



## Royal Burgh of Haddington and District Community Council

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**Date & Time:** Tuesday 10<sup>h</sup> October 2023 7pm

**Location:** Knox Academy

**Present:** Morgwn Davies (Acting Chair)(Correspondence Secretary, Planning Liaison Officer)  
John Hamilton (Treasurer)  
Susan Forgie (Minutes Secretary)  
Malcolm Vickers  
Falko Burkert  
Stuart Pe-Win  
Betsy Fowler  
Robert Moran  
David Barrett  
Christoph Crepaz  
Craig Douglas  
Robert Flood (Knox Academy)  
Cameron Richie (Journalist - East Lothian Courier)  
George McGuire (Councillor)  
John McMillan (Councillor)  
Tom Trotter (Councillor)  
Shamin Akhtar (Councillor)

**Apologies:**

Therese Laing (Chair)  
Jack Worden (Vice Chair)  
Erica Muirhead  
Stuart Baxter (Connected Communities Manager)  
Christine Read  
James Graham

Item	Topic	Action
1	<p><b>Welcome And Apologies</b></p> <p>MD opened the meeting and thanked everyone from attending. He proposed suspending standing orders to allow Desi Duncanson to raise the issue of short-term lets in Haddington during Matters Arising.</p>	
2	<p><b>Adoption of Minutes from CC meeting September 2023</b></p> <p><b>Adopted with one change</b> – Cameron Richie is not a press officer as noted, but a member of the press.</p>	

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3	<p><b>Matters Arising</b></p> <p><b>Resilience Workshop</b> TL to attend resilience workshop.</p> <p><b>Railings at Aberlady Road</b> Completed</p> <p><b>Brown Street</b> GmcG - no update</p> <p><b>Planning Subgroup</b> Has not met yet.</p> <p><b>Inclusion and Accessibility</b> Survey feedback is due by 06/112023. Report back at the next meeting.</p> <p><b>Events</b> Marshall and First Aider sheets were distributed for the Armistice Day and the Christmas Lights events.</p> <p>Knox Academy can arrange for pupils to make teas and coffees after the Armistice event.</p> <p><b>Short-term Lets in Haddington</b> <b>Desi Duncanson</b> spoke about her fears that short-term lets (STL) will put communities in Haddington at risk by replacing tenants with tourists for financial gain. She is concerned that it may be part of a trend where investment buyers flood Haddington and rents will become unaffordable and housing prices will rise. In particular, she is concerned about an application for a short-term license at Wemyss Place and the fact that there is an active TRO on the road. There are 2 schools and a nursery in the area and access is restricted. Further traffic will add to the problems with traffic on the road and exacerbate noise and pollution. She explained that she would like the HDCC to support her objection because they represent the community on planning issues and think about the implications for housing. She felt that each neighborhood should decide on whether they are happy to have STL in their area.</p> <p>The Chair felt it was difficult to take a position on STL without more information, e.g., how many STL are there in Haddington. BF thanked DD for raising the matter and agreed that it required fuller discussion</p> <p>SPW and DB felt that the case of Wemyss Place should be given special consideration given the TRO and the schools in the area and concerns about what has happened in Gullane and North Berwick.</p> <p>CD asked if HDCC should write to ELC requesting that the application be called in. MD said the HDCC was not going to call in the application because only 2 out of 15 community councilors commented on the application. He said HDCC can't go ahead and call it in on this basis.</p> <p>MD explained that HDCC was asked to discuss this, and he felt that</p>	<p>TL</p> <p>BF</p> <p>TL/ RF</p>

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	<p>HDCC couldn't object on the back of 2 community councilors objecting. He said the group would not be discussing it because it was now "done and dusted".</p> <p>JMcM Explained the process of planning and licensing STL. 2 weeks ago, there were 300-350 applications for the whole of East Lothian (Numbers may be inflated because 33% of owners of STL said they would not be proceeding with an application for a license.</p> <p>He explained that while HDCC is the statutory respondee any individual can object, and DD has legitimate concerns. BF added that since not enough of the Community Councillors had responded to allow HDCC to object as a council but that individuals community councillors could object.</p> <p><b>Voice</b> DB explained that Voice was not a voice recording application but an archiving and project planning tool that is searchable. It would be useful for activities like the LDP and LPP. People would have to go on the free course to learn how to use it, but it can't be assessed by him alone, a small group would need to evaluate it. No one volunteered to take this forward.</p> <p>DB reported that it would be a useful tool to have to use to plan and manage specific projects such as the Local Place Plan (LPP)</p> <p>MD wondered what the point of pursuing this would be if there were no volunteers to develop a LPP. SPW said that the local Tennants &amp; Residents Association (TRA) was interested. When MD pointed out that there was no guarantee that anything from the LPP would be included in the LDP, DB suggested writing to Douglas Proudfoot to ask if he would support an LPP.</p> <p><b>Electric Charging Points</b></p> <p>JH asked JM what the rationale was behind a 40% rise in charges at electric charging points. He pointed out that if ELC was trying to encourage electric car use, increasing prices is no incentive. JM explained that the council had to pay for the investment in charging points.</p> <p><b>Wreaths for Armistice Day</b></p> <p>EM has the wreaths.</p>	

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4	<p><b>Community Reports</b></p> <p>a. <b>Knox Academy</b> – Have been busy placing poppy boxes around Haddington and in Tesco. RF said they have ordered new tins for the retail park, and can people please notify them of any businesses that require a tin.</p> <p>They explained that they have been seeking to expand pupils' voices via the Pupil Council. This is particularly aimed at younger students. One pupil per house per year will be represented. Four committees are up and running.</p> <p>The Youth and Philanthropy final takes place on Wednesday 8th November. The winning team gives £3k to charity, The school would be delighted if members of the CC could attend. CD would like to attend.</p> <p>Pupils helped out with the OCK quiz.</p> <p>b. <b>Haddington and Lammermuir Area Partnership</b></p> <p>Another rep for the AP is needed. SPW attends as an ELTRP representative. The next meeting will be held on 26<sup>th</sup> October in the Bridge Centre.</p> <p>c. <b>Tenants and Residents Association Updates</b></p> <p>HCTRA is holding a Health and Well-being networking event on 2nd November at 7 p.m. at West Church.</p> <p>Antisocial behaviour on the High Street was raised. MD asked if the police should be invited to the next meeting. SA pointed out that the police (via CAPP) were aware of the issues.</p> <p>FB pointed out that waiting times when calling 101 to report antisocial behaviour are too long. JM said that people should call 827827 to report and emphasised how important it was to report antisocial behaviour. He said that the Community Action Team was working to look at physical changes that would discourage loitering, and outreach in sports/schools. They are using a suicide prevention approach. The new CPO is very strong and engaged. The Bus Forum has also met to discuss the implications of the under-22 bus pass.</p> <p>CD pointed out that Calum Colquhoun would like to set up a boxing club and was looking for suggestions for premises.</p> <p>d. <b>Blooming Haddington</b></p> <p>Updated on activities in the town centre.</p>	<p>CD/TL</p> <p>TL</p>

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	<p>e. <b>Haddington Heritage Project</b></p> <p>Very successful tours as part of Open Doors Day.</p>	

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5	<p><b>Correspondence</b></p> <p>a. RAGES - from December trains will leave from East Linton.</p> <p>b. MOTION - asking for HDCC's support for the Climate Security and Ecology Bill. MD asked if it is too political and should the CC pursue it. BF said that each of the links supplied must be checked because they may be more political.</p> <p>MD asked if we should support it. DB felt it shouldn't be political because we're all in the same environment. SPW felt it should be supported. JM pointed out that the Climate Challenge Strategy at ELC has cross-party support. SPW supported investigating both the Bill and the Climate Challenge Strategy.</p> <p>BF to look at this for the next meeting.</p>	BF
6	<p><b>Councillors' Corner</b></p> <p><b>Roads</b></p> <p>FB - Dunbar Road - some 20 mph signs should be put up on Dunbar Road.</p> <p>JM - West Road- raised at CAPP meeting. Much of the problem is due to driver behaviour.</p> <p>BF - St David's Way - needs some signage until the road is adopted.</p> <p>DD - Victoria Road - situation at drop off and pick up time continues. JM has passed on concerns about this.</p> <p><b>Openreach</b></p> <p>Complaints were raised about the way that Openreach is installing fibre on historic buildings. JM said that the Enforcement Officer is dealing with 2 complaints.</p> <p><b>Brown Street</b></p> <p>JM - planning application being developed and discussed with the Planning Department.</p> <p><b>H&amp;SCP</b> - SA asked that HCTRA link in with them regarding information intended for the public.</p>	

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7	<p><b>Treasurer's report</b></p> <p>JH presented the treasurer's report to the committee. Balance £29,319. Passed last audit period. The auditor worked probono so flowers were sent.</p> <p>£120 was spent on a plaque and HETRA donated £50 towards this.</p> <p>Haddstock's request for funding was discussed. CD pointed out that if the £13k local priorities budget isn't used HDCC may not get it again. The HDCC has to be seen to be using it. He emphasised the importance of responding to requests for funding.</p> <p>DB would like to see a funding officer to access monies from Communities Scotland. SA pointed out that VCEL could help with this.</p> <p>FB asked how much money has been spent this year. JH to supply figures at next meeting.</p> <p>CC Applications for funding should be decided in the meeting.</p>	JH

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<p>8</p>	<p><b>Licensing &amp; Planning</b> <b>Licensing</b></p> <p>An application to sell off-sales alcohol from the Premier Store at 90 High Street was made. MD said that HDCC could not make a response because only 6 people replied (4 of them were against the application). CC argued that voting and decisions should be taken at a meeting since no business seems to be getting done. DB suggested setting up a subgroup. MD said that this would require a change to the constitution.</p> <p>BF pointed out that individual Community Councillors are responsible for responding and should not be a part of HDCC if they are not taking part in voting. MV asked if the default position was to not object. TT asked if the CC could just count the people who voted. FB agreed with HDCC, that votes should be taken at meetings.</p> <p>DB felt that part of the problem was that the planning cycle is 21 days while the CC's meeting cycle is 31 days which doesn't allow for a lot of discussion about the best way to vote on planning issues.</p> <p>MV pointed out that the deadlines for consultations etc have often passed by the time he gets the email. DB asked for a digital noticeboard.</p> <p>CD thought that the group should look at changing the constitution so that a majority of respondents would make the decision and not the majority of councillors.</p> <p>MD said that they expect a response from all councillors. JM pointed out that the CC represents community views and should have a dialogue on the issues and then vote. SPW argued that abstainers should not count as a no vote. CD said that the lack of voting means the group has achieved nothing.</p> <p>The group voted on the Premier Store Licensing application. Yes 4 No 3 Abstentions: So no objections would be lodged.</p> <p><b>Planning</b> <b>Anaerobic Digester</b></p> <p>MD explained that the storage tanks for the anaerobic digester will likely be passed as they are an essential part of the plant that has already been granted planning permission. The group wanted more information on this and DB suggested contacting ELC to ask them to explain what improvements could be made, e.g., on the location of the tanks. FB said we need more information on the transport of materials to the digester. MD reported that they had already been decided in two previous planning applications.</p>	<p>MD</p> <p>MD</p> <p>MD</p>
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9	<p><b>Community Council Subgroups</b></p> <p><b>EVENTS</b> There are 2 events, Armistice Day and the Christmas Lights' coming up and the events group is looking for volunteer marshalls and first aiders. CD will supply first aiders for the Christmas Lights event on 26th November.</p> <p><b>Town Centre</b> CC had a supportive meeting with JM. The shop front improvement scheme has set up an open group for all people from the town centre. CC to send an email when the first date has been set.</p>	<p>CD</p> <p>CC</p>
10	<p><b>Any other business</b></p> <p>DB stated that he would attend ELC Resiliency Training Event.</p>	

**Next meeting:** Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> November Knox Academy @ 7pm This is also the date of the AGM.