



## Royal Burgh of Haddington and District Community Council



<b>DATE AND TIME</b>	10 December 2024 @ 18:30
<b>LOCATION</b>	Knox Academy, Haddington
<b>PRESENT</b>	Therese Laing (Chair) Jack Worden (Vice Chair) John Hamilton (Treasurer) Morgwn Davies (Secretary, PLO) Susan Forgie (Minutes Secretary) Jim Graham Mandy Harrington (VCEL) Christoph Crepaz Stuart Pe-Win Robert Moran Erica Muirhead Betsy Fowler Falko Burkett Stuart Baxter (ELC) Tom Trotter (Councillor) George McGuire (Councillor) Robert Flood (Knox Academy) Ava Marnoch (Knox Academy) Sam Palmer (Knox Academy)
<b>APOLOGIES</b>	Shamin Akhtar (Councillor) Christine Read John McMillan (Councillor) Malcolm Vickers Cameron Richie (Journalist - EL Courier)

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>TOPIC</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
1.	<b>Welcome &amp; Apologies</b>	
	TL welcomed everyone to the meeting as the newly elected chair.  Apologies noted.  The Chair immediately handed over to SB for his report since he had to leave the meeting early.	

<b>2.</b>	<b>HLAP Update</b>													
	<p>SB provided the following update:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="352 344 1211 1420"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="352 344 639 412">Group</th> <th data-bbox="639 344 927 412">DONM</th> <th data-bbox="927 344 1211 412">Notes</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="352 412 639 770">HLAP</td> <td data-bbox="639 412 927 770">5/12/2024 6/02/2025 24/04/2025 15/05/2025 12/06/2025 21/08/2025 23/10/2025 27/11/2025 7 pm</td> <td data-bbox="927 412 1211 770">Funding requests received from Amisfield EL Play Association CAPP LMPS HCTRA HTTC</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="352 770 639 1061">CYNW</td> <td data-bbox="639 770 927 1061">The Bridge Centre 27/2/2025 1/5/2025 19/6/2025 30/10/2025 4/12/2025 15:30 MS Teams</td> <td data-bbox="927 770 1211 1061"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="352 1061 639 1420">HWBN</td> <td data-bbox="639 1061 927 1420">12/12/2024 20/02/2025 01/05/2025 26/06/2025 21/08/2025 9/10/2025 4/12/2025 10 am MS Teams</td> <td data-bbox="927 1061 1211 1420"></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>SB reminded HDCC that community councillors are welcome to attend these groups and their involvement would be welcome.</p>	Group	DONM	Notes	HLAP	5/12/2024 6/02/2025 24/04/2025 15/05/2025 12/06/2025 21/08/2025 23/10/2025 27/11/2025 7 pm	Funding requests received from Amisfield EL Play Association CAPP LMPS HCTRA HTTC	CYNW	The Bridge Centre 27/2/2025 1/5/2025 19/6/2025 30/10/2025 4/12/2025 15:30 MS Teams		HWBN	12/12/2024 20/02/2025 01/05/2025 26/06/2025 21/08/2025 9/10/2025 4/12/2025 10 am MS Teams		
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<b>3.</b>	<b>Minutes Of AGM (November 2023)</b>													
	<p><b>Approved</b> Proposed by Morgwn Davies Seconded by Betsy Fowler</p>													
<b>4.</b>	<b>Minutes of Meeting October 2024</b>													
	<p>The meeting in November 2024 did not go ahead because it wasn't quorate.</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held in October 2024 were</p>													

	<p>approved with the following amendments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Knox Academy. The dates were wrong and should read Veterans Event 6/11 and the Remembrance Event was on 11/11</li> <li>b. 5b - to be removed</li> </ul> <p>MD to amend minutes.</p> <p>Proposed by Erica Muirhead Seconded by Falko Burkett</p>	
<b>5.</b>	<b>Matters Arising</b>	
	<p><b>a Remembrance Day Parade:</b> TL thanked JH for organising the wreaths. JH said that 2 new groups ordered wreaths this year. TL also thanked the Events Group and JG who organised the marshalls.</p> <p>Thanks were also given to the West Church and Knox Academy pupils who organised, hosted and served refreshments.</p> <p><b>b Christmas Shop Windows:</b> Thanks to the Knox Academy pupils who helped judge the shop windows competition.</p> <p><b>c Christmas Lights:</b> A huge thank you to Steven Gibson, Chris McEwan, Rab Moran and George McGuire for putting up the Christmas lights,</p> <p><b>d Economic Hub:</b> CC is happy for this to be added to the Town Centre Group</p> <p><b>e Townhouse:</b> TL asked about the community using the Townhouse. TT said the problem is that there is no staff. TT and GM said they would ask the question and report back</p> <p><b>f Thank You Cards:</b> TL sent thank you or welcome cards to Blooming Haddington Amisfield Rotary Club Pleasance Gardens Stove Shop Cafe 24 Story 68 The Dolce Vita Flooring Shop Florist</p>	TT/GM

	Ozy's	
<b>d.</b>	<b>Events Banner:</b> SF explained that the problem with designing the banner is that the quality of the logos and photographs is not good enough to scale up to the size needed for the banner. JH to ask designer to look at logos.	SF/JH
<b>6.</b>	<b>The Corn Exchange &amp; The Townhouse</b>	
	<p>Ad discussion took place on community access to the Corn Exchange and the Townhouse.</p> <p>TL asked if ELC were paying to use the Corn Exchange for the resilience training in March. JW asked what the arrangement and ELC are and if The Brunton will continue to have control. He pointed out that the Corn Exchange is a Common Good Building and the current hire rates are extortionate for the local community. The building should be returned to the local community when not in use.</p> <p>BF said The Brunton is very keen to work with the local community and they are well supported by the people of East Lothian. There are grey areas but it is possible to work with them and perhaps the community council could approach them to discuss this further.</p> <p>GMcG said that the community council should let the Events Group deal with the Brunton Theatre and leave ELC out of it.</p> <p>TL why, if ELC has to pay The Brunton to use the Corn Exchange for the Resilience Training, why are they not using the Townhouse instead?</p> <p>TT reminded the group that there was a plan for the community to control the Townhouse but it fell through.</p> <p>JW pointed out that these are 2 Common Good buildings underutilised by the community they belong to. Historically the community has had access to and used these buildings.</p> <p>TT said that there is an ongoing asset review taking place. Conversations have been held but nothing has come of them.</p> <p>TT said it was likely that the Brunton Theatre will be replaced with a dedicated arts building on the same footprint.</p>	

	<p>MD pointed out that this is a political matter and the community council should meet in private to consider a way forward.</p> <p>GMcG said a CAT for the Townhouse should perhaps be considered. He said that councillors are supportive of the community using the Townhouse.</p>	
<b>7.</b>	<b>Resilience Training</b>	
	Resilience training will take place on Saturday 1st March at the Corn Exchange. TL asked for volunteers to take part in the training.	
<b>8.</b>	<b>Post Office</b>	
	The potential closure of the post office was discussed. At the moment there is not much to be discussed because the announcement won't be made until February 2025. TL asked if ELC were working with the PO behind the scenes and were economic development looking at it. GMcG said the consultation will probably end in a banking and postal hub.	
<b>9.</b>	<b>Community Group Reports</b>	
<b>a</b>	<p><b>Knox Academy:</b> Ava Marnoch and Sam Palmer reported that the pupils had finished their prelims. The Young Enterprise Group had success selling sustainable tote bags at The Gyle Centre in Edinburgh.</p> <p>They said that Y6 had dressed in costumes and raised around £800 for Children in Need.</p> <p>RF reported that the festive activities for years 1 to 3 had been well attended. Pupils had helped set up the Martinmas Fair at St Mary's Church.</p> <p>The school will be holding its Christmas concert on 12/12 and community councillors are invited to attend the 2 pm performance.</p> <p>The school's Diversity evening will be held on <b>6/3/2025</b> and HDCC is invited to attend.</p>	
<b>b</b>	<b>Haddington Central TRA:</b> written report submitted. Of relevance to the community council is the TRA's proposal which raises the poor condition of the historical closes and their desire to organise a community project to refurbish them. It wants to work in partnership with other groups to	

	<p>achieve this. TL suggested attending the Town Centre Group on 9/1/2025.</p> <p>JH said that £349 was ringfenced for Town Centre projects and perhaps some of this could be spent developing the project.</p>	
<b>c.</b>	<b>CAPP</b>	
	<p>Report circulated.</p> <p>GMcG stressed the importance of reporting incidents. He gave the example of a case in a neighbouring village where consistent reporting of problems had led to a Problem-solving Partnership being set up to look at the situation holistically.</p>	
<b>d.</b>	<b>Blooming Haddington</b>	
	<p>General tidying up taking place.</p> <p>Remembrance tree for Joe Forte to be planted.</p> <p>RM will retire from Blooming Haddington next year.</p>	
<b>e.</b>	<b>Youth Network</b>	
	<p>Craig is no longer a community councillor, The position needs to be advertised and the group needs a new rep.</p>	TL
<b>10.</b>	<b>Correspondence</b>	
	All circulated	
<b>11.</b>	<b>Councillors' Corner</b>	
	<p>All of the points were covered earlier in the meeting.</p> <p>JW asked if car parking charges will be introduced in Haddington. TT said there are no plans to but there probably will be in the future.</p> <p>FB complained about lights being broken or missing on the Nungate Bridge.</p> <p>FB raised the issue of poor waste management from shop owners in the High Street who are putting out their recycling cardboard too early. There is a lot of cardboard in the street for days and not only is it unsightly, but it is also a fire hazard.</p> <p>He asked if they could have more frequent collections or if the shop owners could be told not to put it out days in advance of the collection.</p>	TT/GMcG

<b>12.</b>	<b>Treasurer's Report</b>					
	<p>B of S account has been converted to a community account with monthly fees of £4.25. Some transactions will have to be paid for.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Payments Out</th> <th>Payments In</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>£100 - Radio Saltire £117 - HCTRA £1000 - Nungate Gala</td> <td>£20 - Lost Haddington</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The cash raised during the Christmas Lights collection is to be transferred to HDCC. TL thanked JH for the Treasurer's Report.</p>	Payments Out	Payments In	£100 - Radio Saltire £117 - HCTRA £1000 - Nungate Gala	£20 - Lost Haddington	GMcG
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<b>13</b>	<b>Licencing &amp; Planning</b>					
	<p>a. MD reported that all documents for the detailed planning application for Herdmanflat have been submitted. Replies must be made by 3/01/2025</p> <p>b. Poldrate has applied for permission to replace existing signs.</p> <p>c. The Premier Store on the High Street put an application in to change their storefront in July 2024 and no near neighbours were notified. The councillors have grave concerns about the altered shop for not being in keeping with the area.</p> <p>TT suggested sending a letter to Planning to ask about the process and if near neighbours should have been notified. MD to write and copy in all ELC councillors.</p>	MD				
<b>14</b>	<b>AOCB</b>					
	<p>a. <b>Groups</b></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Group</th> <th>Members</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>HLAP</td> <td>SPW JW</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Group	Members	HLAP	SPW JW	
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<b>15</b>	<b>DONM</b>																	
	<b>Tuesday 14th January at 6:30 pm in Knox Academy</b>																	