, preventing access to this area. Tom T will look into this. *Action Tom T*

**6.5 Mill Wynd:** Graham asked for an update on the item mentioned previously re the corner at the Care Home (broken mirror, narrow roadway, mess in the open area) John McM said he would email Declan and copy Graham into this.

**6.6 Traprain Terrace (disused shop):** Pat reported rubbish dumping in the vennel and graffiti. John McM will look into this  
*Action John McM*

**6.7 River Walk/exercise station signs:** John H asked why one of the signs had been left in Neilson Park whilst all the others round the river have been removed. John McM thinks there may be a plan to redesign the exercise trail – he will look into it  
*Action John McM*

**6.8 Riverbank at Ball Alley:** Chris asked about tidying up this area – due to biodiversity issues it won't be touched due to wildlife etc

**6.9 Mobile covid testing centre:** Chris also asked why Haddington did not have a centre. It was reported that ELC are looking into suitable locations. Diann will pass on any information when available.

### **6.10 Update from Shamin:**

Aware of the issues re double yellow lines in Hardgate and Victoria Terrace

Brown Street – proposals are being considered

Health and Social Care Partnership – report on covid recovery and the need to support people moving forward. Focus on Mental Health awareness. Knox are also running MH awareness assemblies this week. Chris pointed out that there are a number of links on the resilience pages on the website.

## **7. Treasurers Report: Community Council Accounts, May 2021**

### Account balance for month

- CC BoS Account balance: £17,094.31\* as of 6/5/2021 (£9,287 net, incl CC £4,335 pending payments + the ring fenced Project monies) (\* this balance includes the ring fenced COVID 19 (excl cash box monies))
- Events Group TSB balance: £369.68 as of 6/5/2021 (No cheque(s) pending.)
- Held in cash-box: £110.34 as of 6/5/2021 (CC cash = £55.01 (incl any Food and Clothes monies), Events cash = £55.33)

### Highlights

- RAGES £10 group membership paid for another year.
- Xmas lights cost for Dec 2020 now at £3607, with the recent Xmas light poles work completed.

### CC BoS Account transaction highlights, since last report. £9,287 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.
- Recently found there's been a £100 payment to CC Paypal account (net £91 after Paypal fees) for an advert in 2018 from Museum of Flight.
- COVID ring fenced monies balance is: £2,404
- £321 paid to Miradore for their device management software used on the Tablet devices. Note this was paid from CC funds as no budget left in the Tablet project. Actual invoice was for £306, but since this was an international payment it incurred an additional £15 for currency exchange charges.
- £540 paid to Allan Clelland Blacksmiths for welding ID markers on each Xmas pole. Note paid from CC funds as none left in Events groups budget.

### Food and Clothes Voucher - £5,169 (£4919 nett) ring fenced within CC account: Main budget now exhausted but still have £491.16 remaining from Pat Moncrieff's £1000 donation).

- £300 cash paid to Pat on 23th April. Note this exhausts the original ring fenced monies, but we still have £710.16 left from the Pat Moncrieff £1000 pledge.
- £219 cash paid to Pat on 30th April. This too coming from the Pat Moncrieff £1000 pledge

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

- <Refer to update on Xmas lights costs in the CC section of this report>.

**7.1 John's update:** We still have £2,368\* from the Covid budget - we originally spent this on things like sanitisers and food containers for the community kitchen, but apart from the monthly phone charges, we've not spent anything from this budget since April last year. We could also show the tablet overspend against this budget (currently taken from CC funds), which in my opinion is an entirely appropriate realignment - this would show a reduction of £544, leaving a new balance of £1824. Can whoever sourced this funding check any wording on its remit so we can decide what to do with it – I see 2 options, its added to our overall CC budget, or its handed back.

After some discussion Erica proposed this balance be added to CC budget, seconded by Jan – a unanimous vote carried this motion. Further discussion needed to decide what we use this for.

## **8. Licencing and Planning**

**8.1 Planning applications:** application for two houses at Dale House refused. 33 Sidegate has been granted. Newton Port application has been withdrawn. Former Nursery in Church Street has been approved for flats

**8.2 Licencing:** John McM had nothing of note to report.

## **9. Community Council Sub-groups**

**Resilience:** Pat reported in the last 3 months the LL have completed 103 orders, helped 268 individuals (179 of which were children) and 73 pets. 631 volunteer hours were clocked up and 133 frozen meals provided. They have also helped a number of families with tenancy advice. Pat is also due to attend a course, thanks to Diann. Continue to work with GP's, ELC, Support from Start, Health Visitors etc. Have also made contact with the Day Centre. To date they have not had any referrals from Social Work Dept.

Impact of Covid – it was suggested that at least 30% of referrals have come about due to the impact of furlough, decrease in wages etc.

Volunteers – Erica and Therese have said they would be keen to help out  
Chris said the CC still have a couple of Tablets for community use

**Events Group:** very little response from businesses to the initial proposals of treasure hunt, shop window display comp etc. Therefore a decision to wait until next year was made. It was however agreed that the EG should have some money in their account – John H will make sure they have this available.

**Town Centre Update:** nothing to report

**Haddington Tourism Strategy & Development Group:** council paper avail detailing their covid response plans, including business/recovery grants

## **10. Any other business**

**10.1 Haddington Website:** ongoing technical issues with plug-in's

**Date of next Meeting:** Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> June 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)