

Royal Burgh of Haddington and District Community Council

Minutes of meeting 8th December 2015 in Council Chambers

1. Sederunt

Jan Wilson (Chair), Margaret Ingle (Vice Chair), Ruth Moncrieff (Correspondence Sec), Pat Lemmon, Ron Goldie, Paul Darling, Fiona McEwan, Chris McEwan, Rab Moran, Lynda Boyle-Ronaldson, Fiona-Frances Adam, Graham Samuel, John Hamilton, Betty Sommerville,

In attendance

Cllr Tom Trotter, Cllr John McMillan, Robert Flood (Knox), Peter Macaldowie (Knox), Cameron Ritchie (Courier), Anna Faulkner (minutes' secretary)

2. Apologies: Cllr Ludovic Broun-Lindsay, PC Lynn Black, Harriet Lomholt-Welch (Knox)

3. Guest Speaker: Iain Gray, MSP

Iain introduced himself and said he would be happy to answer any questions we may have. He gave a brief run down on what has been happening in Parliament including

Legislation

Syria autumn statement

Budget statement due next week - local government to set their budgets in Feb 2016

Local Issues and any other questions:

Planning: this is a long-running issue and a lot of time and effort is spent regarding planning appeals etc. This is not just confined to Haddington - all the major towns in the county are affected.

New Hospital: this is at long last coming to fruition, after some 10 years in the planning. This in part was due to the change in how it was to be funded. Iain said he keeps raising the issue in parliament - they have once again made changes to the funding so he is hopeful that this won't delay the start of the project.

Transport/buses: he has been instrumental in the provision of more services, including the country service via Pencaitland.

Poverty Commission: he has suggested that the council set this up (1 in 5 of the population currently living in poverty). Part of this has been asking locals what could be done to help the poorer/struggling people. For example, Renfrewshire have put in place a concessionary travel for apprentices. Other areas could be childcare provision and additional support in schools etc. Another example was the free transport to Edinburgh College - this was withdrawn due to funding cuts within the college - perhaps ELC could look into helping with this. These things could make a real difference and both he and the council are excited about the possibilities.

Funding for CC's: Jan asked if the government would consider helping Comm Councils by asking developers to set aside money for them instead of it all going to local government. He thought this might leave local governments short within their budgets

Wind farm money: areas such as Dunbar and Morham receive direct funding from the wind farms in their areas. One suggestion that Iain gave was that the council themselves build 6/7 wind turbines and each of the Community Councils benefit as above. The problem with this was finding the funding to build them.

Letham development: Jan asked if some of the planning gain (say 5/10k) could come to the Community Council. Iain not sure if the law allows this but will find out.

Overseas aid: Betty asked how the government can justify 12 million pounds of overseas aid. Iain explained that this was a total sum and was to roll out over 4 years and agreed that the timing of such was unfortunate given that parts of our country were under water.

Forth Road Bridge: Rab asked if the cut to the maintenance budget had contributed to the problems now evident with the bridge. Iain could not give a definitive answer - this is currently being discussed.

Sainsburys development: Pat asked how we can make sure we secure the money promised to the community from Sainsbury's now that they have put the development on hold. She said we are keen to let them know we won't forget what has been promised.

Divided town: Pat wondered if there were any concerns that the town becomes divided in two once the Letham Development comes on board. Iain said that similar concerns were voiced in Dunbar and he fought very hard to keep one primary school to prevent this. We shall have to watch out for it in Haddington and thought that the stronger the town centre remains, the more it binds the town together. Jan said that all the town centres are up against the increase in online shopping but on that note Iain said he was surprised how many local businesses have an online presence and

therefore still supporting business locally. No more questions came from the floor therefore Jan thanked Iain for giving his time to come to the meeting tonight.

4. Minutes of 10th November 2015

Approval of the minutes was proposed by Fiona McEwan and seconded by Graham Samuel

Item 3. Fiona-Frances - spelling

5. Matters arising

5.1 Item 11.1 Christmas fun day: Jan said that it was a fantastic day. Rab took lots of photos, santa's grotto was fabulous, along with his elf (Ruth!). Many thanks to all involved – Chris and Fiona who donated some lights, to the Knox pupils who helped on the day and to Betty and Steven.

Some businesses were selling the same goods – it was suggested it would be a courtesy if they asked us first. Ron suggested we could charge an entry fee – Chris said that the whole idea was that we don't charge entry but suggest a donation (people were very generous in their donations at the door). Ruth thought that making a charge on the door may put some people off coming. Jan said we make money from the stalls and events that are in the hall. She reiterated a huge thanks to everyone – and many congratulations to the Events Group who all worked so hard on planning and making this such a success.

6. Councillors Corner

6.1 Street lights: Ruth reported that lights are out on Dunbar Road at the top of Traprain Terrace. Jan also said that lights are out on Hospital Road, down towards Caponflat Crescent. Chris said that they noticed when putting up the Christmas lights that there are a lot of floodlights out in the High Street. John McMillan said he emailed re the lights after the last meeting and if anything else needs reporting, to contact him before the next meeting, with a note of the number on the junction box.

6.2 Saltire Event: Pat asked if there would be a report on this event and if so if the CC could have a copy of it. John H also asked for clarification on who paid for it. It was confirmed that due to the Freedom on Information Act, all information on this is available and that funding came from Scottish and Local Government. Pat said there had been some criticism on social media, that it had been poorly attended and that the entertainers were not to everyone's taste. The fact that an outside security company were in attendance was also criticised. John McMillan will look into it and feedback to the CC. He pointed out that the event at St Mary's attracted a lot of ticket sales but not many attended on the night. This was a new event and there was a lot of good feedback so will focus on the positives and learn from this for future events.

6.3 Pavements/potholes: Rab reported loose slabs outside Coffee Pot. Newton Port up to Victoria Park pavement in need of repair. Also loose slab outside Marmaris chip shop in High Street.

6.4 Mobile advertisements: Paul confirmed that any mobile advertisements, such as the one attached to the tree outside the Pheasant, requires planning permission if in situ for more than 28 days. The new eatery 'The Loft' also has a sign which has been in exactly the same position for a number of weeks and sits right in the middle of a dropped kerb. Tom said that they have to advertise their business and that it's a matter of striking a balance.

6.5 Housing Association, Kennedy Ct : Graham said that as well as the wheelie bins outside there are now other items dumped outside, causing a hazard. John McMillan said they had also received an email regarding this from a neighbour. The ASB team have been dealing with this and a report written so is in hand.

6.6 John Muir House, parking: Graham asked if there was a new policy in place regarding business parking in John Muir House during the day. Paul said that once the decriminalised parking enforcement comes into force this will be addressed.

6.7 Christmas lights: Tom Trotter said he had heard some very positive comments on this years' lights and tree – he congratulated the CC and said we seem to improve from year to year. Jan said that it was nice to be recognised and that despite the dwindling Local Priorities budget the CC has managed, through hard work from volunteers and fundraising, to brighten up the town. She asked if there could be any form of national funding for community councils to help with this sort of thing. Tom said that there are different avenues for funding and that money is always tight but the council will help out where they can. He suggested that others have approached the developers for help with funding – this might be worth looking into.

Pat said that she was worried that events like the fireworks become victims of their own success and that if they don't get some financial support they may dwindle. John McMillan said that all the different groups (HCDT, HBA, Blooming Haddington) all work really well together and that we should focus on next year and start looking at funding applications.

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 and monitor various parking issues through the Festive Road Safety and Parking Initiative which will be running from November 18th until December 24th.
2. Continue with the local Problem Solving Partnership in relation to youth related antisocial behaviour in Haddington

The next CAPP meeting will take place on Monday 25th January at 6.30pm within the Town Hall, Haddington.

8. Knox Academy News

8.1 Christmas dance to take place on Thurs 10th Dec.

8.2 Poppy Scotland: this was hugely successful and raised almost £4500. Charles Ingle was very helpful - was out and about selling in the streets and they also spent 2 weekends selling in Tesco.

8.3 Children In Need: another great fundraising event which raised just under £1340

8.4 Christmas boxes: each registration class designs and fills a shoe box with non perishable goods (and a prize is given for the best one). They are then sent out to the community to those in most need.

8.5 Christmas in Haddington: pupils had a great time helping out at this event.

8.6 Youth Philanthropy Initiative (YPI): this promotes a charity of choice – winner gets £3000 for their chosen charity (final to be held on 9th Dec at 9am)

8.7 Christmas concert: this year it will be held on 16th Dec - 2 CC members are invited to attend.

8.8 Morrison Construction: pupils in the Technical and Business Depts have been working with this company to help design the new hospital in Haddington. Previously they were involved with the new primary school. MC also commit to giving pupils work experience with them.

Jan thanked the pupils and staff at Knox for all their help over the past year - she asked that Robert convey this at the next Assembly.

9. Correspondence

9.1 Decriminalisation of parking regulations: letter received regarding this

9.2 Councillors: letter received from the 3 councillors (Ludovic, John and Tom) thanking the CC for all their work and support over the year and special thanks for the christmas events.

9.3. Mona Thomson, Dumfries: thank you letter from Mona to ELC for allowing her to be involved in the Armistice event - she laid a wreath.

9.4 Provosts reception: email inviting to the event at the Saltire Rooms, JMH. Fiona-Frances will attend.

10. Treasurers Report

10.1 Bank Account update: John said it has been a slow process to get up to speed with the accounts therefore there is still no spreadsheet available for today's meeting.

Update:

Half the cash for the fliers has been received

Pipeband - still waiting for money for the wreath

Art Exhibition - profit made approx £316

Rotary Club - they gave us a cheque for £1117 (defibrillator)

Christmas fun day - £1527 plus approx £372 from the cafe (John will send out breakdown via email).

Christmas lights - electrician bill for £1103 paid. Bill for cherry-picker still to come in (just charged for driver and fuel)

11. Haddington Community Development Trust

11.1 Fiona and Paul were at the last meeting which was really productive. Website and strategies discussed. Fiona said that it will be easier to bring information back to CC meeting once the minutes are produced next month.

12. Events Group meeting

12.1 Christmas in Haddington/lights: most of this has already been discussed. The food for the day was donated mainly by Tesco so thanks to them for this.

12.2 Santa sleigh: santa run all set for 20th Dec. Nominations for the run are requested by 13th Dec - post box set up in library and an article to go in the Courier to this effect.

12.3 Fireworks: raised approx £7000. Date for next year will probably be 5th November. The same company will supply the fireworks.

Next meeting scheduled for 19th January 2016

13. Blooming Haddington (BH)

13.1 Park at railway: this has been tidied up with the bushes pruned and the ivy cut off the wall.

14. Planning applications

14.1 Dovecot: planning application for the 2nd phase now in.

14.2 Tenterfield Drive: 3 houses planned

14.3 Skatepark: plans for this include a car park for 20 spaces alongside the 3G. Speed reduction ramp is not included.

14.4 Shop signs: 3 planned - Shop Smart in High Street (smaller sign); Joe's Kitchen - tasteful hand-written sign; Ogilvie Chalmers - pictures in upper windows. No objections given for any proposals.

15. AOCB - none

Date of next Meeting: Tuesday 12th January 2016 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, Dunder Dy, 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

Monksmain Road - missing speed bumps

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

10/11 John Muir House - re-painting of disabled parking bays

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)