



## Royal Burgh of Haddington and District Community Council

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**Date & Time:** Tuesday 14th May 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  
Christine Read  
Betsy Fowler  
Jim Graham  
Christoph Crepaz  
Robert Moran  
Robert Flood (Knox Academy)  
Cameron Richie (Journalist - East Lothian Courier)  
George McGuire (Councillor)  
John McMillan (Councillor)

**Apologies:**

Shamin Akhtar (Councillor)  
Stuart Baxter  
Stuart Pe-Win  
Erica Muirhead  
Mandy Harrington (VCEL)  
Tom Trotter (Councillor)

Item	Topic	Action
1	<b>Welcome And Apologies</b> TL welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies were noted.	



## Royal Burgh of Haddington and District Community Council

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2	<p><b>Adoption of Minutes</b></p> <p>The minutes of the meeting on 16/04/2024 were approved.</p>	
3	<p><b>Matters Arising</b></p> <p><b>Portrait of the King</b></p> <p>The portrait has arrived. The Day Centre is really looking forward to receiving it. The portrait is to be presented on 15th June at 11 am by TL, RM, JW, and JH.</p> <p><b>White Lines</b></p> <p>GM is doing a walk around Haddington with the Roads department. One of the things they will be checking are the white lines. They'll also be checking the road at the junction with Church Street.</p> <p><b>Cables on Facades</b></p> <p>The cables at Cross Lane are a mess. GM spoke about the number of cables hanging off walls elsewhere and CC said that old cables get left behind when new ones are installed. JW said they all need a tidy-up.</p> <p><b>Website Champions</b></p> <p>There will be a meeting on Monday 27th May at 7 pm in the Nungate Community Centre to view the website again.</p>	



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4	<p><b>Knox Academy</b></p> <p>RF will arrange for pupils to help with the Haddington Festival. He will speak with the pupil leadership team.</p> <p>He explained that the school is in the middle of exam season.</p> <p>S3 is taking part in the Big Help Out on Friday 17th May.</p> <p>RF said that the school is looking for more businesses to offer work experience placements for pupils. He asked anyone who knows of any businesses that would take part, they should let him know. ELC is supportive of the placement programme but hybrid working has made their participation trickier.</p> <p>The school's production of Grease takes place on 10th/11th June. People should email if they want to attend.</p> <p>YPI - the philanthropy group one £3,000 for the Save Oliver charity. The pupils have to raise £500. To this end, they are running in the 5k on Saturday 25th May. There is a Just Giving page.</p> <p>The YPI winning group will go to a celebration of YPI in Perth.</p>	



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5	<p><b>Community and Group Reports.</b></p> <p><b>a. Events</b></p> <p>Written update distributed.</p> <p>RF to check if Goats toes will play at St Mary's for the Haddington Heroes ceremony.</p> <p>Window competition judging takes place on 25/05/2024—head pupils to help with judging and RF to email.</p> <p>BF asked for suggestions for secure overnight parking for one of the food vendors. The Plough and Travis Perkins were suggested.</p> <p>A marshalls sheet has been distributed. Marshalls sought for</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">26/05 The Opening Parade</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">29/05 The Boat Race</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">01/06 The Fun Day and Fancy Dress Parade</p> <p>The programme was distributed. TL thanked to SF for her work on the programme and BF for all her work.</p> <p><b>b. Town Centre - Shop Front Improvement Grants</b></p> <p>CC had a call with Colin Gilmour from ELC. They have received 20 applications. 3 or 4 need extra help with applications. The proposed works total £64,000 and their is £6,150 left in the budget. Everyone who applied should get an award.</p> <p>CC Thanked TL and the team who went to all the shops informing them of the Shop Front scheme. There are now over 40 numbers on WhatsApp. The awards should go out within the next two weeks. Many shops want to carry out the work in the summer and the quotes for the work seem fair.</p> <p>JM This has been a great example of cooperation between the</p>	<p>RF</p> <p>RF</p>



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	<p>Community Council and ELC.</p> <p><b>c. Area Partnership</b> - Next meeting Thursday 13th June</p> <p><b>d. HETRA</b></p> <p>HETRA is still looking for a Vice Chair and a Treasurer.</p> <p><b>e. CAPP</b></p> <p>Speedwatch proposals have been shared with community councils but responses have been slow. There is ambivalence about the scheme because this is seen as a job for the police, who are underfunded and don't have the officers to carry out this work. Communities would have to buy their own speed guns.</p> <p>MD felt that this was the thin edge of the wedge. A discussion took place on the efficacy of the scheme which would not lead to prosecutions. TL felt that people should not carry out speed checks in their local area. MV thought that average-speed cameras would be a better solution.</p> <p>JH pointed out that the CAPP report said there had been 2 road offenses but nothing for speeding and he wondered why not when speeding is a local priority, JW wondered how many people had been fined.</p> <p>Ross' Close is as bad as it ever was and is still on the list of concerns for CAPP</p> <p>TL suggested that the TCG might look at closes too.</p> <p>A discussion took place on the connection between ASB and free bus passes for the under-22s. MD said an email had been received on the subject. He explained that local councils cannot remove bus passes from individuals. There are ongoing discussions about this and it has been raised with the local MP.</p> <p>JM said feedback had been sent back to the government and they are waiting for a reply. East Coast Buses are preparing a report for Transport Scotland and it is an active point at Bus</p>	<p>TL</p>



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6.	<p>councils.</p> <p>There was a general agreement that bus passes should be confiscated from under22s guilty of ASB.</p> <p>DONM: Tuesday 18th June</p> <p><b>f. Youth Network - DONM: 6th June 2024</b></p> <p><b>g. Blooming Haddington</b></p> <p>First of the new planters have been installed. The next set of planters will be installed on 24th May. The theme for the wheelbarrow competition is 'Cake and Celebration'.</p> <p><b>Licencing and Planning</b></p> <p>MD told the meeting that there was nothing to report in planning. There has been no news about the East Fortune planning application.</p> <p>In Licencing MD reported that the Railway Inn has applied to have children on the premises for some events until 10 pm.</p> <p><b>Planning Process</b></p> <p>JV raised the issue that ELC does not use public planning portals to share objection numbers and issues. He argued that there does not seem to be a rationale behind their refusal to publish objections and related information.</p> <p>He proposed that HDCC write a formal letter to ELC to express the community council's unhappiness with the situation. TL add this issue to the AELCC agenda.</p> <p>JM said he would like to look into this issue and that Keith Dingwall has always made himself available to AELCC.</p> <p><b>EV Point at Monkmain Road</b></p> <p>JH reported that the trial EV point at Monkmain Road is causing parking difficulties resulting in the road being blocked. He asked if ELC has a say on road lines to 'protect' the point. GM said he would raise this. JH pointed out that this needs local input. JM asked JH to send him an email with a</p>	<p><b>Councillors</b></p> <p>TL</p> <p>GM JH JM</p>
7		



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8	<p>photograph of the problem.</p> <p><b>Correspondence</b></p> <p>MD - there is no correspondence.</p> <p><b>Councillors Corner</b></p> <p>1. GM reported that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. All but 2 of the new industrial units have been let.</li> <li>b. The issue of bins on the High Street has been taken up by ELC</li> <li>c. ELC is advising people to speak to them if they are having problems with their bin capacity.</li> <li>d. Helped Lammermuir Larder to move to Church Street. The Community Payback team helped move the shelving.</li> </ul> <p>2. Infrastructure</p> <p>JH asked if the council could be more stringent about developers signing over infrastructure with reference to Philips Avenue. JM said Tom Reid is working on it but the bond may not cover everything that is required, JM asked JH to ask people from Philips Avenue to write to him</p> <p>JW said that he understood the pressure that Tom Reid's Team is under but it is important to get jobs out to tender. JW pointed out that this has been ongoing for 5 years and it needs to be fitted into a schedule. To refuse to do it would be a waste of money. JM will put in a request for information.</p> <p>3. JM reported that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. ELC is still looking at a £17 million budget gap.</li> <li>b. There have been no complaints about the brown bin permits</li> <li>c. Pavement parking paper will be distributed.</li> <li>d. Asset review has recommended more economic</li> </ul>	<p>JM JH</p> <p>JM</p>



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9	<p>development through units.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>e. The Tree Strategy paper has been released.</li> <li>f. The Play Strategy is being released.</li> <li>g. The Common Good budget has been approved and set at £10,000 for the year.</li> </ul> <p>CC asked if the council could raise more money from speeding fines. JM said speeding fines are a police matter but ELC is looking at parking fees.</p> <p><b>Treasurers Report</b></p> <p>Balance; £30,800</p> <p>Received: £13,490</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Local Priorities: £12,249</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Admin: £1241</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">These budgets have increased by 3%</p> <p>Outgoings: £1,228</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Web Hosting and Licences: £600</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Web Developer: £628</p> <p><b>AOCB</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Haddington Heritage Society’s print guide is being produced.</li> <li>b. Meeting at Athelstaneford to begin at 19:30.</li> <li>c. MV reported that the hedge at the eastern approach to the village is obstructing sightlines, making the junction dangerous. MV to send JM an email with photographs.</li> <li>d. BF thanked the community council members for their support. She said that community councillors should identify themselves in the community and build relationships.</li> <li>e. TL has taken a welcome card to Cafe 24 and Rock Salt.</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center; vertical-align: middle;"><b>MV JM</b></p>





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	<p>f. JH reminded the group that EM will be closing shop after 45 years. She will have a pop-up shop in the old Lil shop.</p> <p>g. CC asked who was responsible for the colours that buildings in the town centre could be painted. JM said there is a palette of colours acceptable in the conservation area. CC asked if Rock Salt is painted in the correct colours. JM said that planning officers are discussing the changes with them.</p>	

**Next meeting:** Tuesday 11 June @ 19:30 in Athelstaneford