

Royal Burgh of Haddington and District Community Council

Minutes of meeting 8th June 2021, 7pm (meeting held online)

1.Sederant

Chris McEwan (Chair), Fiona McEwan (Secretary), John Hamilton (Treasurer), Paul Darling (Licencing/planning), Jan Wilson, Graham Samuel, Fiona-Frances Adam, Jack Worden, Morgwn Davies, Steven Spence, Malcolm Vickers

In attendance: Cllr John McMillan, Cllr Tom Trotter, Cllr Craig Hoy, Diann Govenlock (ELC), Cameron Ritchie (Courier), Anna Faulkner (minutes' secretary).

Apologies: Cllr Shamin Akhtar, Jim Graham, Karla Green, Pat Lemmon (Vice chair), Rab Moran, Erica Muirhead, Therese Laing

2. Adoption of minutes - 11th May 2021

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

3. Matters arising - none

4. Community Reports

Knox Academy: Robert sent apologies but sent in an update:

We had a Tea Party on Friday 4 June to say farewell to our S6 pupils (outside and socially distanced!)
On Monday 7 June, during the staff in-service day, next year's S1 pupils were here in small groups for a tour of the school, accompanied by Pupil Support Leaders.
Our YPI (Youth and Philanthropy Initiative) final will take place virtually on the afternoon of Tuesday 22 June. Five groups will present and the winning team earns £3,000 for their chosen charity.
We would like to thank you for all the support you have given to the school this session in what has been a challenging year for everyone.

Blooming Haddington: Rab not at meeting but sent in an update which included:

Continued planting at Lady Kitty's

Planted new lilac tree – donated by the Twinning Associate

Confirmed their entry to Keep Scotland Beautiful 2021

Wheelbarrow trail has been launched (sponsored by the Rotary). BH have committed to plant a tree for every entry (details on website). Chris will put out a post on FB – *action Chris*

Litter picking day 5th June (organised by Rotary)

Digital walking tour has been organised (details on BH website) – Chris will also put on FB - *action Chris*

HBCP (Karla): Business on the whole for most has been slow and steady, some reporting being busy , others quiet , foot fall seems to have picked up in the town, when the sun is shining Haddington has a good vibe and buzz about it.

Shoplifting has raised its ugly head once more, following on from the CAPP meeting , we met with Colin Boyd and Craig Purves Police Scotland. Craig is the crime prevention officer for East Lothian and has been extremely helpful , we are working together to have an official Haddington shop watch, this should be set up within a few weeks, in the meantime we have managed to set up a whatsapp group alert system with over 30 business already signed up, this has already proved successful , this will run along side the Police Scotland one and will always be the quickest way to alert other businesses.

Web site , No update as of yet . Work in progress.

Update on Signage, this is something we have asked other members to become involved in, as to date we have had no input. It has always been a challenge getting members to engage by e-mail, they seem to prefer a personal visit from a committee member , unfortunately this is not always possible .

We have welcomed another new business to the town L.I.L (low Impact Living) their vision is for zero waste. It's great that people are still willing to invest in the town .

Area Partnership (Diann): Child/Youth network held a meeting on 3rd June with a focus on summer activities ('Summer of Play') – could include arts/crafts, sports etc -programme will be shared when ready.

A full meeting of the AP will be held at the end of June.

A 'Scrutiny Group' will meet soon to look at all the recent applications. Confirmed that they have received one from Athelstaneford for benches and picnic tables

Tenants and Residents Assoc: no update avail

Police/CAPP/PSP

CAPP priorities this month:

1. Speeding West Road, Pencaitland Road and Dunbar Road, Haddington
2. Anti Social Behaviour and Shoplifting in Haddington town centre

PSP: nothing to report

5. Correspondence – various circulars sent to members via email

6. Councillors Corner

6.1 Update from John McMillan:

Matters arising

The trail notice is being removed from the Park; the trail is being offered to Community Hospital to assist with patient rehabilitation and this is under consideration.

Issues at Whittengehame Drive, Traprain Terrace and Mill Wynd being dealt with by officers.

Covid Mobile Testing Unit in Haddington since 31st May.

Council Business

Planning Committee met- no local issues. Next meeting in August

Local Review Body discussed and supported an appeal to extend a house at West Garleton.

Licensing Sub Committee will meet on Thursday – local applications being heard .

Licensing Board meets on 24th June with a very full agenda

Enjoy Leisure Board met to discuss challenges of re-opening

Economic Development

City Region Deal Governance Meeting on potential major investment in East Lothian.

Connected Economy Sub Groups met on Employability , Business Recovery and Rural Economy- support to local communities and businesses on re-opening and recovery.

Food and Drink Business Improvement District Board meeting.

Meeting of East Lothian Investments and East Lothian Land Boards to consider support and funding to small businesses locally to help them set up and grow.

Attended Business Gateway Board and Cosla Economy and Environment Committee.

Meetngs on COP 26 and promotion of East Lothian in terms of climate change and challenge.

Discussions on sustainable and local procurement to support local economy

Tourism

Various meetings on potential projects with individuals, organisations and businesses to encourage visitors to Haddington and East Lothian

Community Issues/Events

Congratulations to Mr Samuel on his volunteering award, and noting the success of OCK.

Responding to ASB complaints around Local playing fields

Concerns around parking in vicinity of Community Hospital and ongoing concerns on speeding throughout the town.

Road Safety Forum on 10th June.

Dealing with housing and homelessness problems

Planning objections and concerns

Engagement with Bloom, Rotary (litter pick) and Lammermuir Larder.

Farmers Market well attended with over 1100 counted.

Good to see Prentice with an electric bus around the town and county.

Support for staff at Meadowpark who are arranging a walk to commemorate a colleague and promote awareness of male suicide risk.

I also attended a short event at St Martin's Cemetery to mark War Graves Week. This was organised by Commonwealth War Graves Commission and led by David Murray of Morham who is their local representative,

6.2 Elections: Jan asked when and if the election would be held. It was suggested Sept/Oct but Tom will find out.
Action Tom T

Green Book: Diann will find out about this

6.3 Craig Hoy: Jack wanted to note his personal congratulations to Craig on his recent election. Craig thanked Jack and also Jan for her comments last month.

6.4 Recycling: Chris asked what the plan was going forward and the timeline of the changes to the recycling service given we have received a leaflet which only details until Aug this year. Craig will circulate an email which gives the details
Action Craig H

Many questions were asked around the proposed changes to recycling – Tom suggested these be put into an email and he will address
Action Tom T

Athelstaneford: Malcolm asked what the policy was regarding community bins – they regularly have mixed items thrown into their bins and they then don't get removed. Tom suggested they try to get the reg no of the vehicles doing this and it can be investigated. John McM said the workers should use their discretion but if the bins have not been collected then please email the councillors who can speak to Tom Reid who will investigate.

6.5 Local Priorities budget: Chris asked how this was calculated for each area – does not seem to be worked out on a per population basis. John McM confirmed that there was no change in the budget this year – he will speak to officers and report back
Action John McM

6.6 Defibrillator: Steven spoke about a recent incident in the village where they needed to use a defib. Chris said that there is an app on smartphone which lists nearby devices. It was also confirmed that there is one in the village hall – this was locked so really no use. Steven and Malcolm will look into this as no use if cannot get immediate access.
Action Steven/Malcolm

6.7 Community Awards: Craig offered his congratulations to Graham on his recent award. Also to all the other volunteers (OCK etc)

Jan also added her congrats to Bob Mitchell for his recent 'Lifelong Commitment Award'. Bob continues to be part of many community projects and is most deserving of this award

7. Treasurers Report: Community Council Accounts, June 2021

Account balance for month

- CC BoS Account balance: £27,297.42 as of 30/5/2021 (£22,131 net, incl CC £4,366 pending payments)
- Events Group TSB balance: £369.68 as of 26/5/2021 (No cheque(s) pending.)
- Held in cash-box: £60.34 as of 31/5/2021 (CC cash = £5.01, Events cash = £55.33)

Highlights

- This year's Local Priorities has been received - £13,092. Broken down as £1,212 for Administration costs, and £11,880 for Local Priorities.
- The last of the Resilience and Covid funding/donations has been distributed - £100 from Hamish Purvis and £268.02 from HLAP to Clothing, and £1383.60 from CORR funding paid to Bridge Centre for use with Lammermuir Larder. £72 held back to pay for resilience phone for another year.

CC BoS Account transaction highlights, since last report. £22,131 net total after pending deductions, 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 – from Covid monies.
- £316.96 paid to Gibson Group (Stevie) for miscellaneous for last year's Xmas lights i.e. storage boxes, paint, fuel for motif pickup. Now takes last year's Xmas lights to a total of £3924.
- Web hosting costs of £288.10 paid for the year to Vote Pedro, including some maintenance costs. Note this now cover the cost of the Haddington Town website, as well as the Community Council website.

Food and Clothes project and Covid monies - balance now £66.

- All monies now exhausted*, see entry in highlights section above, so last appearance in this monthly report.
- * exception of keeping £72 (now £66) to pay for one year's worth of the resilience phone monthly (£6) subscription.
- Final £491.16 paid to Pat for holding at Bridge Centre hub – this was paid prior to the final distribution detailed in the Highlight section.

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 Resilience monies: Pat has been in touch with the authorities and it has been agreed that the last of this money be moved over to Lammermuir Larder/Clothing project at the Bridge Centre.

8. Licencing and Planning

8.1 Planning applications:

Town House: upgrade planned – exterior (roof and walls), interior (wiring and painting)

Sue Ryder premises: change of use to a nail bar. A formal objection has been received due to nasty comments about the owners and the fact that there are already so many in the town already. Morgwn commented that this is not a matter for planning – Chris tended to agree, along with John H. Chris said that any personal objections outwith the CC can be logged via the ELC website. Chris also said it was more of a business association matter and will speak to Karla about it.

Action Chris McE

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

9. Community Council Sub-groups

Resilience: Pat not at the meeting but sent in an update:

Firstly, congratulations to Graham on his award, it's good that the hard work of the volunteers in this area is being recognised. If I could give out awards I'd give them to all the volunteers who have worked their socks off throughout the last fifteen months, I'm proud of you all. I would like to especially mention our Chair, Chris McEwan for not only working full time but working tirelessly through the pandemic co-ordinating everything and basically, holding us all together, thank you Chris.

Here are the latest figures for the Lammermuir Larder (02/02/2021 - 31/05/2021);

Total number of people provided with a food delivery - 341 (70% of these being children under 16)

Total number of pets - 87

Volunteer hours worked since 2nd February 2021 - 815

Total number of frozen meals supplied - 200

Food And Clothing Grants

Total Food spend (which the Larder now mostly picks up) - **£1938**

Total Clothing Grants - **£3706**

Events Group: everything this year is cancelled. Christmas to be discussed. Jan apologised to Bob Mitchell re the Festival Quiz

Town Centre Update: nothing much to report. Having a meeting with the roads department re road safety (20mph). John McM also reported a road safety forum meeting involving all councillors – report out early July to which the CC will have chance to comment in time.

Haddington Tourism Strategy & Development Group (Jack):

Research project ongoing – consultation/workshops – meeting will be held at the end of the month

Progress on camping/caravan site – council have set up a group to discuss. John McM confirmed the council will facilitate this project, looking at use of land etc. He has no doubt there will be objections but there is a clear need for a local facility and local businesses will benefit from increase in visitors to the town. John also said that there is a lot of work currently ongoing regarding spaces for over-night parking in East Lothian – anyone with ideas of areas available please contact the council.

History/culture group – Haddington to become a hub for this.

10. Any other business

10.1 Queen's 70th Jubilee: John asked that we start thinking about events we can run to celebrate this next year.

10.2 Town House/Corn Exch availability: John McM confirmed that TH will be out of commission until May 2022. Jan asked about storage in the CE – said it was due to open mid July this year – Diann has an idea on bookings etc. Ongoing snagging issues being dealt with currently. Storage will be part of these discussion and the CC will be kept posted.

10.3 Future CC meetings: Graham wondered where the CC could meet once we go back to in-person meetings whilst the TH not available. Some suggestions were JM House, Star Room in the Library, meeting room in ELCH. Malcolm even suggested the village hall in Athelstaneford. Fiona McE will liaise with Malcolm and Diann re location for the next meeting in September.

Action Fiona McE

Date of next Meeting: Tuesday 14th September 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)