

Royal Burgh of Haddington and District Community Council

Minutes of meeting 9th June 2020, 7pm (meeting held online)

1.Sederunt

Jan Wilson (Chair), Chris McEwan (Vice Chair), Fiona McEwan (Secretary), John Hamilton (Treasurer), Pat Lemmon, Jim Graham, Fiona-Frances Adam, Paul Darling, Erica Muirhead, Morgwyn Davies, Rab Moran

In attendance

Cllr Tom Trotter, Cllr Craig Hoy, Cllr Shamin Akhtar, Cameron Ritchie (Courier), Anna Faulkner (minutes' secretary).

2. Apologies: none

One-minute silence was observed for those lives lost due to Covid-19

3. Minutes of 10th March

Approval of the minutes was proposed by Pat Lemmon and seconded by Erica Muirhead

4. Matters arising

4.1 Town Centre Proposals: much debate ensued regarding the currently situation and the complication added with the current Covid 19 crisis and its impact on the town. Erica wanted to know what the council are doing by way of ensuring distancing measures are adhered to as regards outside spaces etc. There are major concerns that the council are still pushing ahead with the plans, along with the ones for Whittingham Drive – of which the members and town residents are very much against. It is deemed wholly inappropriate to continue this whilst dealing with the ongoing pandemic. Pat asked the views of the MSP's and MP's from the last meeting – it was agreed that this should be delayed. Pat said she has already written to the FM suggesting this was not the time to pursue such a project in Haddington. Craig also said that there should not be any major changes to the town whilst dealing with the current situation although they may have to look at the width of pavements to comply with social distancing measures. Jim added that the main focus should be on supporting local businesses and the hospitality industry who have been badly affected. John McM said that the council have been very supportive and have made substantial payments in the way of grants to local businesses etc – they are doing as much as they can.

In summary the CC are completely opposed to the current plans. They will continue to take action against them and will take legal advice should that be necessary. The pushing ahead with these plans has caused the local business community a huge amount of stress during this unprecedented pandemic.

John McM said that the council has declared this an emergency and has been taking the appropriate action to respond as such. Lots of work still to be done during the recovery phase with an acknowledgement that budgets may have to be reallocated and priorities changed.

4.2 Covid 19: Jan wanted to give her thanks and appreciation to the Resilience team (namely Chris, Fiona and Pat) for all their work. They have worked continually with the team of volunteers to support the most vulnerable residents. She also added the Pat Moncreiff has donated £1800 from the Church of Christ to the resilience group – many thanks for her for this kind donation. Also thanks to OCK for all their support – making and delivering food to the community (thanks also to Rab for his involvement with this). Thanks to all those involved with the lending library which was set up for people to access books, jigsaws, games etc. A huge thanks to all involved.

4.3 ELCH - tribute: Pat reported that a sub group has been set up (which includes herself, Paul Kinnock, Lorraine Dickson, Liz McDougal, Stacey from Maitlandfield and the HBCP). They are looking to fundraise to enable them to supply a clock for the entrance to the ELCH as a thanks for all their support during the covid crisis. They are in discussions with the health board about this. They are hoping to set up a crowd funding page to this end.

Also, as part of the recognition to those who have stepped up during the past few months they are discussing holding some sort of music festival, a kids party and also an awards ceremony. All the volunteers and organisers have done an amazing job and this should be recognised.

5. Treasurers Report: Community Council Accounts, May 2020

Accounts totals for month

- CC BoS Account balance: £8,786.77 as of 27/4/2020 (£3,875 net total after pending payments, and 1 pending cheque(s))
- Events Group TSB balance: £1,952.93 as of 24/4/2020 (-£200 cheque(s) pending)
- Held in cash-box: £294.32 as of 20/4/2020
(CC cash = £134.79, Events cash = £159.53)

Highlights

- COVID cost to date, from CC account, is currently standing at £659.98.
- With the cancellation of this year's Festival due to the Corona virus lockdown, the £1500 for Events has been unpledged.
- £840 paid to Allan Clelland Blacksmith for Xmas pole racking installed into garage.
- Yearly CC web hosting fees paid - £56.19
- £2000 donation received from Corrora Foundation for COVID community work – showing in CC BoS Account Balance.

CC BoS Account transaction highlights, since last report

- Committee decision was made to pay the secretarial fees for April as it also includes Anna's time to prepare the minutes, not just attending the meetings. Payment retrospectively made for month of April.
- Payment of monthly secretarial fees.
- Yearly CC web hosting fees paid - £56.19
- £2000 donation received from Corrora Foundation for COVID community work.

Events Group TSB Account transaction highlights, since last report

- £840 paid to Allan Clelland Blacksmith for Xmas pole racking installed into garage.
- Secretarial payment retrospectively made for month of April, see above.
- Payment of monthly secretarial fees.

Local Priorities Account transaction highlights, since last report

- No Local Priorities grant received from Council this year so far – suspect COVID related.

Cash transaction highlights, since last report (CC: from CC cash, EC: from Events Cash)

- <nothing to report> apart from ongoing secretarial payments to Anna.

Local Priorities summary

COMMUNITY COUNCIL LOCAL PRIORITY SCHEME					
BUDGET 2019/20					
HADDINGTON	Budget	Activity	Committed	Spent	Remaining
2019/20 budget	£11,480				
Admin budget	£1,181				£0.00
					£0.00
					£0.00
Total Budget	£12,661				£0.00
					£0.00
					£0.00
					£0.00
					£0.00
					£0.00
					£0.00
					£0.00
					£0.00
					£0.00
					£0.00
					£0.00
					£0.00
					£0.00
		Total Committed			£0.00
Total Uncommitted	£0.00				

6. HBCP (Hadd Business Community Partnership)

6.1 Timeline for businesses opening: Erica asked if there was a proposed date for businesses to re-open. John McM said they were hoping for an announcement by FM next week. He also said a meeting had been held to discuss plans around furlough, redundancy, renewal, recovery phase etc. He will send out the minutes of this meeting. **Action JMcM**

6.2 Moving forward/update/recovery: Recycling centres are now open, plus golf courses. Tom said that these are strange times and social distancing measures will probably be with us for some time to come – are the businesses

comfortable opening up. Erica reiterated that they are currently working at adapting premises to comply with the distancing rules etc. John McM also pointed out that environmental officers are on hand to offer help and advice. Craig also added that there has been an expansion of the criteria around grants and that businesses should not assume they are not entitled but should pursue as there is help out there. Economic Development department are the people to contact, also the Business Gateway.

7. Knox Academy Update – no update avail

8. Blooming Haddington – update from Rab

8.1 Hanging Baskets/planters: planning on having these up by the end of the month

8.2 Fundraising: continue to work at this

9. Councillors Corner

9.1 Resilience teams: Chris asked councillors if the council had any plans to start winding down these teams. They have been working away for the last 3 months helping residents with shopping, collecting prescriptions and generally giving much needed support to those who have been shielding etc. The pool of volunteers however has diminished as people go back to their own jobs and therefore the bulk of the work now falls to fewer people. Chris suggested that the council should now be taking over more of the contact, particularly with the local businesses. Shamin added her heartfelt thanks to all the volunteers. Pat also added that Sandie and Kevin have also been a fantastic support to the resilience teams. Jan added that she has benefited from manning the phone and being able to speak to people during this time. John McM acknowledged the huge amount of work and effort that has been shown and will feed all this back to the council.

9.2 Recycling: Morgwyn asked if the kerbside uplifts will be resuming as the centres are not accepting cardboard. John McM will check. John H added that they are accepting electrical and garden waste. It was also suggested that there will be a monthly uplift of the brown bins.

9.3 Memorial park: it was disappointing to see that there has been vandalism of the BLM posters at the park. There was a complaint that this is disrespectful of the movement – John McM was disappointed those responsible had not gone to the council who would have been supportive of the cause and probably supported a demo. They are happy to have a chat about this – Tom agreed.

10. Police Questions – no police in attendance but report available

John McM said that serious crime reports are down.

Some complaints of speeding in the West Road and also problems with the new traffic lights at Gateside development.

Usual problems with dog dirt and litter in the town.

Craig added that there had been a significant seizure of drugs recently – he reiterated the message ‘if you see it, report it’

10.1 CAPP priorities

1. Parking in the areas around the Haddington primary schools during the prohibition times.
2. Youth issues within Neilson Park.
3. Anti Social Behaviour in and around Ross’s Close, Haddington

Next meeting: no date given

11. Planning Applications

11.1 Red Flame Dance premises, Newton Port: Paul reported an application had been placed for creation of four flats on these premises. This has subsequently been withdrawn.

11.2 Survey: Paul asked all the members to go onto ELC planning site and complete the survey, making sure you read the questions carefully and answer appropriately.

11.3 Tyne Close: the application to build small industrial site has been passed.

12. Correspondence - none

13. Haddington Community Development Trust

13.1 Update: it was thought that the trust has still not disbanded. Jack (who is not at tonight’s meeting) had previously said that they are thought to be holding a virtual AGM. Pat has spoken to Joanna regarding the website – important to keep this up to date as a tool to encourage visitors to the town.

14. Events Group

14.1 Nothing much to report apart from the need to look for a possible venue for 'Christmas in Haddington' as Corn Exchange will not be available.

15. Area Partnership (AP) – nothing to report

16. AOCB

16.1 **Association of East Lothian Community Councils:** Chris has agreed to be the representative for Haddington area.

Date of next Meeting: Tuesday 14th July 2020 in **Council Chambers, Town House** at 7.00pm.

It was discussed and members agreed that as we had missed April and May meetings that we would continue to meet throughout the summer months (ie July and Aug). Due to social distancing these meetings will probably take place online and not in the Town House

Outstanding Matters Arising from previous minutes

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

Traders licence – concession available

12/12

Station Court – disrepair of the road

2018

Feb

Wynd by Leisure Time - ?signage
Road by car park – Nungate Bridge
Mill Wynd – tree stump at corner -? Removal

March

Whittingham Drive
Unlit bollard at PO/Gateside development
Traffic lights at Ideal Garage junction – sequencing

May

Hardgate – parking spaces
Victoria Terrace – double lines on pavements

June

Dog bin at golf course

2019

June

Sunken drain at Tesco entrance

Nov

Sandbags

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

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

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