



## Royal Burgh of Haddington and District Community Council



<b>DATE AND TIME</b>	October 2024 @ 18:30
<b>LOCATION</b>	Knox Academy, Haddington
<b>PRESENT</b>	Jack Worden (Vice Chair) John Hamilton (Treasurer) Morgwn Davies (Secretary, PLO) Susan Forgie (Minutes Secretary) Malcolm Vickers Christine Read Robert Moran Erica Muirhead Christine Read Betsy Fowler Falko Burkett Keira Edmond (Police) Stuart Baxter (ELC) Tom Trotter (Councillor) John McMillan (Councillor) George McGuire (Councillor) Robert Flood (Knox Academy) Ava Marnoch (Knox Academy) Sam Palmer (KnoxAcademy)) Cameron Richie (Journalist - EL Courier)
<b>APOLOGIES</b>	Therese Laing (Chair) Jim Graham Stuart Pe-Win Mandy Harrington (VCEL)

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>TOPIC</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
<b>1.</b>	<b>Welcome &amp; Apologies</b>	
	JW took the chair in TL's absence and welcomed everyone Apologies were noted.	
<b>2.</b>	<b>Adoption of the Minutes of the Last Meeting</b>	
	8(d) should read "effectively closed" Minutes adopted Proposed by MD	

	2nd JW	
<b>3.</b>	<b>Matters Arising</b>	
<b>a.</b>	<p><b>Attendance:</b> The meeting discussed the rules regarding community councillors' attendance at meetings. Section 4(a) of the constitution states that should a councillor miss a run of 3 meetings and offer no apologies or good reason for missing the meetings, they are deemed to have stepped down. This would create a casual vacancy.</p> <p>A note to clarify this should be sent to community councillors.</p>	TL/JW
<b>b.</b>	<p><b>Breast Screening:</b> Screening to take place in the Tesco long stay carpark on 25/10/2024. TL to check.</p>	TL
<b>c.</b>	<p><b>Hanging Cables at Cross Lane:</b> FB explained to the meeting that the problem here is that this is a historic site and in his view, ELC should never have given permission and are taking no responsibility for them. More and more are being added.</p> <p>TT asked FB to send him an email with the details and he will follow it up.</p>	FB/TT
<b>d.</b>	<p><b>Thank You Cards:</b> TL abset. Carry forward to next meeting.</p>	
<b>e.</b>	<p><b>Events Banner:</b> This was agreed to at the last meeting and SF to draft a design. MD suggested A-frame boards with posters instead. BF to liaise with SF to take this forward.</p>	SF/BF
<b>f.</b>	<p><b>Minutes:</b> MD all copies of the minutes have now been sent to Amanda Summer. MD will in future amend the minutes before sending to Amanda Summer and ELC.</p>	
<b>g.</b>	<p><b>Webmail:</b> The email service is terrible, but no changes will be implemented immediately. AS is checking if the proposed changes are possible.</p>	
<b>4</b>	<b>Community Reports</b>	
<b>4/a</b>	<b>Knox Academy</b>	
	<p>The Knox Academy representatives updated the group on the following: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The annual S6 Trip to Dalguise was very successful. The groups took part in rafting, archery, ziplining etc.</li> <li>● DYW Roadshow - years 4,5 and 6 were represented at Meadowbank.</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Opening Evening for P7 is coming up.</li> <li>● Poppy Scotland - Everything is organised for distribution and the school will be present at Tesco for 2 weekends.</li> <li>● A Veterans' Coffee Morning is being held on Wednesday the 6th November and Community Councillor members are welcome.</li> <li>● There will be a Remembrance Day event at the school for the pupils on the 11<sup>th</sup> of November.</li> <li>● ScotBlood will be coming to the school for the day on 14/11. S6 pupils are signing up to give blood.</li> <li>● 2 pupils are attending the Haddington Events Group. They will be helping with the Remembrance Day Parade and organising the baking for the reception afterwards.</li> <li>● Biannual Diversity Event: will take place on 6/3/2025</li> </ul>	
<b>4/b</b>	<b>Haddington and Lammermuir Area Partnership</b>	
	<p>SB informed the group that the next HLAP meetings are on 24/10 and 28/11 at 7 pm in the Bridge Centre.</p> <p>The Child &amp; Youth Network meet on 10/10 and 5/12 at 15:30 on MS Teams.</p> <p>The Health and Wellbeing Network meet on 5/12 at 10 am on Teams.</p> <p>Anyone who would like to attend should contact SB.</p> <p>There is a Pioneer Dementia Workshop at the Maitland Hotel from 10 to 12 on 21/11.</p> <p>There is an Intergenerational Workshop on 26/11 at VCEL in Tranent.</p> <p>The Community Health &amp; Wellbeing Fund is open for applications via VCEL.</p>	
<b>4/c</b>	<b>Tenants &amp; Residents Associations</b>	
	<p><b>HCTRA:</b> SF gave an update on the group and explained that while they were spending time addressing community issues like speeding and ASB, they were also looking at how they might engage in community building. This was an issue that came up at the AGM. The group are going to pilot a community storytelling event for families and older residents at Christmas to see if there is an appetite locally for community-building activities.</p>	

	<p>The Save Herdmanflat campaign which was being supported by the TRA as a community issue, has now been handed over to the newly formed charity, Haddington Community Woodlands. All social media assets, the website and other assets have been transferred to the charity.</p> <p><b>HETRA:</b> The group has disbanded and is no longer meeting.</p> <p><b>Haddington West:</b> There is no single organisation representing tenants and residents in Haddington West.</p>	
4/d	<b>Police, CAPP</b>	
	<p>KE introduced herself as the community police officer and outlined her role and responsibilities. She explained her post covers 4 areas and this means she is stretched quite thinly. She stressed that despite this, she is aware of the issues in Haddington and if there is anything that councillors want to discuss with her, they should get in touch.</p> <p>Bf thanked KE and said that the police presence on Pencaitland Road has been noticed and it has helped. KE said that speeding is an issue that is never completely resolved, and it will increase again when the schools go back after midterm. She does have the school link officers' support.</p> <p>ASB - KE said that she comes out to deal with ASB incidents whenever she can. The street drinking problem on the High Street is being monitored. She stressed that the incident must be reported if it is to be considered a priority.</p> <p>KE suggested that a WhatsApp group might help encourage businesses to report incidents. Even if people e-mail in afterwards, it helps build a picture of what is going on.</p> <p>FB suggested that there should be a better link between the police and ASB officers since ASB officers have no enforcement powers. SB said that the ASB team meets with the police once a week and if anyone wants to raise anything they should get in touch with him.</p> <p>GMcG asked who is responsible for policing parking on double yellow lines. This is happening at Tyneside, where people are parking on the junction. KE said this should be fed back to the ELC.</p> <p>FB asked for an update on the problems at the junction of</p>	

	<p>the Hardgate and High Street. KE said that she is discussing this with Nichola Marr at ELC to decide who has priority at the junction. GMcG pointed out that there were no guidelines or traffic markings on the road for traffic coming from the south. TT thought a Give Way sign might work since no one is paying attention to the Stop sign.</p> <p>A general discussion took place on the dissatisfaction with policing levels and the government cuts that have made this necessary.</p> <p>JW thanked KE for coming along and for her work keeping the community safe. KE said that if the community council would like her to come to a meeting on a specific topic then they should email her.</p> <p><b>DONM - CAPP - 12/11/2024</b></p>	
<b>4/f</b>	<b>Blooming Haddington</b>	
	RM gave the group a general update on recent work. The hanging baskets will come down this month.	
<b>5</b>	<b>Community Council Subgroup</b>	
<b>5/a</b>	<b>Events Group</b>	
	<p><b>Events Group</b></p> <p>GMcG is the new Chair of the Events Group and BF will be the HDCC link to events. The goal is to bring all activities in Haddington together.</p> <p>Many volunteers turned out for the last meeting which was encouraging and the group discussed ideas for events and improving existing events.</p> <p><b>Remembrance Day Parade</b> - will take place on 10/11. Everything has been set up and a group organised to marshall.</p> <p><b>Christmas Lights</b> - Turn on will be Sunday 24th November. BF has been working with Kirsty Summerville from The Brunton. She has organised Panto characters to switch on the lights and a free family ceilidh in the Corn Exchange for after the switch-on event. The Christmas Light Switch On will last longer this year.</p> <p><b>Book Festival</b> - BF is exploring the idea of creating a book festival with The Brunton.</p>	

	<p><b>Adult Silent Disco</b> - The Corn Exchange are open to hosting an event like this.</p> <p>JW thanked GMcG for taking over as the Chair of the Events Group. He offered a special thanks to BF, congratulating her on building a now thriving Events Group.</p>	
<b>5/b</b>	<b>Town Centre Group</b>	
	<p>The shop front grants have started to be disbursed and GMcG said that the difference in the renovated shop signs has really improved the High Street.</p> <p>FB asked for a footfall count of weekday shoppers. He feels that the town centre business has shifted to the retail park. JMcm asked a series of questions (what would happen to the info/who would pay for it/who would action any recommendations etc) related to this and suggested that it might be less expensive and easier to look at events to boost footfall. TT thought it would be simpler if individual businesses kept track of the footfall.</p> <p>JMcm suggested that the Events Group link with the Town Centre Group to attract people to the town centre.</p> <p>FB suggested an advertising campaign for the town centre in Haddington. JMcm pointed out that there is no one to coordinate it. JW wondered if the Town Centre Group could develop an Economic Development Unit which could liaise with the Events Team. It would need the support of ELC. BF wondered if this discussion and the development of a development unit might be a good topic for the AGM. JW said it should be added to the agenda of the next meeting.</p> <p>Ad discussion was held about the Events Group taking over the Fireworks event. The Events Group to discuss this.</p>	GMcG/ BF
<b>6.</b>	<b>Licencing &amp; Planning</b>	
	<p>MD - nothing to report.</p> <p>JMcm - The Licensee of the wine shop will be moving to Dunbar.</p> <p>MV - East Links Park has put in a planning appeal to the Scottish Government.</p> <p>MV - still speed and line of sight issues with hedges at the east side of Athelstaneford. To email photos to JMcm.</p>	MV/ JMcm

7.	<b>Correspondence</b>	
	MD had nothing to report. He will send out anything relevant.	
8.	<b>Councillors' Corner</b>	
	<p><b>Filming:</b> BF asked if the filming activities in the Town Centre recently brought money into the town. JMcM said that they brought no direct money to the town but had an economic impact.</p> <p><b>Roads - Adoption</b> - BF complained about roads which were still owned by the developer which affects gritting and public bins. She stressed that the residents were paying full council tax and were not getting full services.</p> <p>The developers want to charge residents to grit the streets and provide and service public bins until these roads are adopted. JMcM said they should email the councillors and Tom Reid now and they will try to help but it is really between the residents and the developers. He felt that this is an area that requires legislation. JH pointed out that this has been a 4-year battle.</p> <p><b>Traffic Lights</b> - The timing of the traffic lights at the Hardgate has been reported by HCTRA and is being monitored.</p> <p><b>Townhouse</b> - JW asked when the townspeople will have access to the Townhouse again. This is important because funds to renovate the building came from the Common Good Fund, yet apart from councillors and council officials, all other groups and citizens are excluded, it should be available to them and for tourism. It is a major important building, and it is unused and unvisited.</p> <p>The explanation that ELC has no janitorial staff was felt to be a poor excuse for mothballing the building. JW argued that the building is a Common Good Asset for the people of Haddington and not for the sole use of ELC committees.</p> <p>JMcM said that a janitor could only be provided if the Common Good Fund paid for it, and he is exploring this.</p> <p>EM said that it was a crying shame that the community and people of Haddington had not benefited in any way from the huge investment of Common Good monies made to restore the building. JW pointed out that ELC had spent £1 million pounds repairing a building which only hosts council</p>	

	<p>meetings.</p> <p>JMcM suggested that the community could look at securing a Community Asset Transfer of the building.</p> <p>He said that the West Church is going to become available soon and that would also be suitable for a CAT request.</p>	
<b>9.</b>	<b>Treasurer's Report</b>	
	<p>Balance - £30,000</p> <p>7 wreaths have arrived.</p> <p>Been reimbursed for the Althelstaneford meeting</p>	
<b>10.</b>	<b>AOCB</b>	
	<p><b>Remembrance Sunday</b> - MD has written to the Minister suggesting that the wreaths should be laid at 11 am and that the focus shifts to the pointlessness of war. No reply yet.</p> <p>Douglas Alexander MP will be attending the Parade.</p> <p><b>AGM</b> - to be held in November.</p>	
<b>15</b>	<b>DONM</b>	
	<b>Tuesday 12th November 2024</b>	