

Royal Burgh of Haddington and District Community Council

Minutes of meeting 14th September 2021, 7pm (meeting held online)

1.Sederant

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

In attendance: Cllr John McMillan, Cllr Tom Trotter, Cllr Craig Hoy, Diann Govenlock (ELC), Paul Kinnock (HBCP), Robert Flood (KA), Tom Riddell (KA), Katie Moore (KA), Stuart Pe-Win, Cameron Ritchie (Courier), Anna Faulkner (minutes' secretary).

Apologies: Cllr Shamin Akhtar, Paul Darling, Morgwn Davies

Welcome and thanks.

Chris welcomed all back after the summer break.

On behalf of all the members of the CC he led a huge thank you to Jan and Fiona-Frances who have both decided not to stand for re-election this year. Many thanks also to Anna who is stepping down after 20 years as minutes' secretary. Chris went on to say that Jan has been the centre of everything for the past 27 years and can't thank her enough for all the time and effort she has spent with the sole purpose of improving the town. Fiona-Frances has given 18 years service on the council – to both we owe a huge debt of thanks. Tom added his personal thanks to Jan and Fiona-Frances, as did Pat who thanked Jan for teaching her all she knows and telling her to continue to question.

Jan said it had been a privilege and she will miss it but her health is not the best and she now needs to take a back seat. She has met so many wonderful people and suggested that the best way to get to know the town is to be involved with the CC. She also thanked Fiona-Frances for all her years of service and also Anna who was a great support to her and always produced detailed minutes. Fiona-Frances also felt her she needed to step back for health reasons and will enjoy her retirement.

Chris finished by saying they are both welcome to participate in any events in the future.

2. Adoption of minutes - 8th June 2021

Approval of the minutes was proposed by Fiona McEwan and seconded by Jan Wilson

3. Matters arising - none

4. Community Reports

Knox Academy: Robert said it was good to see everyone after the break and introduced the two new S6 representatives, Tom Riddell and Katie Moore. Katie went on to say the priorities going forward are setting up the pupil council, lunchtime clubs and the awards ceremony.

Robert said it was good to be back at school and although not entirely normal they are getting back to some extra curricula activities whilst still observing safe practice, wearing face masks etc. Jim asked what the view was on vaccinations – Tom said that there was a drop-in facility and there has been a positive uptake on this with the pupils being deemed mature enough to decide themselves to take or not.

Poppy Scotland: Robert confirmed the school will be running again this year

McMillan event: a coffee morning will take place on 24th September

CHASS: a housing event will take place in November

Blooming Haddington (update sent in by Frances):

We welcomed the judges on Thursday 5th August and thankfully the weather was kind. The visit began with a tour of Amisfield Garden and then a walking tour of the Town starting at the Corn Exchange and continuing on to the new "Bug Hotel" at the entrance to the car park on Neilson Park Road. They then visited Neilson Park, the Oriental Garden, St Mary's Churchyard, Lady Kitty's Garden, St Mary's Pleasance and the ELC floral display behind the former George Hotel. The final part of the tour was the High Street and a visit to Carlyle Court before finishing back

at Court Street. This Year's award ceremony takes place virtually on the 23rd September – we will let you know how we get on.

Blooming Haddington would like to extend a huge thank you to everyone involved in preparing the town for the judges visit. This includes the dedicated team of volunteers who give up their time, East Lothian Council, the businesses of Haddington who sponsor hanging baskets and containers, Amisfield and St Mary's Pleasance gardens and the local community for their continued support and generous donations.

The wheelbarrow trail has been a huge success and we had 42 entries and the winner of the public vote was Cooper aged 7. The overall winner was the neighbourhood entry at Fairways. Rotary Haddington will plant a tree for every entry.

LiL Low impact living are looking to coordinate a town litter pick from 20th September and are looking for local organisations to commit volunteers to the cause.

The AGM is scheduled for the last week in October and nominations for committee members should be emailed to bloominghaddington@gmail.com. All supporters are welcome to attend the AGM and details will be published on Facebook and website.

Rab added that general weeding and tidying continues around the town. He added his thanks to all involved and to the Rotary for their arrangement and judging of the wheelbarrow competition. Jack added his thanks to Rab for all he does in the town – Rab as modest as ever pointed out that there are many people involved who work just as hard.

HBCP (Paul Kinnock): Paul extended his condolences to the Morga family on their recent bereavement.

Businesses/hospitality have welcomed the lifting of restrictions and are continuing to concentrate on recovery. They have also welcomed some new businesses to the town. The shop-lifting whatsapp group has been working really well in keeping them all in touch. Details on new signage for the town – this was emailed out months ago and still waiting on feedback. Jack added that the Dr White report mentioned the need for signage in the broader sense. Tom Reid has also offered assistance.

Christmas campaign: money is available. They were asked about the Christmas Market – the issue with this is getting the cabins in and out of storage

Tom T said it was good to hear the businesses feel they are beginning to recover – he asked if there had been any contact with the businesses in the new retail park – none as yet but still in the early stages but will need to touch base at some point. Pat agreed that all the businesses are busy in recovery and survival mode and don't have time for extras. She also added that she will be stepping back from the admin for the business assoc.

Area Partnership (Diann Govenlock): a meeting was held on 26th Aug (next one scheduled for 28/10). Money avail in the general budget is 35k approx. Any applications for funding need to be received before the next meeting – get in touch with her direct.

Other monies – 18k in the food/welfare budget (14k allocated) so approx. 4k available.

Digital inclusion – need to identify priorities (Pat already responded to this). Steven will contact Diann directly about benches etc and laptop for the under privileged in the village

Tenants and Residents Assoc (Stuart Pe-Win - Central): Stuart was welcomed to his first meeting. Meetings are held quarterly and areas discussed and ongoing include: Brown St/Kilpair St bins, leaflet being produced to increase profile, questionnaire to all residents to canvas opinion, newsletter to be produced, attending parent council meetings in school, problems reported to ASB team, public notice in library with their contact details. Lots going on in the town with many singing from the same place therefore need to build relationships with other groups in the town.

Chris said he is happy to share information on social media and via the CC

Graham passed on a note from Shamin to say that an area has been identified for the bins in Brown St after a consultation with residents and Waste Services.

West and East (Graham and Therese) – nothing of note to report

Police/CAPP/PSP

CAPP priorities this month:

1. Anti Social Behaviour, Florabank Road, Gourlaybank and Herdmanflat all Haddington
2. Speeding Haldane Avenue/ Briery Bank, Haddington.

Update: no police at meeting but John McM reported that the police had been very proactive in the community over the summer months

PSP: this has finished but a lot of good work was undertaken. Callum, Justine and Diann worked hard to get the young people involved and engaged. Child and Youth network met recently – it was suggested minutes from these meetings

would be useful for the CC – Chris suggested they be sent to the CC group email. It was agreed that information would be shared with the CC when avail.

5. Correspondence – various circulars sent to members via email

5.1 Donation of TV/DVD player: this was kindly donated by a local resident – Pat has dealt with and made sure it went to a well deserved family. She has thanked him on behalf of the CC

5.2 Brien East, resident in St Martin’s Gate – has been lobbying the council about flooding/cleaning the tyne and seems to be making headway. It was agreed by all that it was great to see something being done about the river with involvement from ELC, Scottish Gvt and SEPA. John McM reported there is ongoing exploration on whether local landowners are responsible for their stretch of the river. Preventative work is being done but if anyone has more to add please get in touch with the councillors who will do what they can.

At this point Erica said she was surprised to see that the Waterside had been refused their application for flood defence doors – not entirely sure on what grounds (colour, material, conservations area?). John McM said there was an appeal process that can be instigated.

6. Councillors Corner

6.1 Gateside Road: there is an area reported to Fiona-Frances at the end of the road being used as a dumping ground. Craig Hoy confirmed that this is under private ownership but that a formal complaint has been lodged.

6.2 Retail Park - Costa Coffee: it has also been highlighted to Craig the amount of coffee cups discarded at the retail centre, beside the bus stop. He has been informed that there is no money in the budget for a bin so has written to Costa management to ask if they would consider providing one.

6.3 Refuse Collection: Rab asked why the brown bins are down to monthly collections. John McM said the council are still in response mode but have worked hard to keep essential services going, despite staff shortages and are continually monitoring the situation. Communication to all households will be forthcoming in the following weeks. Jan said she was very impressed by the quick response by the council whenever she has needed them – John will pass this on to the Chief Exec.

6.4 Athelstaneford: Steven reported the bushes by the park are so overgrown that pedestrians have to walk on the road. Speeding also continues to be a problem in the village. Chris said that the police are out and about but cannot be in all areas so the reg nos need to be taken and reported directly to the police.

6.5 Meadowpark: Erica suggested that a discussion needs to be had again about one-way system – Tom and John agreed and if she wants to put this forward it can be reviewed and possible solutions considered. Graham added that there are problems around the area of the Care Home. It was decided that Jim, Erica and Graham will discuss further the way forward – perhaps canvas other residents in the area.

(Action Jim, Erica, Graham)

6.6 Grass cutting: Chris wondered why this seemed to have stopped in public areas. Councillors said that it will be the intention to get back to a schedule for this – there are similar complaints in other towns.

6.7 Provision for kids in the town: Jim asked if something like the recently built Pump Track in Ormiston could be considered for Haddington. It was suggested that there are many discussions ongoing with regards funding sources etc and to watch this space.

6.8 Corn Exchange: Rab asked when it would be opening. Snagging list still being worked through and to that end it isn’t likely to be available before the beginning of the new year. Fiona mentioned the Armistice parade (she has the wreaths) – it was suggested we speak with the Lord Lieutenant’s office for advice – will report back on this.

(Action Fiona McE)

6.9 Halloween: Paul K suggested something to promote the High Street - would be a nice lead up to Christmas and would encourage people to shop local. Pat will get something out to the business members.

(Action Pat)

7. Treasurers Report: Community Council Accounts, Sept 2021

Account balance for month

- CC BoS Account balance: £28,427.42 as of 10/9/2021 (£23,276 net, incl CC £4,351 pending payments)
- Events Group TSB balance: £369.68 as of 26/5/2021 (No cheque(s) pending.)
- Held in cash-box: £96.34 as of 10/9/2021 (CC cash = £41.01, Events cash = £55.33)

Highlights

- £1500 donation from the Haddington Business Community Partnership towards upkeep of the Haddington Town website.

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.
- £18 (3 months' worth) Direct Debit payment for monthly charge of Resilience mobile phone – from Covid monies.
- £14 paid out for qty 3 replacement keys for the new CC lockup.
- £1500 donation from the Haddington Business Community Partnership towards upkeep of the Haddington Town website.
- £75 paid to Craig Wight for his Tourism report. Note the full bill was £3075 with the remaining £3000 coming from external funding.
- This year's Armistice Day wreaths paid to Lady Haig's - £177.40.
- £100 cash tx'd from bank account to cash box.

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

- <No transactions>

7.1 Christmas lights: Chris suggested extending the Christmas lights along the trees in Whittingham Drive - exact trees to be identified. Propose 2 of each colour (white, red and green). Cost £2600 exc VAT plus £500 per tree to fit but the lights would be permanent so this would be a one-off charge. Although no members objected to this plan Jack asked why not the West end of the town. Plans are also in the early stages for lights around the area of the Ferguson Memorial Park, above the railway cross roads. **After some discussion Chris proposed the lights and Pat seconded.**

8. Licencing and Planning (information has been emailed out to members for consultation)

8.1 Waterside – flood doors (already discussed)

8.2 Gateside Nursing Home – granted

8.3 Templedean – plans were shared with members and after some discussion it was agreed we do not object in principle but are concerned around lack of parking spaces and the knock-on effect to surrounding area. There will feed this back to planning. *(Action Therese)*

9. Community Council Sub-groups

Resilience: Lammermuir Larder stats reported by Pat include 600 people helped, 200 pets, 1400 man hours worked and just under 300 frozen meals provided (all info being supplied to ELC). She said they had noticed a marked increase in the number of 16-25 year olds needing help from the service. Huge thanks to councillors John, Craig, Shamin and Tom and for funding from the AP

Events Group: no update

Town Centre Update: no update

Haddington Tourism Strategy & Development Group (Jack):

A report has been produced by Dr White – this has been well received. Group met last week and agreed on the theme 'History, Heritage and Culture'. The way forward will include unifying existing trails, upgrading infrastructure, signage etc. VisitScotland will support so long as the signage is correct. We need to be able to sell to coach parties (parking therefore need to be addressed), website in place etc. Subgroups have been formed to move this forward – Jack will send out copies of report to members and organise a presentation.

Camper van/caravan facilities - Tom Reid is leading this project. Economic Development and Roads Dept are looking at accessibility, as well as services eg water, sewage, electricity – to that end grounds inspection is ongoing. Suggestion of combining with a nature reserve. Will probably go out to tender in the new year.

10. Elections (deadline 16th Sept)

11. Any other business

11.1 Stationery – Jan asked if the boxes could be uplifted from her house. Chris will get this done at some point.

11.2 Bench for Dino – Chris will take this over into the next meeting.

Date of next Meeting: Tuesday 12th October 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

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)