

**Royal Burgh of Haddington and District Community Council Meeting on
Tuesday 11th January 2022, ONLINE at 7pm**

AGENDA

1. Apologies & Attendance

- CMC welcomed everyone to the meeting
- CMC announced that for the past few meetings and outwith there have been complaints about the conduct of community councillors. These meetings are for the benefit of the community and this should be respected. CMC advised he did not want to remove members from the council meetings or cancel meetings, however if any councillor acts abusively, they will be removed and suspended. In addition if you have complaints about abuse from community councillors or members of the public, they should also be reported to the police/local authorities.
- In Attendance - Chris McEwan (Chair), Pat Lemon (Vice-Chair), John Hamilton (Treasurer), Cameron Ritchie (press), Stuart PE-Win, Erica Muirhead, Graham Samuel, Jack Worden, Steven Spence, Craig Hoy, John Mcmillan, Tom Trotter, Karen Garrot (wishing to stand as CC member), Erica Muirhead, Morgwn Davies, Robert Flood (Knox Academy), Tom Riddle (Knox Academy), Katie Moore (Knox Academy), Jim Graham, Rab Moran, David Barratt, Craig Douglas (wishing to stand as CC member).
- Apologies - Dianne Govenlock (ELC), Shamin Atkhar (ELC Councillor), Malcolm Vickers, Theresa Laing, Falko Burket and Karla Green (HBCP).

2. Adoption of Minutes from CC meeting Tuesday 17th January 2021

- Correspondence - Patrick Campbell should be Patrick Gemmell (Vice Lord Lieutenant) regarding beacons.
- Section 8 - Christmas spend should be £4,000 not £4.
- Malcolm had a change via email Section 10 Town Hall changed to Village Hall.
- PL proposed the minutes and RM seconded these.
- EM said that after reading the last minutes, she agreed that the town needed a business association to represent the businesses in the town.

3. Matters Arising

- EM raised concerns regarding DB's behaviour and asked for a special community council meeting to be called to privately deal with the negativity this is causing. CMC advised that a special meeting could be accepted if requested by the majority of the community council. JH expressed concerns in an email in reply to DB email (relating to Morgyn taking over the reins while DB is off) other CC members had not all responded so he was happy to send this again. JG agreed this needed to be addressed. JW agreed there is clearly an issue and added that CMC as chair should collate a formal record of concerns in a professional manner, followed by a special meeting to decide what actions should be taken. JW advised DB should be allowed to attend the meeting and be given an opportunity to respond.

Action - Community Councillors to write to CMC if they have concerns regarding DB's behaviour and CMC will collate these requests and arrange a special meeting if the majority of CC members

request this.

- Two applications have been received from Craig Douglas and Karen Garrott to join the community council. Karen was in attendance at the meeting. Craig joined shortly after.
- Karen introduced herself to the council. Karen's background is in the charity sector, nursing and midwifery, senior leadership and project management. Karen has lived in East Lothian in 2000. Karen has spent many years in Haddington and has been involved as an individual in the community. Karen has volunteered since she was 14 years old and recently returned from Africa in 2017 and took a step back from volunteering. Karen's skills are both volunteer and paid. Karen can offer the committee, committee skills (experience as a trustee on ELCAP). Karen has 3 children, one which has disabilities which led to Karen's career change into the charity sector. Karen has experience in stakeholder engagement, working with volunteerings, strategic planning, quality assurance and funding applications. The committee was impressed with Karen's skills and experience.
- Craig introduced himself to the committee, he is the owner of the Victoria Inn (for the past 2.5 years). Craig would like to be able to help the community council and has been keen to join after seeing what the community council has contributed to the town i.e. the Christmas lights etc. Craig is interested in the remembrance day parade and was upset by the lack of volunteers therefore would like to be involved. Whether successful or not with the community councillor post, Craig would still like to be involved in other opportunities.
- Both Craig and Karen live on the west side of Haddington.
- CMC advised the CC will have a deliberation offline and invite both Karen and Craig back next month and let them know who has been voted onto the CC and also provide opportunities to get more involved however both applicants left the meeting therefore the community council voted on the community councillor post.
- Karen received 8 votes and Craig received 4 votes. PL suggested inviting Craig onto the Events Group. The Community Council were in agreement. PL added that Craig provided 7 families with christmas dinner and both he and his staff had volunteered to do this, he also paid a contribution to the Christmas Lights. **Action - CMC to invite Craig onto the events group spokesperson and invite Karen on as a community councillor.**

4. Knox Academy Update

- KM provided an update and advised they have been focusing on re-introducing the extra-curriculars. A number of students have taken it upon themselves to set these up which has been positive. TR added that we have had the highest number of clubs and attendees which may be a reflection of coming out of Covid.
- TR thanked everyone who is involved in the extracurricular. There has been a number of staff absences last week however that has reduced this week. There is an upcoming event which is the final of the Youth and Philanthropy initiative which is on the 25th Feb. The winning team is given £3,000 for their local charity.

5. Business Partnership

- Business Partnership AGM has been moved to February as one of the main attendees is in the process of opening up a new business.

6. CAPP, PSP and Police Report

- CMC circulated the Police report via email and encouraged everyone to ensure they were aware of how to report if required.

7. Correspondence

- CMC advised a decision needs to be made on the funding request for a defibrillator at the Rugby Club. GS added that we should be looking at one in the town centre. CMC added there is a list on the website however there is only 1 24 hour one which is by the bank. CMC asked if it was something that could be included in the Town House refurbishment? JMc replied that the issue is often about the box and planning permission, the Town House is a listed building so this will need to be looked at. **Action - JMc to enquire about defibrillators at the Town House.** GS added if we couldn't get one at the Town Centre, could we look at the John Gray centre? CMC added that the community in Athelstaneford is also looking for one which will be accessible 24/7. The Community Council can provide matched funding. There have been a couple of suggestions on the request for funds for the defibrillator at the rugby club; £750 donation, or look at the £1500 request and ask for further information from them. PL proposed the £750 as they have already raised £5000. EM seconded this. The committee members agreed. **Action - CMC to contact JH to release the funds.**
- GS asked what the community council was planning to do about the bench for Dino. CMC advised no funding requests have been received yet however matched funding can be provided.

8. Councillors Corner

- SOLE run by the Scottish Tech Army has received funding to expand their service, Haddington has been chosen by this and licensing has been granted for 3 years. Presentations have been given, in which PL and CMC have been in attendance. CMC added that it is promising however speaking with colleagues in Dunbar Community Council, there is still a lot of things to be ironed out. JMc is aware there are discussions with all the Community Councils on this. CMC is trying to keep an open mind on this and we will continue with our site in the meantime. JW asked where we were in terms of website development? CMC advised Dawn has been updating the website and has taken what's on the site and created a database of the business. This means if we have to transition to SOLE we can provide them with the database. Our site seems to be working well and Dawn is pushing to get the site more up to date. JMc added that he'd be happy for the letter to be published regarding SOLE to the community council and would encourage the Community Council to engage with this. JMc added they are also talking about funded posts in terms of helping move the project forward.
- SS advised last December there was a power cut for 60+ hours and he has been in touch with SP energy. He has been offered a higher amount of compensation than other residents and would like to contact them as a community councillor rather than a resident, would the community council be happy with this? CMC suggested SS put together a letter and get the agreement of the community council to send on. JMc suggested he could channel this through the emergency response team or Head of Infrastructure. **ACTION: SS to Send letter to CMC to send round for approval and then send to SPN**
- JMc congratulated Lammermuir Larder on their good work and wished them well in their new premises. JMc thanked the Community Council for the work they did on Christmas lights and the santa route. JMc remarked how quickly the Corn Exchange was established to provide vaccinations and the relief this has provided to the hospital. JMc advised the page was now available for the Business Grants and Top ups.
- JMc added that there was no planning committee this month. The licensing committee which deals with taxi will take place next month. The cabinet meetings on Wednesday 26th and a draft

budget will be discussed.

- The community councillors haven't yet met to discuss who will be responsible for which area however TT suggested they duplicate the areas of responsibility they have for Gifford. **Action - TT to email CMc to advise who is representing what area.**
- TT, CH, JW left the meeting 19:52.

9. Treasurer's Report

- The Treasurer's Report was circulated with the minutes. The bell ringers have been paid and the Community Administrator has been paid.

10. Licencing & Planning

- MD provided an update on this as DB had handed over temporary responsibility,
- 5b Mitchell Court - an email was circulated on this from DB about the usage and a rumour it may become a takeaway. There were a number of other complaints in the email. Some of DB's neighbours are upset because the buildings A,B and C are listed. MD was not aware of any planning applications being lodged for this property.
- The handrail in Mitchell's close was also a concern in DB's email. PL drew peoples attention to the previous minutes and Mitchell's close, The Lammermuir Larder has had approval from the property department regarding the handrail subject to a retrospective planning application being lodged, a planning application is just about to be submitted. EM asked why there was such an issue being made on this matter? CMc asked MD if the CC needed to have oversight on this? The CC doesn't usually have input on these matters. MD advised we would just look at the planning application and decide if we want to comment on it, it should be treated the same way as any other planning applications. PL also said that this application was being submitted by the Lammermuir Larder, and not PL. She was one of the volunteers who currently worked at the Larder.
- It was brought to CMc attention by Cameron at the Courier that the CC had not put any comment in regarding the Meadowpark railings. GS added that any formal objection would have to be signed off by the whole CC.
- Planning Aid Scotland are running a training session on the 27th January. This should be confirmed in the next couple of dates. **SP will chase this up and email the CC.**

11. Community Groups

a. Blooming Haddington

- Nothing to report at present.

b. Haddington Business Community Partnership (HBCP)

- Nothing to report at present.

c. Haddington Community Development Trust (HCDT)

- Nothing to report at present.

d. Tenants and Residents Association

i. Haddington Central

- SP circulated an email regarding the buildings and safety of these.
- There has been no meeting or much communication over the last couple of weeks.

- ii. **Haddington East**
- iii. **Haddington West**

12. Haddington and Lammermuir Area Partnership

- No update as the next meeting is in February.

13. Community Council Sub Groups

a. Resilience

- CMC discussed the Tablet initiative that started at the end of 2020. The software purchased to manage these tablets is coming to an end and won't be renewed. Some tablets have been returned and these were distributed to a family over christmas. There are a couple more tablets available if anyone knows of anyone in need.

b. Events Group Meeting Update

- A meeting took place last month and some dates for events have been organised. The events group are hoping to have as full on a festival week and fun day as possible. Some events may need to be referred due to buildings not being available. A quiz night is being looked at, as well as what activities can be had on the fun day. There was also a discussion around a possible ceremony on the 120 year old tree. GS is looking into a plot for a new tree to be planted. The events group are meeting on the 13th January to try and expand on other activities. SS has expressed an interest in arranging events for Athelinstenford. EM asked if the cabins were under the events group? CMC advised this was under the promotions group. EM asked where the income goes from the cabins? CMC was unsure as it wasn't part of the CC or events group responsibility.

14. Any Other Business

Next CC Meeting: Tuesday 8th Feb 2021, ONLINE at 7.00 pm

Next Events Group Meeting: 13th February 2022