

Royal Burgh of Haddington and District Community Council Minutes of meeting 12th December 2017 in Council Chambers

Ruth Moncrieff (Secretary), John Hamilton (Treasurer), Graham Samuel, Chris McEwan, Rab Moran, Paul Darling, Calum Learmonth, Morgwn Davies

In attendance

Cllr Tom Trotter, Cllr John McMillan, Cllr Shamin Akhtar, Karen Stevenson (CDT), Robert Flood (KA), Fergus Dickson (head pupil KA), Cameron Ritchie (Courier), Anna Faulkner (minutes' secretary).

2. Apologies: Jan Wilson (Chair), Cllr Brian Small, Fiona McEwan, Haig Hamilton, PC Lynn Black

Before the meeting started John McMillan wanted to pass on our condolences to Jan on the very recent loss of her husband.

3. Town Centre Steering Group Presentation

Karen Stevenson on behalf of the CDT gave a resume of the discussion on the development of the Town Centre which started back in 2012. Various community groups, including the CC, were invited to prepare a vision for the town centre. Comments focussed on traffic, parking, one-way systems etc and all agreed that something needed to be done. Key action points included transform the town centre, access strategy (ie getting around the town), use empty buildings, set up the CDT, enterprise & youth.

There have been some problems along the way but finally the CDT was formed and constituted. The website is up and running and they have looked at the access strategy and reviewed the parking arrangements. They continue to look at ideas which would improve the town centre and to that end the Consultants tasked with this then gave a brief presentation.

Three consultation events have been held in the town to which all members of the public, local businesses etc have been involved. Roughly 400 people attended and all the comments were taken on board and they are now at the stage of developing these into proposals. There were many key points but the over-riding concern was the implications of parking and loss of such in the town centre. Very keen to protect the short stay parking, provide safe crossing areas and reduce unnecessary journeys and encourage people to walk. They are seeking to avoid a decrease in the number of parking spaces in the town centre and are very aware that local businesses are concerned about losing parking spaces. It was pointed out that ELC are about to release their transport strategy for the whole of East Lothian and this would be available online.

The key part is to make provision for short/medium and long-term parking in the town. They all have particular need as does the need for waiting and loading for local businesses - this will all be addressed in the strategy. Sketches are available which will be a representation of proposals and will show ideas such as wider pavements and flexibility for businesses, refuse collection etc.

Other aspects covered will include reconfiguration of junctions to make safer, walking and cycling provision, how to encourage activity, materials to be used to be in-keeping with the town, park & ride provision and how to encourage people to visit the town.

The presentation was open to questions:

Would local businesses be compensated for loss of earnings due to disruption whilst works ongoing?

It was suggested that disruption would be kept to a minimum and they would aim to deliver in an incremental way so as not to impact on business. This would be done in consultation with contractors etc

Parking and more specifically loss of parking is a real concern especially with the developments around the town which will increase the population by 2/2.5 thousand. How will this be addressed?

As stated before, ELC transport strategy will aim to provide answers and it was stressed again that this is a consultation and that nothing is set in stone at this point. Consultation will begin mid January

Local business man said that a lot of his customers were not aware of the current town centre debates and feels that more should be done to inform people

7,500 leaflets were distributed throughout the town so everyone was given information and the opportunity to have their say. It was agreed that Haddington is a great place to live and we should remain positive to take things forward for the good of all.

A local trader said they did not want to be portrayed as negative but feel that the scale of what is being proposed is too much but whilst fearing for their livelihood, they do want to work together in a positive manner.

Finally, it was pointed out that ELC have produced a 'Transport' Strategy which covers everything and not just parking. John McMillan suggested the CC set aside time at the next meeting to discuss the strategy.

This part of the meeting finished and visitors left the room.

4. Minutes of 14th November

Approval of the minutes was proposed by Rab Moran and seconded by Chris McEwan

5. Matters arising

5.1 Item 9.3 Lyn Lea Ave/Whittingham Drive junction: Tom reported that the hedges have now been cut back.

5.2 Item 9.4 Bollards (Letham Development): Tom reported that the bollards have been cleaned and he has spoken to the developers and asked that they maintain them.

6. Treasurers Report – details already emailed to all members

6.1 Update: John reported that this has been a busy month with the craft fair and xmas fun day etc. He pointed out that £3.5k is still uncommitted therefore we need to be thinking about what we can use this money for before the end of the financial year.

6.2 Art Exhibition: £436 profit made. Although John pointed out that we do not run these events to make a profit but it's nice to see that the event has been successful.

7. Honoraria – deferred to the next meeting

8. Councillors Corner

8.1 Station Yard/Station Court: Rab asked if the road leading to Station Ct could be repaired as in a very bad state.

8.2 Oak Tree roundabout/traffic management: Graham has noticed the lorries heading to the Letham Development have been driving on the wrong side of the road and this needs to be looked at with a better traffic management system put in place. Shamin pointed out that there is no need to wait until the next CC meeting to report such things – they can phone the roads dept immediately or email direct to the councillors.

9. Police Questions (as Lynn not at meeting pls email any items direct to her)

9.1 CAPP meeting:

CAPP priorities identified

1. Dangerous parking near to Waterloo Bridge, Haddington
2. Vehicles not stopping at the Stop Sign at Hardgate and Sidegate
3. Pro laser speed checks at East Saltoun and Gifford

The next CAPP meeting will be held on Monday 8th January 2018 at 630pm in the Town House

10. Knox Academy News

10.1 Children in Need: the pupils raised just over £900

10.2 Events Group: senior pupils have been working with the EG and this included the recent xmas fun day, the xmas panto and the Armistice parade – Ruth thanked them for all their help. John McMillan also thanked them on behalf of St Mary's. Rab also praised them for their work in tidying up the car park at the bottom on Market Street.

10.3 Community involvement: S6 pupils have been very active in the community

10.4 Xmas box campaign: pupils have been busy filling the boxes – they will be distributed next week.

10.5 Haddington 700 programme: Alan Blackie gave a talk to S4 pupils – they are hoping to be involved with this initiative.

10.6 ‘National Year of Young People’: John McMillan reminded us that this is the theme for 2018 – hoping that the schools can be involved.

10.7 Xmas concert/S6 panto: these to be held on Dec 19th and 21st Dec respectively

All 3 councillors pointed out that the Knox does great things and everyone is very proud of all the young people who get involved. John McMillan also thanked Robert Flood for the amount of work and effort he puts in, much appreciated.

11. Planning Applications

11.1 Anaerobic Digester: Paul submitted our comments on this as discussed at the last meeting – no reply as yet

11.2 Town Hall Clock: local resident Alan Shearin asked to speak at the meeting regarding this matter and quoted an article in the Courier which stated that an ELC representative has said they are ‘checking if the bell was still ringing’. It also said that the bell should ring at 7am and 10pm for 2 minutes each time but that it hasn’t rung for some time – is there going to be something done about this. The article in the Courier was very vague and did not really address the issue. He also wanted to know who decided it should only ring for 2 minutes (when historically it rang for 10 minutes) – the councillors in attendance did not have any knowledge of this. Alan also pointed out that the north face has been stuck at 4.20pm for a long time.

Councillors were in agreement that something should be done so will look into this and report back.

12. Correspondence – all details emailed to members

13. Haddington Community Development Trust - no update available

14. Events Group meeting

14.1 Xmas lights ceremony: this went really well – many thanks to the men who helped put the lights up. Morgwn agreed – he thought they were the best the town had seen. Chris said they did have some minor issues, one being the vandalism of a set in the High Street and one set in Whittingham Drive keeps being knocked by parking lorries. Also, one of the new sets was faulty when we received them so the lighting company will repair them.

15. Blooming Haddington (BH)

15.1 Update:

KMPs: the school will be on the judging route this year – hoping that a representative from the school will attend their meetings.

Planting (bulbs etc): volunteers have been busy planting around 50 thousand bulbs in various locations

Award: John McMillan told the meeting that the Rotary Club gave Rab an award and the local voluntary group Strive awarded him the title of ‘Volunteer of the Year’. Rab thanked both of them and also thanked John for all his work on the Thistles

16. Area Partnership (AP) – No update available

17. AOCB - none

Date of next Meeting: Tuesday 9th January 2018 in **Council Chambers, Town House** at 7.00pm.

Outstanding Matters Arising from previous minutes

2013

14/5 Waste bins in High St (14/6/16 - no feedback yet)

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

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)

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

2016

12/1 Newton Port - traffic survey?

10/5 Speed bumps - Monkrigg Road
Meadowpark - loose speed bump
Wheelie-bins in High Street
Whittingham Drive - state of the road surface
Hospital Road - congestion

11/10 Newton Port pavements
Poles in town centre - christmas lights
Bench at bottom of High Street

10/12 Street furniture – state of disrepair
Overhanging trees at Hilton Lodge
Lamp House Music – disrepair of road surfaces
Market St Pharmacy – mirror for sight lines
Slip road at Abbotsview – litter

2017

14/2 Roads issues: pole in pavement, Pencaitland Rd, diversion signs, dumped cones etc
Athelstaneford: speeding signs, signage at cemetery

11/4 Lights out on Nungate Bridge

13/6 Ball Alley – pole sticking up
Tyne Walkway – flooding(behind St Mary's)

10/10 Curfew Bells
Street lighting not working (Hosp Rd, Oaktree roundabout)
Traders licence – concession available

12/12 Station Court – disrepair of the road

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

Pot Holes: Ideal Garage junction, Stevenson, West Road surfaces, Whittingham Drive

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