

**Minutes of the Gifford Community Council Meeting held
12th December 2016 in the Todrick Room, Gifford Village Hall**

Present	Craig McLachlan (Chair) David Griffiths Andrew Hamilton	Jo Allen Wendy Ferguson Alex Renton	Nick Morgan Adam White
In Attendance	Cllr Tom Trotter	4 members of the public	
Apologies	Cllr Ludovic Broun-Lindsay	Cllr John McMillan	PC Lynn Black

1 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of 14th November 2016 were agreed as correct. Proposed AH, seconded AW.

2 Matters Arising

2.1 Nick has produced a map of the core paths in Yester Estate to put on the notice board.

2.1.1 The owner and estate manager of Yester Estate attended the meeting as they were concerned to see that public access in the estate had been on the minutes of previous meetings. The deer fence has been erected to protect 6,500 new plants that have been planted in the estate. The fence received planning permission and the Council did not have any concerns about it impeding public access as all the tracks it crossed led into the curtilage or privacy areas within the estate.

2.1.2 Nick has been unable to find any gates outwith the fence that are obstructing public access.

2.1.3 Nick has suggested to the estate that they could provide a brief Access Management Plan which he would be willing to help with. This would allow the public to see any plans the estate may have for new paths in the future.

2.2 Dave is still waiting to hear back from Property Services about the wall around The Pound.

2.3 Dave reported that Amenity Services has removed the ramp into the Bleachfield near the toilets. They will return to tidy up the area around the slabs.

2.4 Jo put a request onto the Gifford Families facebook page asking if anyone would be interested in taking on the web site. She hasn't received any response so far. Dave has spoken to Duncan Weddell and he could take it on, but would prefer to start from scratch. Jo has been in touch with Mike Gower and he has information from the old Gifford web site, which can be put onto the new site. It was agreed to wait until next month's meeting to see if there is a response from Gifford Families. If not we will decide how to take it forward.

2.5 Andrew hasn't had time to consider an application to the Civic Pride Fund. Nick and Dave will take this on. **ACTION: NM/DG**

2.6 Jo has been in touch with the Community Wardens about dog fouling. They were very helpful. Jo will make up a poster. If anyone sees someone not clearing up after their dog, report them to the Community Wardens and they will issue a fine.

3 External Reports

3.1 Police - A report had been e-mailed covering October and November:

- 3.1.1 Police had received some complaints about a noisy motorbike on Park Crescent. The Community Officer spoke with the owner and made them aware of the complaints.
- 3.1.2 Police were called to Gifford Golf Club on 11/11/16 in relation to fireworks being set off, but no one was found
- 3.1.3 Officers attended a disturbance on The Wynd on 19/11/16, but no one was found.
- 3.1.4 Between 2/12/16 and 5/12/16 a battery and some red diesel were stolen from roadworks near Skedsbush.
- 3.1.5 7/12/16 call from a member of the public about possible deer poaching in Fawn Woods.
- 3.1.6 The next CAPP meeting will be on 6th February 2017 at 6.30pm in the Town House, Haddington.

3.2.1 East Lothian Council - Councillor Trotter reported that it is disappointing that he very seldom has anyone attending his surgery in Gifford (3rd Saturday of the month). He will be reviewing the situation in the new year. He also holds a surgery in Haddington on the 2nd Wednesday of each month to which anyone from the ward can attend as well.

3.2.2 Dog fouling is an issue throughout the Haddington ward. It is usually a small minority of offenders. Councillor Trotter expressed his thanks to the Community Wardens, Kenny and Callum for their efforts.

3.2.3 Amenity Services have removed the ramp into the Bleachfield as requested by the Community Council.

4 Internal Reports

4.1.1 Roads, Lighting and Signs - Repairs have been made on the Yester Mains road. Park Crescent has been nicely resurfaced and is looking good.

4.1.2 Dave has been in touch with Roads Services about the path between Station Road and Park Crescent. It is now on the list of work to be undertaken.

4.1.3 Signs - Jo is still waiting to hear back from Planning about the proliferation of signs in the village.

4.1.4 Dave has reported a number of street lights in Walden Terrace that were not working. They have now all been repaired.

4.1.5 Dave reported that many of the gullies are blocked after the heavy rail in the summer. This has been causing problems since. It was agreed that the Area Partnership will ask Roads Services to undertake a second clear out each year. **ACTION: CM**

4.1.6 There was discussion about the condition of the wall on the south side of Edinburgh Road. It is thought it belong to Yester Estate and Sandy Stewart offered to look at it.

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

4.2.1 Change of use of stable block at Castlemains. No concerns.

4.2.2 Extension to the Wards, Duns Road. No concerns.

4.3 Finance - The balance stands at £7,126.

4.3.1 £47 had been paid to Rita for bulbs for the planters. The Community Council thanked Rita and her friend for their work to maintain the planters.

- 4.3.2 Elizabeth Whiteford requested a donation from the Community Council for the Good Companions. It was agreed to award them £250. **ACTION: AH**
- 4.4.1 Area Partnership** - There was an annual public meeting on 22nd November which was well attended. A lot of useful feedback was obtained which will influence the area plan.
- 4.4.2 Each settlement in the area is going to receive new entrance signs.
- 4.4.3 The first section of the road-side path leaving Gifford on the Haddington Road is going to be upgraded to a tarmac path with kerbs. The path behind St Mary's Church in Haddington is going to be re-surfaced. The steps leading from the Square in Gifford to Station Road are going to be converted into a ramp. The path behind the church in Gifford is going to be resurfaced with whindust and some cycle racks are going to be installed opposite the cafe in Gifford.
- 4.4.4 Youth shelters will be installed in some of the villages in the area.
- 5 Defibrillator** - Nick has received an e-mail from Suzie Vestri saying that the defibrillator needs to be checked every couple of weeks to ensure the battery is good. The battery and pads need to be replaced periodically. Dave will ask Humbie for advice on the flashing green light and other maintenance. Andrew offered to check the defibrillator once a month. **ACTION: DG, AH**
- 6 Community Payback** - Davie Rutherford from the Community Payback Team has been in touch to offer their services to the Community Council. There were mixed views on the value of what they can offer. Nick will contact Davie and invite him to a future meeting to discuss the scheme. **ACTION: NM**
- 7 Speeding** - Andrew has been in touch with Marshall Greenshields regarding speeding in the village. He will be meeting him next Monday to discuss the issue. It was agreed that physical structures slow traffic down more effectively than signs. A speed table would be most effective, but they costs approximately £35,000 each and one would be required at each entrance to the village. Speed monitoring is currently under way in the village.
- 8 Correspondence** - No new correspondence has been received.
- 9 AOCB**
- 9.1 Dave, Nick, Wendy, Adam and Eck helped put the lights on the Christmas tree along with a great deal of help from Wendy's husband Kenny. The Community Council wanted to thank Kenny for his help. It was suggested that some new lights may be in order. Adam suggested that in future years we should have a switching on ceremony. This can be put on the agenda to be discussed at a meeting early next year. **ACTION: NM**
- 9.2 Adam reported that the Scottish Land Fund would be announcing on Wednesday which projects will be successful in their application for funding. The Gifford Community Woodland group are applying for charitable status. They are pleased to have a representative on the Community Council.
- 9.3 Councillor Trotter wished everyone a happy Christmas. He was sorry that he had been unable to attend more Community Council meetings, but they clash with another meeting he attends.
- 10 Date of next meeting** - 7:30 on January 9th 2017 in the Todrick Room, Gifford Village Hall.