

**Minutes of the Gifford Community Council Meeting held
14th November 2016 in the Todrick Room, Gifford Village Hall**

Present	Jo Allen (Chair) Wendy Ferguson	Nick Morgan Adam White	David Griffiths Andrew Hamilton
In Attendance	Cllr Broun-Lindsay	5 members of the public	
Apologies	Craig McLachlan Cllr Trotter	Alex Renton	Cllr McMillan

1 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of 10th October 2016 were agreed as correct. Proposed AW, seconded DG.

2 Matters Arising

- 2.1 Yester Estate Deer Fence. Adam W has been unable to find a date to meet with representatives of the estate, but is intending to do so soon. There was much discussion about the legality of the fence. It was reported that new gates were going in on the track leading from the Yester Mains road. Nick has previously met with the estate and is aware of various plans they have for public access. He has suggested they produce an Access Management Plan so that the public can be made aware of what they intend to do. Nick will check out the gates on the track and print out a map showing the core path to go on the notice board. **ACTION: AW, NM**
- 2.2 Dave reported that some pointing has been done on the wall around the Pound, but that there are still a couple of stones missing and more pointing required. Wendy reported that two quotes are being sought for repointing of the war memorial. Nick will chase up Property Services about repair work on the Pound and Kirk walls. **ACTION: NM**
- 2.3 Jo has spoken to Bruce Allison of Amenity Services about the ramps into the Bleachfield. They were going to look at them. After much discussion it was decided that Jo would contact Bruce again to say that the Community Council has voted to have the ramp nearest the toilets removed and grip strips added to the other ramp. Some vegetation clearance around the slabs leading towards the toilets is required. **ACTION: JA**
- 2.4 Dave has contacted the Council about the state of the path between Station Road and Tweeddale Crescent. He is still waiting for a response from them.

3 External Reports

- 3.1 Police** - No report has been received from the police.
- 3.2 East Lothian Council** - There was nothing to report from Cllr Broun-Lindsay

4 Internal Reports

4.1 Roads, Lighting and Signs - There have been no reports of any new potholes. ELC are planning to resurface Park Crescent on 21st November. Five street lights have been repaired, but there is now one out on Walden Terrace. Still waiting for ELC to put up new weight limit signs on the Station Road bridge.

4.1.1 There has been concern about various advertising signs around the village. Dave contacted the Council and the tarmac company that had left a trailer-sign in the Square. This was moved as a consequence. Jo has contacted Planning to ask what the rules and regulations are regarding such signs. They are going to look into it and get back to her.

4.2 Planning - There have been four planning applications in the area in the last month:

4.2.1 Change of use of agricultural shed at Castlemains. No concerns.

4.2.2 Alterations to Gifford Bank Cottage. No concerns.

4.2.3 New shed on Park Crescent. No concerns.

4.2.4 11Kv electricity line upgrade, Haddington to Baxtersyke. No concerns.

4.3 Finance - The balance stands at £7,128.

4.3.1 Tennis court funding. This had been held in the Community Council account. £1,750 has been paid to the consultant, so there are no longer any tennis court funds held by the Community Council.

4.4 Area Partnership - There was a public meeting on 25th October to consult with the public about the priorities they wanted the Area Partnership to consider. This was poorly attended, but hopefully some good results were obtained.

4.4.1 There is an annual public meeting on 22nd November at 7pm in the Townhouse, Haddington. All encouraged to attend to help influence the short and long-term actions for the local plan and to hear about the projects that the area partnership has already helped with.

4.4.2 There was much discussion about how the area partnership could possibly fund some form of speed restriction in Gifford. Everyone was encouraged to take their views to the meeting on the 22nd November.

5 Christmas Tree - Wendy had been in touch with Stuart Pryde about the Community Council's desire to plant a permanent Christmas tree outside the church. He was not happy about planting a permanent tree, as it would interfere with grass cutting, be in the way for the memorial service and block the view from the bench. ELC have agreed to provide and erect a tree for us this Christmas free of charge. In the future they can provide a tree for about £100.

5.1 Adam said that if the Community Woodland bid is successful they may be able to provide a tree each year for the village.

6 Web Site - It was agreed that it is important to ensure that the web site is kept up-to-date and relevant. The various businesses, groups and school should be asked for up-to-date information to go on there and the pictures need to be renewed. Jo will ask on Gifford Families if there is anyone who would like to take it on. Possibly this could be done as a student project by a Knox Academy pupil. Jo knows who used to run the web site, so will ask if there is any historical information that can be transferred onto the new site. **ACTION: JA**

- 7 Civic Pride Fund** - Nick had previously circulated an e-mail about the Civic Pride Fund. This offers up to £1,500 to Community Councils for projects that enhance the area. Nick has asked Stuart Pryde if we could apply for benches and this would be possible, although there would be no guarantee of funding as the fund is always over-subscribed. Andrew offered to take on this funding application. **ACTION: AH**
- 8 Correspondence** - An invitation to attend the Scotways AGM on 19th November has been received.
- 9 AOCB**
- 9.1 Rita, along with Beryl and Bill have bought bulbs to put in the planters at the entrances to the village. These cost £35. The Community Council thanked them for their efforts.
- 9.2 Adam W said there had been another fundraising event for the Community Woodland, which raised £770. The grant application has been submitted and they should hear if they have been successful by the end of the month. There will be a Christmas tea on 10th December to raise more money. The group are looking for donations of clothes and toys for a sale.
- 9.3 Andrew H reported that it looks as though the only possible location for tennis courts would be in the Bleachfield. There are, however, a number of issues to overcome, such as potentially having to move the football pitch, drainage, blocking views, etc. He will need to consult with ELC and SEPA to ask about the suitability of these sites.
- 9.4 Dave reported that someone has been dumping building rubble in the litter bins. If anyone sees anyone doing this please take the registration number of the vehicle.
- 9.5 There has been a lot of dog mess on the pavement along Duns Road up from the Coop. This is particularly hazardous with the poor lighting along that pavement. Jo will contact the Councils Community Wardens who may be able to put up posters and patrol the area. **ACTION: JA**
- 10 Date of next meeting** - 7:30 on December 13th in the Todrick Room, Gifford Village Hall.