

Royal Burgh of Haddington and District Community Council Minutes of meeting 14th November 2017 in Council Chambers

Jan Wilson (Chair), Ruth Moncrieff (Secretary), Haig Hamilton, Betty Sommerville, Fiona McEwan, Chris McEwan, Rab Moran, Paul Darling

In attendance

Cllr Tom Trotter, Cllr John McMillan, Robert Flood (KA), Fergus Dickson (head pupil KA), Cara Morrison (deputy head pupil KA), Cameron Ritchie (Courier), Anna Faulkner (minutes' secretary).

2. Apologies: Cllr Shamin Akhtar, Cllr Brian Small, John Hamilton, Graham Samuel, Fiona-Frances Adam, PC Lynn Black

3. Community Council Applicants

Morgwyn Davies – has been a resident of East Lothian for 14 years and now that recently retired wishes to get involved with the community. He has the usual concerns about developments vs lack of resources. Also has experience of sitting on corporate bodies. After a very brief discussion it was unanimously decided he be asked to join the CC.

4. Guest Speakers – Pat Lemmon and Lorraine Dickson

Lorraine and Pat have been involved in the Events Group for the past few years, covering all the Christmas events, fireworks and the festival. They attend tonight to voice their disappointment at the amount of paperwork they are being asked to complete for each event – it is becoming unacceptable and taking up a lot of time (Lorraine has worked out she has spent at least 40 hours dealing with all the requests by the council). All the members of the EG are volunteers and give their time for the community but feel it is becoming too much and will eventually result in volunteers giving up and if this happens the community events will disappear. They come tonight to request that the council look at this and consider providing some help, perhaps in the form of a dedicated person to help with the paperwork. Other problems encountered include the lack of barriers for the parade (despite them being ordered they were not delivered in time), ongoing problems with traders' licences, problems with the erection of the Christmas lights and problems on the night of the fireworks. Basically they are saying they feel let down by the council and are asking for help and support - they are aware that the council budgets are stretched but this is becoming too much for the volunteers to deal with. Pat pointed out that the EG was formed the year after there were no Christmas lights in the town and have become one of the most successful groups in East Lothian.

John McMillan said he was not aware of these problems and has already put in a request regarding the Traders Licence. He pointed out that ELC have a duty to make sure Health & Safety issues are in place but he will look into this and report back. Tom also said that the work and effort put in by the CC and sub groups is very much appreciated and we don't want to lose any community events – to that end he will see if any help could be available. *Action JMcM/TT*

Jan wanted to note her thanks to Louise Begbie, the Knox pupils and to the Rotary for all their help with the Armistice Day parade.

Planning - Bangley Quarry proposal for an Anaerobic Digester (AD): concerned local residents were at the meeting to discuss these proposals. An AD processes food waste, slurry, manure and waste from homes and farms. This results in less being deposited in landfill. The local residents included David Cockerton, owner of Garleton Lodge who spoke to the meeting to voice their concerns which included increase in traffic (approx. 22 lorries per hour). The road leading to the quarry is a 'C' class road and unsuitable for this volume. They were also concerned about the odours which could be created. This proposal is projected as very 'green' but the carbon footprint would be huge, so counterproductive. It was felt that this was more suited to an industrial site and not in the middle of the countryside. David said they are most concerned and suggest it requires to be called in by the councillors and a full public consultation be held. After much discussion it was suggested David write to the CC detailing all their concerns – residents left the meeting. The CC had a discussion and agreed that the increase in traffic was a major concern but that the process was a good idea. A show of hands amounted to 6 in favour and 2 members plus the Chair objecting. It was agreed that we take the comments from the residents and add our own to reflect this and agree that the increase in traffic is not acceptable. Jan also said that Garleton Lodge has the best views in East Lothian and their objections were understandable.

5. Minutes of 12th September and 10th October 2017

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

Approval of the Oct minutes was proposed by Chris and seconded by Fiona McE

6. Matters arising - none

7. Treasurers Report – details already emailed to all members

7.1 WW1 memorial: Paul said that the budget for the thistles has come in at £121 over original budget. It was agreed to pay the extra.

8. Honoraria – deferred to next meeting

9. Councillors Corner

9.1 Skatepark: Betty said that it has been noted that cracks have appeared in the concrete – worried for the children playing there.

9.2 Monksmeans (speedbumps): Paul asked about these again – Tom said there were no plans as yet to replace them but will attend to any damage.

9.3 Junction at Lyn Lea Ave/Whittingham Drive: Chris asked if the hedges could be cut back – the overgrowth requires cars to swerve out at the corner and is an accident waiting to happen.

9.4 Bollards: Jan said that the bollards on the road at the new Letham Development leading to the Oaktree roundabout need to be cleaned so they are more visible.

9.5 Public concern: Chris said that he has, on many occasions, been stopped by members of the public who feel that Haddington has been forgotten about – general bad condition of roads, lights out etc. Tom said that they take note of all comments and that the council are involved in many things and have to be fair to all. There are forums set up for comment where the public can have their say and all items that are justified will be taken forward. Jan thanked the councillors and agreed that it can't be easy for them given all the cutbacks but we do appreciate their help. John McM also gave a run down on a number of projects ELC have been involved in including: skatepark, Neilson Park Tennis courts, addition to schools, town centre investment, Blooming Haddington, CDT, Haddington 50th Festival Anniversary, Local Area Partnership to name a few. He also said that the Community Empowerment Bill will give more say to the community and they will be more actively involved in what happens in their area. He also pointed out one of their biggest investments which is the community hospital being built to replace Roodlands.

9.6 Feedback from Tom (from previous meeting): Item 7.3 Oaktree lights out: this has been sorted. 8.2 Curfew Bell: has chased this up but no response as yet. Item 7.5: traders' licence – this has been spoken about earlier but a meeting will be held to gain some clarity.

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

10.1 CAPP meeting:

CAPP priorities identified

1. Hi visibility foot patrols within Haddington town centre by community police officers in relation to recent shoplifting incidents

2. Attention to be given during licensed premises dispersal time in Cross Lane, Haddington, and surrounding streets in relation to urinating, antisocial behaviour and general disturbances.

3. Cont. Attention to be given to youth related antisocial behaviour at Knox Academy playing fields

11. Knox Academy News

11.1 Poppy Scotland: Fergus reported that collections have taken place within the school as well as in businesses, including Tesco. Full figure collected not yet available but over £1000 was raised in the first weekend.

11.2 Coffee afternoon: Cara said that they held a coffee morning for veterans which included home baking. They all came in their uniforms and had a tour of the school – a very enjoyable morning had by all.

11.3 HCDT: senior pupil Fraser Wright has volunteered to sit on the CDT and has already attended a meeting.

11.4 Christmas Funday/Armistice service: pupils were involved in both events which went very well

11.5 Children in Need: activities arranged around the school to raise funds for this event

11.6 50th Anniversary of Festival: Robert said the school are keen to be involved – will have representative attend the next festival meeting (4th Tuesday in month – next meeting in January 2018)

11.7 Young Achievers award: Robert will send all the details to Ruth

Action Robert

Jan thanked those involved from Knox – very grateful for all their help throughout the year.

12. Planning Applications (Bangley Quarry – discussed at the beginning of the meeting)

13. Correspondence

13.1 Thank you letters from Patrick Gammel and John McMillan re the Armistice Day parade

13.2 Thank you from Margaret Ingle for her flowers and write-up in the Courier on her resignation from the CC.

13.3 Provosts Reception: invite from John McMillan to the reception on 14th December at 7pm in the Saltire Rooms. Rab and possibly new member Morgwyn will attend.

13.4 Letter from Scottish Flag Trust re public exhibition in the JG Centre from 13th Jan 2018 – free entry

14. Haddington Community Development Trust – *no update available as Paul has resigned and Calum has not been able to attend the meeting*

15. Events Group meeting – *meeting to be held next week so update will follow then*

16. Blooming Haddington (BH)

16.1 Update:

AGM: this has been held with the following office bearers agreed – Chair Laura Samuel, Vice-chair Claire Scott, Treasurer Louise Begbie and Secretary Emily Armatage

Recent activities: Rab reported that they have been busy tidying up the memorial garden, putting compost round the heathers at the monument and have been at KMP showing the kids how to plant garlic. They have also been planting up round the schools.

17. Area Partnership (AP) Update

17.1 AGM: this was held on 2nd Nov at Roodlands site. This was open to everyone and a guided tour of the new hospital was included.

18. AOCB

18.1 Santa run: the date to be confirmed but will probably be Sunday 17th December.

Date of next Meeting: Tuesday 12th December 2017 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, Dunderpender 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 – still being investigated

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)