

Royal Burgh of Haddington and District Community Council

Minutes of meeting 13th October 2015 in Council Chambers

1. Sederunt

Jan Wilson (Chair), Margaret Ingle (Vice Chair), Ruth Moncrieff (Correspondence Sec), Pat Lemmon, Ron Goldie, Paul Darling, Betty Somerville, Rab Moran, Lynda Boyle-Ronaldson, Fiona-Frances Adam

In attendance

Cllr Tom Trotter, Cllr John McMillan, Cameron Ritchie (Courier)

Guest Speakers: Patrick Gamell, Vice Lord Lieutenant and Joe Forte, Laura Samuel from Blooming Haddington

2. Apologies: Cllr Ludovic Broun-Lindsay, PC Lynn Black, Fiona McEwan, John Hamilton, Graham Samuel

3. Guest Speakers

Patrick Gamell: Patrick attended the meeting as representative of Lord Lieutenant Michael Williams who is the Queens' representative for the county. Patrick is one of 8 deputies who stand in for Michael when needed. They have been asked to make contact with all the community councils to give them this information and to offer their services. They would also like to encourage nominations for the national honours which are presented at the Queen's Garden Party in July - this information is needed by January and should be passed via Hazel Boak at ELC.

Patrick also asked that they be informed of any special occasions such as 60th wedding anniversaries, 100th birthday's etc - these are all recognised by the Queen but need to be highlighted, again, via Hazel at ELC. Ruth asked how far in advance do they require this information - he thought best to give a couple of months.

Queen's 90th birthday next year - Patrick wasn't sure what will be arranged but plans will be ongoing to arrange something special and this will be fed back into the community in time. John McMillan thanked Patrick for the information - he said it was a nice tribute that they were involving the community in the garden party. Jan thanked Patrick for coming to the meeting. Patrick will forward the ELC website link to Jan for distribution to members.

Blooming Haddington: Joe and Laura came to the meeting to show off their well deserved trophies in the recent Beautiful Scotland Competition. Haddington won 'Best Medium Town' and also a Gold Certificate. A huge thank you to all involved - it really was a community effort. And special thanks to Rab for watering all the planters and baskets throughout the summer and indeed into the autumn months - due to his diligence they are still flourishing and have not been brought down yet. Joe said that the Gardening Club have come on board and will be planting up the street planters which will give some colour over the winter months. Jan thanked Blooming Haddington and everyone involved in the process for all their efforts and hoped that this will continue for many years to come.

4. Minutes of 8th September 2015

Approval of the minutes was proposed by Ruth and seconded by Rab

5. Matters arising

5.1 Item 6.1 Victoria Bridge: the traffic light sequence has been altered so hopefully the congestion will be eased.

5.2 Item 6.4 Hardgate Artillery Park pavements: this has been reported and will be sorted as soon as possible.

5.3 Item 6.5 High Street lighting: Rab said that the lights reported at the last meeting are still out (at Town House and down at the chip shop)

5.4 Item 6.7 Meadowpark: this is a police matter and should be reported to Lynn.

5.4 Item 6.8 Monksmain Rd, missing speed bumps: the council are aware of this and will repair as soon as possible.

5.6 Item 17.1 'Paths for All': a request was made for funding from the CC to help with this project. They already have £2.5k but request a further £1.4k from the CC to build 10 exercise stations along the Tyne walkway from West Mills weir to the Nungate Bridge. On consultation with the members at the meeting Pat said she didn't feel it would be that successful or popular and therefore not really value for money. After some discussion it was taken to a vote and carried 5:2 in favour. Proposed by Betty and seconded by Margaret. Paul confirmed that ELC will install and maintain the equipment.

5.7 Athelstaneford: Paul said that with Emily's resignation the CC will need a representative for the village. It was suggested a note to this effect be placed in the Courier.

Action Cameron

6. Councillors Corner

6.1 Ideal garage: Ruth pointed out that the crossing is very bad with potholes on all sides

6.2 Marmaris: there have been some objections to the colour scheme/signage of this new business. Tom said that the council do not want to stand in the way of new businesses and certainly don't want any more empty shops in the town centre but they need to adhere to the rules. John McMillan said he had never had as many complaints as he has for this particular shop. The planners have a very clear process which must be adhered to. The original plans stated it would be a restaurant and small take-away business - it would appear to be quite the opposite.

6.3 Riverside Drive: common stairwell - Ron asked what the council do about making sure the stairs are maintained and kept clean. Tom said that the onus lies with the residents and if this is not done then the council will write to them.

6.4 Missing bench at Riverside: Ron asked if the bench was going to be replaced. Tom said it would have been taken away as it was rotten. This has happened in several areas in the town and unfortunately there is no money in the budget to replace at this time. It has also been requested that benches be placed in the cemetery - again, there are no plans for this due to the need to maintain them.

6.5 Care and Repair: leaflets handed out by Tom. The criteria is to be over 60 or over 50 and with a disability.

6.6 Dangerous driving incident: Fiona-Frances said she had been alarmed by a van driving very fast on the pavement area in front of the Courts. When challenged, the driver said he was allowed to drive there as he was on council business (although it was not an ELC van he was driving). He also took a photo of Fiona. In such incidents the vehicle registration number should be noted and reported to the police. Fiona will pass this info via Ruth to Lynn.

Action Fiona/Ruth

6.7 Cyclists in Butts: Betty asked if the butts is deemed a cycle pathway. Tom said that it is an access path for both cyclists and pedestrians and that the cyclists should be aware of walkers and ring their bells to warn them to avoid accidents. The same applies with complaints about the railway path - can be used by both but cyclists to take care and warn pedestrian of their presence.

7. Police Questions - Lynn not present but any comments please pass to Ruth for Lynn (police report read out by Ruth and copy available on request)

7.1 CAPP meeting:

CAPP priorities identified:

1. Tackle youth Anti-social behaviour in Haddington town centre and surrounding area.
2. Deal with parking issues at Aubigny Centre – during school drop off and pick up points.
3. Tackle parking problems in relation to vehicles parking on verges at Riverside Drive, Haddington

The next CAPP meeting will take place on week beginning 26th October at 6.30pm within the Town Hall, Haddington. Now that Emily has resigned we need to appoint a CC representative to attend the CAPP meetings. Lynda is happy to be involved in this. Jan will email Lynn with Lynda's details.

Action Jan

7.2 Antisocial behaviour: there is a certain group of youths hanging around the Nungate Bridge and Lady Kitty's. Local residents are wary of reporting in-case they are targeted. John McMillan said that the police are aware of the situation and are making the area a priority.

7.3 Vandalism: this has occurred at the Normandy Memorial Garden and also the wall at the Doocot. It was agreed that we go ahead and have the damaged in the garden repaired - Paul will get a costing for the next meeting.

Action Paul

8. Knox Academy News - none present but it was noted that help would be welcome from the pupils at the Armistice day event.

9. Correspondence

9.1 Chairpersons Report: Jan has circulated copy of her report to all members.

9.2 Armistice parade: John McMillan wanted to request that Liz McDougal carry the burgh flag at the parade this year (through the Pipe Band she represented us in the 14th July celebrations in France) and he thought it would be nice for her to do this. This was agreed by all. John will let Liz know.

Action John McM

9.3 Iain Gray, MSP: cannot make the November meeting but will be invited to attend in December. *Action Ruth*

9.4 Letter received re 'The Big Conversation' - meeting between 10-330pm on 13th November to discuss health and social care integration.

10. Treasurers Report

10.1 Cheque books and pay-in books have been handed over. The monthly accounts aren't to hand but will be brought to the next meeting, as will the annual accounts. Jan will phone bank regarding the new signatories which may take a while therefore Emily may have to sign some more cheques in the meantime. Jan will contact her. We also need to get the Costco card back from Emily.

Action Jan

11. Haddington Community Development Trust

11.1 Website and domain name is under development and FB page running. Some quotes are needed for the website.

11.2 George Hotel: £150k is coming from the Scottish Government to upgrade and improve the area around the George Hotel. The pavement will be widened and there will be an area in front of the current disabled bays for seating etc. The disabled bays will be moved to outside Mains shop (Jan suggested they would be better in the middle of the High Street instead of at the bottom). It has also been suggested the Goats be moved from outside the George - this was not an acceptable suggestion to the members.

11.3 Awnings: there is also a suggestion of installing awnings to the shops on the sunny side of the street though there are some technical issues around this.

11.4 'Future Towns': design competition looking for ideas to be submitted to the HCDDT

11.5 Audit: Paul said an audit has been done on all the leaflets of Haddington. Also the cycle stands (Jan said that the ones at the Town House were missed out). Paul will double check this. *Action Paul*

12. Events Group meeting and Festival Update

12.1 Christmas fun day (29th Nov): will not include a craft fair this year. It will be all about the kids so there will be a santa, cafe, facepainting, show rides etc. There will also be some very famous characters there to help switch on the lights. There has been some suggestion of an inflatable grotto but at just over £1000 it was thought too pricey.

12.2 Fireworks (7th Nov): this is all in hand. Fliers/tickets ready soon.

13. Planning applications

13.1 Gateside West: 14 commercial units are planned plus a restaurant and 97 houses (3,4,5 bedroom).

13.2 Letham Mains: Pat wondered how long until the planning permission expires on this development. Meanwhile all the other smaller developments are going ahead so she wondered who would be paying for a new primary school to accommodate the increased numbers. It is worrying that we could end up with more than the original 1000 new houses for the town.

14. SES Plan: Paul confirmed that he made comment on this.

15. Craft Fair 31st October: this event may have to be cancelled due to lack of bookings. Ruth will therefore email round. Jan thought that it may give the crafters something to think about if the event has to be cancelled due to lack of interest.

16. Armistice parade, 8th November: meet at Corn Exchange at 10am, leaving at 1015am. Ruth will order the wreaths. An article will go in the Courier. Sandwiches, biscuits, sausage rolls etc will be provided.

Date of next Meeting: Tuesday 10th November 2015 in **Council Chambers, Town House** at 7.00pm.

Outstanding Matters Arising from previous minutes

2012

14/02 Athelstaneford noticeboard – needs painting (**Oct 2014 – it was pointed out that this has still not be done**)

2013

14/5 Waste bins in High St

Various transportation issues: Lammermuir Cres, Dunderpender Dv, Church St, sunken road by JG Gray Centre

2014

14/01 Dip in road outside Town House

11/03 Information Centre: signage

13/5 Brewery Park: slippery pavement, over-grown garden to rear of FA's house

9/09 Mental Health Resource: Tynepark

2015

8/9 Victoria Bridge - parking/congestion

High Street - flood lights out

Hardgate/Artillery Park: uneven paving stones

Monksmains Road - missing speed bumps

The 4 items above are in hand (as at 13/10/15)

Transportation Dept. -Pot Holes and Broken Slabs throughout the Town & Athelstaneford

Pot Holes: Ideal Garage junction

Uneven Pavements: High Street, Market Street, Court Street. St. Anne's Place, Mitchells Close (11/1/11)