



## Royal Burgh of Haddington and District Community Council

**Date & Time:** Tuesday 16th April 2024 7pm

**Location:** Knox Academy

**Present:**

Therese Laing (Chair)

John Hamilton (Treasurer)

Morgwn Davies (Correspondence Secretary, Planning Liaison Officer)

Susan Forgie (Minutes Secretary)

Malcolm Vickers

Christine Read

Falko Burkett

Robert Moran

Stuart Baxter

Robert Flood (Knox Academy)

Leila Maycock (Knox Academy)

Natalie Campbell (Knox Academy)

Cameron Richie (Journalist - East Lothian Courier)

George McGuire (Councillor)

Shamin Akhtar (Councillor)

**Apologies:**

Jack Worden (Vice Chair)

Betsy Fowler

Craig Douglas

Stuart Pe-Win

Jim Graham

Mandy Harrington

John McMillan (Councillor)

Tom Trotter (Councillor)

Christoph Crepaz

Item	Topic	Action
1	<p><b>Welcome And Apologies</b></p> <p>TL welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies were noted. The Chair congratulated LM on becoming East Lothian's Young Musician of the Year. The Chair gave Knox Academy a good luck card for students sitting exams.</p> <p>It was explained that the meeting would be split into two, with the first half being a business meeting and the second half consisting of two</p>	



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	presentations from MADE and Amanda Sumner, web developer.	
2	<p><b>Adoption of Minutes</b></p> <p>Due to an administrative error not everyone received the minutes. The minutes were projected onto a screen and read aloud.</p> <p>An amendment was made to the date of the HLAP meeting which is on 7/05/2024.</p> <p>Minutes of the meeting on 12/03/2024 were approved</p>	



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3	<p><b>Matters Arising</b></p> <p><b>HETRA AREA</b></p> <p>A map of the HETRA area and street names have been received.</p> <p><b>Community Police Officer</b></p> <p>The new community police officer, Keira Edmonson, has been invited to attend future meetings of the Community Council.</p> <p>FB told the meeting that the community police officer has been very responsive to reports made by the public. If the public email when the police officer is on duty they will respond. It is about 75% effective.</p> <p><b>CAPP</b></p> <p>The following places remain on the CAPP agenda - Ross' Close, Tesco and the High Street.</p> <p>The meeting was told that the police are planning the introduction of volunteers to monitor speed in the H&amp;L area. The volunteers record the speed and the data sent in an email to the police who send a letter to the offender.</p> <p>MD pointed out that this is an indication that there are not enough police officers. GM responded that this was not ideal but whilst it is not right that the public have to carry out this task, the police cannot do it due to lack of officers.</p> <p><b>Portrait of the King</b></p> <p>MD has applied for the portrait and the Day Centre will be delighted to have it. MD still hasn't had confirmation and will follow this up.</p> <p>The Lord Lieutenant suggested the Poldrate Centre for the portrait and was informed that the Day Centre had already been chosen,</p>	



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4	<p><b>Community and Group Reports</b></p> <p>Community and Group Reports were submitted before the meeting.</p> <p><b>a. Town Centre - Shop Front Improvement Grant</b></p> <p>Flyers about the shop front improvement grant have been distributed to all shop owners. Some shop owners are struggling to get two quotes. Gordon Gilmore has been contacted to see if owners could submit their forms while they wait for the quotes to come in. FB said it is not an easy form to fill in.</p> <p>There will be an article about the scheme on the Haddington page in this week's Courier.</p> <p><b>b. Events</b></p> <p>Chair thanked Betsy Fowler and her team for their work on the Haddington Festival. She said the group needs volunteers on the following dates.</p> <p>Sunday 26th May - Opening Parade</p> <p>Wed 29th May - Boat Race</p> <p>Sat 1st June - Festival Day - 8 am @ Neilson Park</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Noon at Whittingehame Drive then the parade to Neilson Park</p> <p>RF said the cast of the Knox Academy musical, Grease, would walk in the fancy dress parade.</p> <p>CR updated the group on the Shop Window competition which will be judged on the 25th May. 2 Knox Academy pupils needed to help with judging.</p>	



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5	<p><b>Councillors Corner</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. RM reported missing white lines at the Hardgate. GM will check it out.</li> <li>b. Reported that the Townhouse clock is an hour behind.</li> <li>c. Cabling on historic facades. SA tracked down that it was BT who was responsible for the cabling. Individual residents have to contact BT themselves. SA will send out the contact details.</li> <li>d. SA offered congratulations to everyone involved with the work done at John Knox's tree and the installation of the plaque.</li> </ul>	<p><b>GM</b></p> <p><b>SA</b></p>
6	<p><b>AOCB</b></p> <p>RF reported that pupils will be visiting the Poppy Scotland factory at their annual gathering.</p> <p>6th-year pupils will have their last day at the school on Friday.</p>	
7	<p><b>Presentations</b></p> <p>Two presentations were made to the group from MADE and web developer, Amanda Sumner.</p> <p><b>a. Marketgate</b></p> <p>MADE presented their Marketgate Development Proposal for the site of the old Ideal garage and buildings. The development group showed conceptual plans for the site which included workshops, gallery space, retail space, a cafe, housing, and a community garden. They outlined their plans to request a Community Asset Transfer for the land which the current owner has valued at £1,000,000. The costs of developing the site would be in addition to this and quantity surveyors are working on the costings now.</p> <p>The owner of the property is in favour of the proposal and sent a letter saying he would sell to them if they could raise the money but there is nothing to stop another developer from buying the site. RM asked if the site was overpriced and the development group agreed that it might be and that they would</p>	



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	<p>have an independent valuation done.</p> <p>The costs for developing the land are unknown at this time because it is unknown if the land has been contaminated by the fuel storage tanks beneath the forecourt. Surveys will have to be done to determine this.</p> <p>The development group has to show public support for the project. RF said that if the group is looking for young people to get involved, he was sure some pupils would like to get involved.</p> <p><b>b. New Website</b></p> <p>Amanda Sumner presented the new HDCC website which will be a one-stop shop for all things Haddington. The meeting viewed the website on phones. A discussion then took place on populating the website with up-to-date information and it was agreed that a calendar of events would be an important feature. AS said that while this was a good idea, it was an almost impossible task for one person to carry out alone. She suggested a system of champions for each area of the site, including the events calendar with one person appointed as an overall admin. The champions would have the ability to update the website with new events and information.</p> <p>TL will organise a meeting date for potential champions.</p>	TL

**Next meeting** Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> June at 7pm in Athelstaneford Village Hall.