



Royal Burgh of Haddington and District Community Council

Date & Time: Tuesday 9th January 2023 7pm

Location: Knox Academy

Present:

Therese Laing (Chair)
Jack Worden (Vice Chair)
John Hamilton (Treasurer)
Morgwn Davies (Correspondence Secretary, Planning Liaison Officer)
Susan Forgie (Minutes Secretary)
Erica Muirhead
Stuart Baxter
Craig Douglas
Malcolm Vickers
Betsy Fowler
Christine Read
Christoph Crepaz
Robert Flood (Knox Academy)
Konnail Buntiny (Knox Academy)
Isla Irvine (Knox Academy)
Cameron Richie (Journalist - East Lothian Courier)
George McGuire (Councillor)
Tom Trotter (Councillor)
John McMillan (Councillor)

Apologies:

Stuart Pe-Win
Robert Moran
Shamin Akhtar (Councillor)
Falko Burkert
Mandy Harrington (VCEL)

Item	Topic	Action
1	Welcome And Apologies TL opened the meeting and proposed that as we have Knox from 6pm - 9pm, we could begin meetings at 6.30pm. This was unanimously agreed.	



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2	<p>Adoption of Minutes</p> <p>Minutes of the meeting on 010/12/2023 approved with the following amendments:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Betsy Fowler sent in apologies for the meeting on 10/12/2023.2. Correct typos on p 5 <p>Minutes secretary asked to distribute minutes as a pdf</p> <p>Approved by Therese Laing Seconded by Erica Muirhead</p>	SF



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3	<p>Matters Arising</p> <p>Special Meeting January 4th 2024</p> <p>TL - A confidential meeting was held of the HDCC to discuss if David Barrett's recent behaviour and conduct breached the Code of Conduct for community councillors and if it did what sanctions would be appropriate.</p> <p>The meeting was chaired by an independent chair and observed by an independent observer whilst DB had two supporters whom he had invited to attend the meeting.</p> <p>After a presentation of evidence by the HDCC Office Bearers and then hearing DB's defence, members of the CC voted that DB's behaviour from April 2023 onwards had breached the Code of Conduct for community councillors.</p> <p>Discussion followed on what would be a reasonable sanction, the view was that any suspension would have to be longer than the nine-meeting suspension imposed in February 2022 for breaching the Code of Conduct as this was a second offence. After a vote on two options, it was determined that DB would be suspended from the HDCC until the 30th of September 2025.</p> <p>The vote was. 4 - suspension until 01/01/2025 8 - suspension until 30/09/2025</p> <p>No further information on the exact behaviour and conduct and what was said at the meeting will be minuted in any public minutes. HDCC has a duty of confidentiality to everyone named at the meeting and in any documents relating to the meeting.</p> <p>A press release was issued on 09/1/2024 which was consistent with the above statement.</p> <p>BF - papers produced for the meeting are confidential waste and should be shredded. SB said that could be done at local office.</p> <p>Resilience Plan Update</p> <p>TL - advised that in the recent adverse weather, there was a</p>	



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	<p>threat that the River Tyne may burst its banks and sandbags were placed. This makes it more important than ever to update the Resilience Plan.</p> <p>Contacts in an emergency - a sheet was distributed collecting volunteer contact details for people to be notified and contacted in the case of an emergency.</p> <p>First Aid Training takes place on 12/02/2024 and HDCC will pay for anyone who wants to participate.</p> <p>TL asked JM to add the relevant council contacts.</p> <p>JM - It would be helpful to have contacts for opening buildings. Sharon Saunders and Tom Reid may be of help. HETRA proposing to have a separate plan for the Nungate.</p> <p>CD said he could take people upstairs at the Victoria Inn and could provide soup and sandwiches.</p> <p>JW asked what the role of HDCC is in this context is in this context. What are they undertaking and what are the expectations of community councillors?</p> <p>JH - Generally to support the council and detailed some specific examples including COVID and salting pavements etc.</p> <p>JW - Everyone would get an email with details for the emergency and the help needed.</p> <p>SB - said a lot of community councils haven't updated their plans but are working on them.</p> <p>MV - Any resilience plan has to have excellent communication and be a conduit between communities and e.g., power companies. A named person should be the point of contact because clarity of communication is the main issue.</p> <p>TL - the resilience plan should contain the emergency numbers</p> <p>MV - asked who would be responsible for phoning these numbers</p> <p>BF - asked if there should be a group and if the resiliency plan can be sent out.</p>	<p>JM</p>



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	<p>TL - can send out the working document just now, then set up a working group.</p> <p>JH - asked if Haddington is included in the evacuation plans for Torness.</p> <p>SB - There are different plans depending on the severity and conditions of an emergency. Haddington is included in this.</p> <p>JM - safety plans were rehearsed 3 months ago and this happens once a year. The plans are always updated. HDCC councillors can ask for a tour of the Planning Centre at Penston House and request a meeting.</p> <p>TL - it would be interesting to see that</p> <p>SB _ encouraged the group to make enquiries and visit the centre.</p> <p>Herdmanflat Planning Application</p> <p>To be discussed under planning,</p>	TL



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4	<p>Community Reports</p> <p>a. Knox Academy - II reported that the junior and senior dances were successful and KB said that the Christmas show was a brilliant success.</p> <p>RF said the academy has its annual career event on 17/01/2024 from 18:00 to 20:00.</p> <p>RF said that students will be supporting the Burns Supper at Our Community Kitchen on 24/01/2024 and the student folk group, Goat's Toes, will be performing.</p> <p>RF - Poppy Week - A meeting will take place with Poppy Scotland East to speak about getting more community groups involved in Poppy Week.</p> <p>JM offered to put RF in touch with the Veterans Society who could help with networking. RF said they had been thinking of groups like the Rotary and the Scouts. TL said HDCC would offer any support and RF should ask for help when needed.</p> <p>b. Haddington and Lammermuir Area Partnership</p> <p>Meeting on 8/2/2024</p> <p>c. Tenants and Residents Association Updates</p> <p>HETRA - cancelled last meeting. JM reported that Alan Dunton had won an award at the recent ELTRP awards ceremony. TL to send congratulations.</p> <p>HCTRA - written report submitted by Stuart Pe-Win</p> <p>d. CAP - PC Purvis has moved on and currently Sgt Stuart Foster is taking up the slack. High Street and Ross Close will be permanently watched and work is ongoing to replace the gate.</p> <p>e. Blooming Haddington</p> <p>No report</p>	<p>JM</p> <p>TL</p>



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	<p>f. Haddington Heritage Project</p> <p>JW - Funding application submitted to restore medieval graffiti on St Mary's Church.</p> <p>Funding application being submitted to HDCC to produce printed tourist information.</p>	



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5	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>a. 2 funding applications from Althelstaneford Park Friends of John Grey - Printing Tourist Information</p> <p>JH said the applications meet the criteria under local priorities.</p> <p>CD asked who gives HDCC the money they distribute</p> <p>JH explained that they receive circa £13,000 from ELC to distribute according to local priorities, and fundraising raises the rest of the money.</p> <p>The meeting discussed other potential funding applications. TL - Knox Academy Breakfast Club, not in a position to submit an application yet. Numbers are hard to predict but there are definitely children arriving at school hungry.</p> <p>CD said the Meadowpark are looking for £1,000 for a cafe hub and this was an easier application since numbers could be predicted.</p> <p>CR asked if HDCC had helped Lammermuir Larder and JH confirmed that it had given money to kickstart the project.</p> <p>JW said the criteria used to consider funding applications merits a discussion.</p> <p>CD started a discussion on reaching out to local supermarkets to supply food to breakfast clubs etc. and wondered if it was worth inviting the managers to a meeting. BF said it was probably not worth it since general managers have very little clout.</p> <p>JM mentioned Olio, a waste food distribution scheme but MD pointed out that there was no guarantee that Olio will provide the food required to deliver a service. SB said that Fareshare, run by the Cyrenians, was the same.</p> <p>Vote on funding applications was held</p>	



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	<p>11 - YES - Friends of John Gray (unanimous)</p> <p>11 - YES - Athelstaneford Park (unanimous)</p> <p>b. Correspondence from Paul McLelland MSP who would like to attend a meeting. MD has sent dates.</p> <p>c. All other correspondence has been emailed to councillors.</p>	



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6	<p>Licensing and Planning</p> <p>Planning</p> <p>a. Domino's Pizza Signage on High Street</p> <p>two requests to speak to the meeting about it.</p> <p>Concerns expressed over location, impact on transport and antisocial behaviour.</p> <p>MD There is no actual planning application at this time so he will just take a note.</p> <p>b. Hays Walk</p> <p>Flats west of Hay Walk - changes to existing permission. MD - no need to comment since the changes are minor.</p> <p>c. Herdmanflat</p> <p>MD - This is difficult because there is a degree of opposition against developing the south of the site.</p> <p>SPW has sent in a summary of the local community's objections to the development.</p> <p>MD outlined the positive aspects of the development in that it was only using 40% of the site and would be providing 145 supported housing units.</p> <p>The application was discussed at the planning subgroup which decided not to make a recommendation to the full HDCC..</p> <p>CC said that ELC was attempting to mitigate the development and felt that HDCC could not vote for or against it.</p> <p>MD - There are 3 choices, Object, No position or Support.</p> <p>MV said that this was a judgement call and there were arguments on both sides, it is difficult to have a clear view.</p> <p>BF asked if the councillors were required to take a vote</p> <p>MD explained that that would be saying that the HDCC won't</p>	MD



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	<p>comment.</p> <p>SB suggested that councillors could take individual views</p> <p>MD said the cut-off had passed to do this.</p> <p>JW wondered if it mattered since HDCC's view only counts as a single vote so doesn't carry much weight.</p> <p>JM disagreed and said that every case is decided on its own merits and described the planning process in terms of evidence. He explained that he had seen very effective community council presentations.</p> <p>JW said that he felt decisions can be political.</p> <p>TT said that there's a danger that the community council puts itself under too much pressure and they should focus on making people aware since these decisions are about their community. People's representation to you should form the basis of the decision.</p> <p>MD said that not to vote would be an abdication of responsibility.</p> <p>TT asked how many people objected.</p> <p>MD said that HDCC is aware of the comments and complaints but a decision must be made on what we want to do. This is inherent in the role.</p> <p>A vote was called</p> <p>8 - SUPPORT</p> <p>3 - ABSTAIN</p> <p>0 - OBJECT</p> <p>MV asked if the community council had overturned a planning decision and whether the weight of community objection had an impact on the ELC councillors making decisions.</p> <p>JM Councillors should say why they are going against officials. They are not agents and they have their own opinions. They consider what are the reasons for supporting</p>	



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	<p>or objecting.</p> <p>CD asked if a HDCC objection would count.</p> <p>TT said it would be given due consideration.</p> <p>TL - MD to send letter of support for specific aspects of the plan</p> <p>d. Dominos</p> <p>CD asked if a change in the use of the premises Dominos plans on moving into is required.</p> <p>JM said that they may require a different class of licence.</p> <p>CD asked why Haddington needs another pizza shop when there are already 4.</p> <p>MD said this is not a planning issue and he was not sure what mechanism could be employed to stop someone opening a takeaway.</p> <p>JW said that this is where politics comes in, There are examples of politicians refusing applications on the basis of what is good for the town.</p> <p>SB if ELC refuse the applicant can appeal.</p> <p>JW argued that this does not apply to buildings the council owns.</p>	MD



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7	<p>Councillors' Corner</p> <p>BF - who should be notified of pothole at Tesco.</p> <p>TT - report via portal and HDCC should publicise the number for reporting potholes.</p> <p>GM said that thanks to council staff, the river had been cleared at Riverside. Salt and grit buns had been filled overnight. If people use contact numbers, things will be dealt with.</p> <p>EM asked when the council will take over the roads and bins at the new developments.</p> <p>TT said they were normally accepted when the works are complete. If there is an issue with bins, we will help where we can.</p> <p>JM Clearly developers responsibility and the council is putting pressure on developers to meet their responsibilities.</p> <p>JW asked if the closure of the recycling centre at MacMerry was permanent. He pointed out that Haddington residents need to make a 20-mile round trip to get to a recycling centre now. He also asked if ELC is going to start charging for brown bins.</p> <p>JM MacMerry has been mothballed due to staffing and safety issues, There has been no evidence of fly-tipping. There are proposals to charge for brown bins but he will check the details.</p> <p>JH said that the last house at Philips Avenue was built several years ago but it still hadn't been adopted. Can the council not have planning approval that includes fines as punishment for developers who are slow to meet their responsibilities?</p> <p>JM asked JH to send him an email about Philips Avenue</p>	<p>TL/MD</p> <p>JM</p> <p>JH</p>
8	<p>Treasurer's Report</p> <p>John Hamilton talked through the Treasurer's report</p>	



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9	<p>Community Council Subgroups</p> <p>EVENTS TL - increased numbers since new people are joining the group.</p> <p>JM - The town was great over Christmas and New Year with so much going on. TT said a lot of new faces were likely from the new estates</p> <p>TOWN CENTRE CC - the group is struggling to find a meeting place. JM offered the Provost's office as a meeting space and CD offered upstairs at The Victoria Inn on a Monday or Tuesday.</p> <p>The group now has a list of shops needing improvement, Applications need to be in by 4th March. £4/5k of funding is to be matched by owners.</p> <p>EM asked if shops would need quotes. CC confirmed they would need 2 or 3.</p> <p>JW asked if more than one shop would be developed at a time. CC confirmed this and noted that the work needs to be completed by Autumn.</p> <p>Inclusion and Accessibility - BF - group meeting on 16th January. JM asked BF to invite SA</p>	BF
10	Any other business	

Next meeting: Tuesday 6th February 2024, Knox Academy @ 6.30 pm