

AGENDA

Royal Burgh of Haddington and District Community Council

Meeting date – Tuesday 14th December 2021

Location – Zoom

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85164324081?pwd=NnN3OXhUdTJ2MWlJUGVHVnBqTVRldz09>

Meeting ID: 851 6432 4081

Passcode: 157641

1. Apologies & Attendance

- Welcome to our new Community Administrator
- Chris welcomed everyone to the meeting. Dawn Alexander (minute taker) was welcomed to the meeting as the new Community Administrator.
- Chris thanked Fiona McEwan for her contributions as secretary, Fiona resigned from post on the 13th December. Fiona will continue working with the events group.
- Apologies were received from Morgwn Davis, Erica Muirhead, Falko Burket Jim Graham, Karla Mullen and Steven Spence.
- In Attendance – Chris McEwan(chair), Pat Lemon(Vice chair), John Hamilton(treasurer), Graham Samuel, Stuart PE-Win, David Barrett, Therese Laing, Rab Moran, Tom Riddle(Knox Academy), Diann Govenlock (ELC), Malcolm Vickers, Cameron Ritchie (Press) and ELC Councillors: Shamin Atkhar, John McMillan, Tom Trotter, Craig Hoy.

2. Adoption of Minutes from CC meeting Tuesday 9th November 2021

The minutes were circulated.

- An email from David Barratt was received regarding the minutes after the meeting had begun therefore this was not able to be reviewed and the minutes were approved.
- Shamin noted the anti-social behaviour discussed at the previous meeting had been followed up with information being provided on how to deal with this.
- Pat Motioned and Rab Seconded.

3. Guest Speaker

- David Murray — Commonwealth War Graves – **CANCELLED (to attend next meeting)**

4. Matters Arising



- Malcolm Vickers would like to be re-elected into the community council for Athelstaneford. The committee agreed for Malcolm to re-join as community councillor.
- End of Honorarium – The office bearers agreed to end the honorarium.
- There is a position open for a councillor and this will be advertised via the usual channels to ensure this is open and transparent.
- Haddington Community Council will now be looking for a secretary and this will be advertised via the usual channels.

5. Community Reports

- Knox Academy (update by Robert)
- The Poppy Appeal is complete and approx. £5,400 was raised, this was raised through a bake sale and collections.
- Pupils collected food for the East Lothian Foodbank and this was collected today
- The Christmas music concert has been recorded and this should be on the school website by the end of the week (Robert to send the link to Chris for circulation)
- Haddington Business Community Partnership (HBO) – a written update was circulated with the agenda.
- Haddington and Lammermuir Area Partnership
- Met on the 2nd of December and there was input about the Queens Green Canopy (tree planting), the chair is keen to have some tree planting at Castle Green Golf club and encourages anyone else who is interested.
- There were a couple of funding applications received; the bench and picnic table at Athelstaneford and Segersteen Park have been funded. There is a 6 month delay with picnic and benches however they should be here by the summer.
- There is a significant amount of general budget remaining which is seed money for new projects. It is not for staffing costs or capital spend.
- The next meeting will take place on the 10th February, any applications for funding should be noted by then.
- Pat noted that there was a remark made at the Area Partnership meeting regarding litter in Athelstaneford and Segersteen. Malcolm noted that the litter was due to the high winds and this had been removed from the park however the bins were full.
- Shamin thanked Diann for the funding for the parks and the local representatives contributions to this.
- Craig has a project that may be interested and will be in touch with Diann.
- Jack advised he had heard Pat had advised from the Business Partnership role and asked what would happen going forward? Pat responded that she has not resigned and there was an upcoming AGM in January where a new committee would be formed. Pat added that she felt that she needed to step back as she is wearing too many hats.

- There was a lengthy discussion on the future of the Business Partnership which highlighted issues with business not getting along causing frustration. Chris advised the Community Council will continue to support the Business Partnerships. John added the economic development team have been supportive of anything that will support the team centre and agrees it does need a voice and action. It is amazing what the remaining 3 members have done. John would be happy to do anything that he can to support this going forward.
- The community council discussed ways of improving the Community Partnership and highlighted a booklet that had been previously created. Pat had also suggested previously that the Business Partnership would benefit from a Town Manager and funding for this was discussed. John advised the Government has launched a fund to support local towns however this is very tight and Haddington would need approx. 120k to support this role. John added he would be happy to hear people's ideas and could look at areas of opportunity.
- Tenants and Residents Association Updates
- Stuart advised there would be a newsletter coming out for Haddington Central
- The next Youth project meeting will take place in January
- Victoria Road and Nelson Park Road, there has been a lot of complaints about this area. The police and road services Marshall have been good in meeting the Association there. People have been speeding and we have been trying to resolve this and it should be raised at the next CAPP meeting.
- Have been trying to meet other community groups, hoping this will happen once lockdown eases.
- A couple of complaints have been received about the new parking lot where Aldi is and have been telling people to contact the traffic police and/or East Lothian Council.
- Police, CAPP and PSP - an update was sent round with the agenda. - A report has been circulated and Stuart and Graham will attend the CAPP meeting next month.
- Youth Network
- The next meeting will take place in February therefore another update will come after this.
- Blooming Haddington - an update was sent round with the agenda.
- Planting has taking place with contributions from the kids at the Rugby Club.

6. Correspondence

- Jubilee Beacons – An email was received looking for people to do a Beacon during the Queen's Jubilee next year. Chris asked if the committee want the events group to look at this? Chris noted concerns on the lighting fires up a hill. John noted this sits with the Lift Tenancy and that this would need to go through the Safety Advisory Group. David shared a story about two young men lighting a fire up the hill and noted the soil repeatedly lit because of the condition of it Anything up a hill without a near water hydrant is extremely dangerous. Tom suggested speaking to Patrick Gemmell regarding this as it will need to be highly organised.

- Morgwn attended the bus forum but no update has been received.
- Chris attend a meeting regarding the rural parliament. Chris asked if anyone was interested in joining this? John advised he sits on the leaders board and there is a meeting tomorrow which he will bring back feedback from. The purpose of this is to try and support the rural community therefore if anyone is interested there is a small rural recovery group that they can join.

7. Councillors Corner

- Rab asked why the recycling boxes have not been emptied for three weeks, this is for the whole of Station Court. Chris noted the phone number for reporting this seems to have disappeared. Malcolm added he had had a similar experience in terms of the recycling being picked up, there is no consistency with this. Craig agreed to take this forward. Shamin advised that if there is an issue get in touch right away and this will be followed up. Graham added that the contractors had been rude to a neighbour when they requested their recycling was emptied.
- Stuart requested if LPlace can have a dialogue with East Lothian Council regarding new play parks. Can they be involved in future developments?
- There was a discussion on the playpark renewal programme and Shamin advised a consultation has taken place with the primary schools. The drainage issues have also been discussed and will be addressed. The Scottish Government have not provided the resource required to upgrade all playparks as promised.
- The Community Council agreed that each councillor in attendance would take on an area of responsibility to avoid duplication of follow up/reporting of issues. The councillors agreed to decide which area they'd take responsibility for and feedback at the next meeting.
- Malcolm asked if it was possible to have a meeting with the councillors after COVID to understand exactly how the council works to support him in his role. John advised there is an induction plan that is being produced.
- Shamin noted that there was a site visit to Kilpear street with regards to a refrigeration issue and this has been rectified.
- Brown Street Building – Shamin has been engaging with the housing department, when the demolition is happening, Shamin has asked for information on this.
- Brown Street Bins – Graham has come up with a suggestion of a bin shelter, Shamin is working with waste services to look at a potential solution to this issue.
- Graham met with one of the new owners round about Brown/Kilpear Street regarding lighting. Graham has followed this up.
- Lighting and Reporting – Chris has checked the website where lighting is reported, the ones he has reported have disappeared from the reported list. He is unsure if these have been fixed. John has received a reply noting the street lighting team have repaired the lights they could get access to and will continue to monitor this. John has also asked if a separate team can look at the efficiency of the website in reporting issues. roadservices@eastlothian.gov.uk can be used to report lighting issues. Tom asked that the Report it App is used to report any

issues. Chris noted there has been issues with the App and he is working with John to follow this up.

- David raised concerns regarding anti-social behaviour and had heard concerns from neighbours about their children growing up in the area due to the behaviours they had witnessed. There was a lengthy heated discussion around this and it was requested that David ask his neighbours to contact the appropriate authorities to report this. David added that half the lights in the closes were out which was contributing to the issue. Tom advised he would look into this if the people concerned contacted him directly.
- Teresa noted there was a great book produced regarding the closes in Haddington however she wouldn't encourage people to visit them given their current state. Teresa asked who would be a good point of contact to go round the closes in East Lothian and find a point of contact to get these cleaned up? Shamin advised she could help with this.

8. Treasurer's report

- Report was circulated with the agenda.
- Christmas lights have cost £7,726 to date. Approx. £4,000 of this was for installations
- Tom thanked the committee for the Christmas lights.

9. Licencing & Planning

- Nothing to note on licencing.
- Glad there has been publicity around the current proposal regarding fencing for Meadow Park which everyone has raised concerns about due to conservation areas.
- David met William Hay who is the owner of Temple Dean in Lauriston in Edinburgh in June and July. David advised him this has been a shameful planning blight on Haddington over the last 10 years. The trust has now sold this to a Health Trust therefore David feels his words may have had an impact.

10. Community Council Subgroups

- Events Group - New volunteers who have signed up thanks to social media, a virtual welcome meeting has taken place
- Resiliency - After the Storm the Salvation Army went down to Athelstaneford to provide support, this was organised by Fiona getting in touch with Sandy Baptie. Malcolm thanked the support from Salvation Army. There were issues with communication from Scottish Power as this continued to go on and off, when phoning the numbers you could not speak to anyone. From this we need to think about what the contingency plan is, is there a way to get a generator to the town

hall? Craig advised he went on a call with Scottish Power after the storm who were apologetic and advised their standard plan kicked in. They advised they would take the feedback on board.

- John paid tribute to everyone who pulled together. John wrote a complaint to the Government regarding the communication of Scottish Power.
- Graham advised the mobile phone networks went down during the Storm and advised if this happens again these also need some backup power. Chris advised that BT are disconnecting the telephone system from 2023, the new system will have no back up power.
- Haddington Tourism Development Group
- The group will be winding down. A communication campaign will take place and meeting has been set up with senior councillor officers. A plan of action will then be agreed, starting with easy wins such as signage.

11. Any Other Business

- David asked what is going on in Mitchell's close? Pat advised a planning application is in discussion to get a handrail to support the Larder.
- Malcolm advised on the east side of Athelstaneford a couple of people have noted near misses and have requested a mirror up there to support people when taking this exit (it is one of the main exits). John advised he can take this forward if Malcolm sends through an image.

Next CC Meeting: Tuesday 11th January 2022 at 7.00 pm

all@haddingtoncc.org.uk <https://www.haddingtoncc.org.uk>