

Royal Burgh of Haddington and District Community Council

Minutes of meeting 8th Sept 2020, 7pm (meeting held online)

1. Sederunt

Jan Wilson (Chair), Fiona McEwan (Secretary), John Hamilton (Treasurer), Pat Lemmon, Paul Darling, Erica Muirhead, Morgwn Davies, Rab Moran, Theresa Laing, Graham Samuel, Jim Graham, Fiona-Frances Adam

In attendance

Cllr Craig Hoy, Cllr Shamin Akhtar, Cllr Tom Trotter, Robert Flood (KA), Thomas Guy (KA), Cameron Ritchie (Courier), Anna Faulkner (minutes' secretary).

2. Apologies: John McMillan

Jan welcomed back Robert Flood and also new pupil rep Thomas Guy from Knox Academy. On behalf of the CC Jan thanked all from KA for their help and input over the past year.

Resignation: another note before the meeting started was to inform the CC that Chris McEwan has sadly decided to resign. Jan would like to offer him a leave of absence, in the hope that with a few months' break he may change his mind. All were in agreement with this. Tom added that he also hopes he does come back and wanted to record his thanks to him and to all the CC members. Shamin echoed this.

3. Minutes of 11th August

Approval of the minutes was proposed by Pat Lemmon and seconded by Jim Graham

4. Matters arising

4.1 Item 4.1 Resilience Team: confirmation that this has now finished

5. Treasurers Report: Community Council Accounts, Sept 2020

Account balance for month

- CC BoS Account balance: £28,198.03* as of 28/8/2020 (£4,836 pending payments, £4K junction boxes, £500 food/clothes, others cheques)
(the above balance includes the ring fenced Lending library and Food and clothes voucher grants, excluding Cash box monies)
- *Lending Library monies £2,369.29 as of 31/8/2020 (this figure included in the CC BoS Account balance above)
- *Food/Clothes voucher monies £1,750.00 as of 31/8/2020 (this figure inclusive of the CC BoS Account and CC Cash box balances)
- Events Group TSB balance: £1,952.93 as of 31/8/2020 (No activities in last 5 months, hence date showing - No cheque(s) pending.)
- Held in cash-box: £643.32 as of 31/8/2020 (CC cash = £583.79 (incl Food and Clothes monies), Events cash = £59.53)

Highlights

- No significant highlights.

CC BoS Account transaction highlights, since last report

- Payment of £50 monthly secretarial fees.
- £6 Direct Debit payment for monthly charge of Resilience mobile phone.
- £90 payment for qty 2 VJ day wreaths.
- £246 payment made to Lady Haig for this year's Qty 6 wreaths.

Lending Library - £2,975 ring fenced within CC account: £605.71 spent to date leaving £2,369 remaining.

- No new transaction recorded.

Food and Clothes Voucher - £2,550 ring fenced within CC account: £800* spent to date leaving £1,750 remaining.

* This figure doesn't include the £250 used from the Pat Moncrieff donation. This section only reports on the Grant monies.

- £50 donation received from Bridge Centre, showing in £2,550 figure in this section's title field.
- £50 paid to Pat Lemmon for emergency payments
- £500 withdrawn and paid to Pat in 2 instalments (28/8 and 31/8) to be held by Doug Haig in Bridge Centre
- Additional £500 withdrawn from CC account and being held in CC cash box for quick access by project team.

Events Group TSB Account transaction highlights, since last report

- <Events meetings currently suspended>

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

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

6. HBCP (Hadd Business Community Partnership)

6.1 Update: Erica reported that an email has been received from Morag to confirm that the Town Centre plans are on hold for the time being.

There is going to be a temporary no right turn at the junction at The Green, heading into Hope Park.

They are also looking at the possibility of electric bikes for the town. Some have reservations about how much they will be used – further information will be forthcoming. Theresa also wondered if the town centre was the right location for them – targets for vandalism.

Banners are planned for the town entrances with info on what avail in the town.

'Shop Local' scheme is the preferred option and not a Gift Card – the shopkeepers were in agreement with this.

Recovery Group: Pat mentioned the email from John McM who is keen to set up an economic recovery committee to replace the recovery group – Pat interested in being a part of this. It was decided that Pat and Graham be on this committee.

7. Knox Academy Update

7.1 Pupil Repts: Robert introduced Thomas to the meeting. He is also hopeful to have some more pupils involved going forward. Jan asked them how they were feeling being back at school – overall they are pretty positive and feel safe with the measures that are in place (hand washing, regular cleaning, wearing masks when moving around the school etc). Robert said they are also encouraged to go outside during break time (weather permitting). No visitors are allowed in the school at present and no trips are planned. They are hoping to be able to introduce extra-curricula activities eventually.

7.2 Poppy Scotland: Robert has been in touch with them for this year.

7.3 Community Support: Robert wanted to thank the CC for all their support to the local community during the restrictions in place since March – they have all done such an amazing job and at such short notice. Great work by all those involved, particularly Chris, Fiona, Pat, Rab and Graham – all very much appreciated. Erica agreed, pleased to see great friendships form and welcome input from some of the new residents. Shamin agreed and also added that the school have been working hard to get the pupils back – many thanks to all involved.

8. Blooming Haddington (BH)

8.1 Rab reported general weeding and tidying ongoing around the town including the memorial garden, lady kitty's and the oriental garden. He continues to water all the baskets and planters. Not yet sure when the baskets will be taken down. Craig mentioned that the baskets have been highly commended and many thanks to Rab and all those involved with BH. Jan echoed these sentiments.

9. Councillors Corner

9.1 Requests to join zoom meeting: Jan mentioned that we have had requests from Helen Robertson, David Barrett and Graham McGregor to join our zoom meeting. It was agreed that this would be possible (as it would be if we were in the Town House) – they would be able to sit in on the meeting and speak at the discretion of the Chair. We have taken advice on this from Caitlin McRory – the host is able to control the meeting and mute if necessary. Graham also suggested we should take legal advice on this matter. Jan suggested a meeting (with herself, Shamin, Caitlin and Graham) to discuss further.

Action Jan

9.2 Budget: Pat has had a request from a member of the public re ELC 7 million pound deficit – she wondered if they would be publishing this information. Shamin said she would send out a copy of the last report – basically this comes about due to extra costs with cleaning, extra buses for school travel etc. *Action Shamin*

Jan wondered if they would be able to recoup any of these extra expenses. Shamin said that the education groups have all written to John Swinney to say they need extra support – no response as yet. They will also be writing to the First Minister.

9.3 Redirection of monies: John H asked why the money for Whittingham Drive has been redirected to Preston Tower – Tom Trotter explained that it was not a like for like situation and Shamin suggested she is happy that the money is being put to good use. Although, Jan asked why it had to go out-with Haddington when there are plenty of areas which could have made use of this - Mitchells Close being one such area of need. Tom agreed and said that this area is certainly getting looked at now. On this note Jan said that all the close's need attention – the one behind Tesco could be developed. Erica also added that many pavements need attention – particularly outside the Oxfam shop, where pools of water gather. The drains down the middle of the pavements are also a real trip hazard.

9.4 Site visit/walk around: Pat suggested a site visit to walk around the town centre would be helpful. She also said it was a cause for celebration that the plans for Whittingham Drive have been shelved for the time being. Jan thanked ELC for listening to the people and putting a halt to this. Moving forward there needs to be a degree of clarity on the next steps for the town centre and doing a walk around will help to do this. As town centre liaison officers Pat and Graham agreed on this – Graham also suggested this should be open to the business association too. Tom suggested that they do this and make a plan of action before involving officials.

9.5 John McMillan update (email):

Council Activity

During the last few weeks I have chaired a Council meeting at which the actions of ELC staff and all volunteers were praised and today there was a Cabinet meeting when the WD project was discussed and a decision made to use the funding for Preston Tower. Planning Committee has now met thrice, and Licensing Committees will resume this month.

The 'Stay Safe, support local and love East Lothian' campaign continues with a social media and print campaign to attract visitors to EL in Scotsman and Evening News, and separate campaigns to promote golf, food and drink, and the EL Gift Card, alongside Visit East Lothian tweets and videos.

The Connected Economy Group continues to meet and works with partners to promote East Lothian, Footfall is being measured in Haddington.

Reports from around Scotland report variances- down by 30% in some cases and up by 15% in others.

There continues to be concern throughout the country for a new wave of the virus. Shamin is best placed to report on schools and other Councillors have been involved in Spaces for People.

Officers have replied to queries on Mitchell's Close – drainage issues, repairs to buildings, general upkeep of the Close, and possible future changes, as well as a plaque to tell the story of the renovation of the buildings.

Problem Solving Partnership will meet on Friday.

My personal thanks to Chris, on hearing that he has resigned.

10. Police Questions – report received from PC Derek MacDonald

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: date to be confirmed

10.2 The Haddington PSP continues. Numerous targeted patrols have been carried out by both uniformed and plain clothes officers and work is continuing alongside ELC Housing and ASB teams. Shamin said they are investigating virtual meetings of the PSP. Jan asked for the link. *Action Shamin*

11. Planning Applications

11.1 Care Home development: as well as a care home there are plans for a new nursery at Gateside

12. Correspondence – all sent to members via email

12.1 Email correspondence: there has been a large number of emails received recently from David Barrett regarding Mitchell's Close. It was suggested, after consultation with Caitlin and Shamin, that we invite those involved to an online meeting to discuss.

13. Haddington Community Development Trust

13.1 Update: Jack reported that a meeting had been held over zoom with the main outcome being confirmation they will be disbanding.

Funds - one key issue going forward are the funds left over. There were various suggestions where this should go included ELC, a chosen charity, Hadd Stock, the comm council, OCK, clothing/food voucher scheme to name a few. It was agreed we need to have more discussion on this matter. In the meantime Jack asked Pat to send him the details on the voucher scheme and he will pass it on to the CDT.

Action Pat

Morgwn added that as it was not our money then why are we getting involved in the discussion – Jan explained that it was public money and therefore we have a right to comment.

Website - it was agreed that it was an excellent website and we should somehow aim to keep it running - some ideas included involving the school pupils and our current web manager (Pete Lugton). After much discussion it was agreed we need to keep it going as it is a great resource for the town.

Summary – it was agreed a meeting to be arranged between CDT chair, Pete, Alistair Bruce, Jack, Jan and Graham to discuss all the above.

Action Graham

14. Events Group

14.1 Christmas lights: Pat was concerned about the lights for this year given that Chris has stepped down. She suggested we get in touch with Steven to see if he is able to help again this year. Jan will get in touch with Steven. Rab also asked if there would be a Christmas tree. Pat said there must be lights and a tree for Christmas! Also hopeful for a 2nd tree at the Nungate Community Centre.

15. Area Partnership (AP)

15.1 A meeting is being held tonight therefore at this time there is no update. Shamin asked if there is a representative from the CC on this cttee. It was confirmed there are 2 spaces - Paul and either Graham or Pat. Pat said they have been receiving correspondence from them.

16. AOCB

16.1 Association of Comm Councils: Chris was the CC rep on this – Paul agreed to take his place now that he has resigned.

Date of next Meeting: Tuesday 13th October 2020 online at 7.00pm.

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)