



## Royal Burgh of Haddington and District Community Council

**Date & Time:** Tuesday 12th March 2024 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)  
Malcolm Vickers  
Betsy Fowler  
Jim Graham  
Stuart Pe-Win  
Robert Moran  
Stuart Baxter  
Mandy Harrington (VCEL)  
Robert Flood (Knox Academy)  
Natalie Campbell (Knox Academy)  
Connel Bunting (Knox Academy)  
Cameron Richie (Journalist - East Lothian Courier)  
George McGuire (Councillor)  
Shamin Akhtar (Councillor)  
Tom Trotter (Councillor)

**Apologies:**

Malcolm Vickers  
Erica Muirhead  
Falko Burkett  
John McMillan (Councillor)  
Christoph Crepaz

| Item | Topic  | Action |
|------|--|--------|
| 1    | <b>Welcome And Apologies</b><br>TL welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies were noted. Next month's meeting will be on Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> April and will start at 18:30. From 19:00 presentations from Marketgate and Amanda Sumner (website - 3 web addresses will be brought together) will take place. |        |



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| 2    | <p><b>Adoption of Minutes</b></p> <p>Amendments</p> <p>p4 - RF to get back to JW. JM GM TL have all taken part in the volunteer interviews.</p> <p>MD - Final minutes to go to ELC</p> <p>Minutes of the meeting on 10/12/2023 approved</p> | <p>RF</p> <p>MD</p> |



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| 3    | <p><b>Matters Arising</b></p> <p><b>Met Office Training</b></p> <p>TL requested that a Community Councillor attend each course.</p> <p><b>Publicity</b></p> <p>JW began a discussion on publicising the good work of the community council. JW and RF asked CR if The Courier could publish a monthly update on HDCC activities. CR said no, there was not enough space in the paper to allow all East Lothian community councils to be represented. They would, however, publish a letter. JW thought a letter could be written twice a year.</p> <p>TL said that HDCC should celebrate more on FaceBook and perhaps the group should produce a newsletter. She thanked CR for supporting the group.</p> | <p>Everyone</p> <p>All to contribute</p> <p>MD/JH<br/>All</p> |



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| 4    | <p><b>Community and Group Reports</b></p> <p><b>a. Knox Academy</b> - NC reported that the Spring Concert will take place on 27th March. This has been a pupil-led initiative since last year and involves primarily younger bands. Posters have been designed by S5 students. There will be a matinee performance which Haddington Care Home and our Community Kitchen will be attending. Councillors are welcome to attend.</p> <p>There was a presentation last week for S3/S4 on Apprenticeships Week. Welcomes the fact that young people are being involved now.</p> <p>CB described a presentation to P.6/7s on the risks of vaping and disposable vapes after some vapes were discarded at Kings Meadow. The workshop was developed and delivered by S3s and went very well and participants were really engaged.</p> <p>SA said that ELC had passed a motion banning disposable vapes and an environmental officer has been engaged.</p> <p>NC told the meeting that preparations for Grease on 10th/11th June continue to go well. TL asked if they had been asked to participate in the Haddington Festival parade in June but there was no answer yet.</p> <p>RF Scotblood visited the school, precovid they used to set up in the school hall and this will be restarting. It underlines the importance of blood donations, particularly with S5s.</p> <p>BF thanked Goats Toes for agreeing to play on 26th May.</p> <p><b>b. Events</b></p> <p>BF told the meeting that she was busy putting together a programme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Opening Parade - Sunday 26th May – Haddington Heroes/catering will be in St Mary’s.</li> <li>● Schools and the public are voting on the festival theme</li> </ul> | BF RM TL |



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|      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Boat Race - with bouncy castles/games/catering -Wed 29th May</li> <li>● Bingo - Thurs 30th May</li> <li>● Silent Disco - Fri 31st May</li> <li>● Festival Fun Day - could have a spitfire simulator - Sat 1st June</li> </ul> <p>RF asked if there used to be a 10k race as part of the festival. BF said yes and she is building on the programme,</p> <p>TL asked if Knox Academy students could help on Saturday 1st June.</p> <p>BF said the Events Group needs some resources up front and asked for £3,000 to be ring-fenced for the group</p> <p>MD said he was forwarding emails for Haddington Heroes to TL and BF. He said that people had definitely engaged with the nominations campaign.</p> <p>JW said it would be good to reintroduce the “Hearts vs Hibs” football match for next year.</p> <p>NC said both the 10k run and the football match would be popular with Knox Academy pupils.</p> <p>TL will speak to the Active School Co-ordinator about getting schools involved.</p> <p><b>c. ELAP</b></p> <p>SB said the meeting on Thursday 8th February. funded 5 applications including Friday Friends, ELPA, Friends of the John Grey Centre and HACFC.</p> <p>Health and Wellbeing Group meets on 7th May 10 am</p> <p>Children and Youth Network meets on 30th May 3.30 pm</p> <p>HLAP meets on 7/05/2024 7 pm</p> <p>HLAP AGM - 14th May 7 pm</p> <p>JW stated his appreciation of EALP’s matched funding for the FJG’s request to support the production of an historic print</p> | <p>RF</p> <p>BF/JH</p> <p>TL</p> |



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|      | <p>guide to Haddington.</p> <p>SA said that ELAP was looking for ways to publicise and promote what the area partnership does.</p> <p><b>d. TRAs</b></p> <p>SP - HCTRA have a public meeting on 27th March at 7pm in the West Church from 7 -9 looking at issues concerning the town.</p> <p>TL - HETRA has a new chair and secretary and is active and engaged.</p> <p>She said that the lost bus from the Nungate is really missed. This is going to be considered by the Bus Forum?</p> <p>TL announced a ceremony at John Knox's Tree on 25th March at 2pm to unveil a plaque. Blooming Haddington would like to add a planter.</p> <p>JH asked where the boundary for HETRA is but no one was clear. TL will contact ELTRP to clarify.</p> <p><b>e. CAPP</b></p> <p>The new community police officer is Kiera Edmonson.</p> <p>SA confirmed that the continuing priorities for CAPP are ASB on the High Street, and speeding on Pencaitland Road. She also reported that Community Engagement vans would be going out to the villages and checking for speeding.</p> <p>SA to send TL Kiera Edmonson's email address.</p> <p><b>f. Blooming Haddington</b></p> <p>TL will circulate Haddington in Bloom's Newsletter. RM told the group that the theme for the Wheelbarrows and Planters competition is Cakes &amp; Celebration. The competition will launch on 29th June and judging will take place mid August.</p> <p>Yarn bombing - have asked people to make woollen flowers,</p> | <p>SA/TL</p> <p>TL</p> |



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|      | <p>cakes, and anything celebration. Laura at Fabrication has more details.</p> <p>TL thanked RM and Haddington in Bloom for all their work.</p> <p><b>g. Haddington Heritage Project</b></p> <p>JW - the group is working hard on its plans. Money has been raised for a written guide. Progress is being made on getting tour companies to visit the town. There will be a couple of dry runs this summer and the tours are planned to start in 2025.</p> |        |



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| 5    | <p><b>Correspondence</b></p> <p>a. MD -A funding request was received from the Marketgate Project requesting £1500.</p> <p>A vote was taken<br/>           For - 9<br/>           Against - 0<br/>           Abstain - 1</p> <p>b. MD _ Portrait of the King</p> <p>JH felt that if it was free HDCC should accept it and it could go to the Day Centre for example. MD to apply for portrait and TL to keep it at her house and ask the Day Centre if they would like it.</p>  | MD/TL  |
| 6    | <p><b>Licensing &amp; Planning</b></p> <p><b>Planning</b></p> <p>MD 2 planning applications are relevant</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Athelstaneford - Glamping hut and roof lights<br/>HDCC has no opinion</li> <li>● East Fortune Family Park<br/>MD - HDCC has been informed that there will be significant charges to receive the comments on this planning application. A request to see the comments using an FOI request was refused.</li> </ul> <p>MD wrote to the council to ask when it will go to the Planning Committee but ELC refused to release the date saying that they don't release information or comments to the public. MD wrote to them arguing that he is not asking as a member of the public, he is asking as the HDCC Planning Liaison Officer. A response is awaited.</p> <p>A broader discussion took place around the fact that ELC does not share planning comments. It is only one of two local authorities in Scotland who do not share this information</p> |        |





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| 7    | <p>routinely. While there is no legal obligation to do so, MD said that if 30 out of 32 councils do share this information, he wondered why ELC does not. ELC does not use the national tracking portal for planning applications either.</p> <p>MD argues that HDCC has the right to this information. JW said that this seems undemocratic if HDCC cannot see the comments of the citizens we represent, He asked if the ELC councillors would support ELC joining the portal.</p> <p>GMcG said he would want to find out why ELC has made that decision and T suggested waiting until a reply to MD's email had been received. JW argued that since the HDCC's role is to represent the community if ELC says no then there is a democratic deficit.</p> <p>TT suggested that MD write to ELC asking this question. MD feels like he has and wasn't sure how many letters he should send. It was agreed that MD would copy in the 4 ELC councillors on the ELC response. SB suggested that the issue be raised at the next Community Association meeting</p> <p>There were no licensing applications to consider.</p> <p><b>Councillors' Corner</b></p> <p><b>CAPP</b><br/>SA reported that the new door on Ross's Close is to be replaced on 14th March.</p> <p>A discussion on antisocial behaviour was held. TT said that ASB needs to be reported every time. GMcG reported that Tesco had been told that ASB in the store was the store's responsibility. SB said that outreach workers were out on Saturday night moving people on. BF pointed out that it was not just young people responsible for ASB. There is problematic behaviour from different age groups. JG agreed and gave an example involving street drinking which has been reported since September, yet the problem continues. TT felt that the changes in the community police officer haven't helped. SA said that there are more adults than children being reported for ASB.</p> | MD     |



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| 8    | <p><b>Treasurer's report</b></p> <p>Accounts: JH said that changing signatories on the following accounts was a work in progress<br/>TSB<br/>SUMUP<br/>PayPal<br/>Bank of Scotland.</p> <p>Insurance: Public Liability insurance has been paid. The documents are in the googledrive. The price has not increased for 2 years.</p> <p>Domain Names: 2 domain names have been renewed<br/>haddingtoncc.org.uk<br/>haddington.info</p> <p>Regarding haddington.org.uk JH explained that no one knew who set it up or owned it. When the ownership expired the site name was scooped up by an aggregator. The domain name</p> |        |



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|           | <p>has been bought back for £100</p> <p>Training: Paid for First Aid Training for BF. TL offered her congratulations.</p>   |        |
| <b>9</b>  | <p><b>Community Council Subgroups</b></p> <p><b>Town Centre</b></p> <p>TL reported working with ELC on the shared property fund grant scheme for painting shop fronts. A flyer is being finalised and the Town Centre Group will distribute these to shopkeepers. There is a £45,000 pot of money and each shop can apply for a maximum of £3,000. A press release will be issued.</p>  |        |
| <b>10</b> | <p><b>Any Other Business</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● SB alerted the meeting to the production of the following relevant documents:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ a new complaints procedure</li><li>○ an unacceptable actions policy</li><li>○ constitution</li><li>○ standing orders</li><li>○ code of conduct</li></ul></li></ul> <p>They will be raised at the next Community Association Meeting</p> |        |

**Next meeting:** Tuesday 16th April 2024 Knox Academy @ 6.30 pm