

**Minutes of the Gifford Community Council Meeting held  
13th February 2017 in the Todrick Room, Gifford Village Hall**

<b>Present</b>	Craig McLachlan (Chair) David Griffiths Alex Renton	Andrew Hamilton Eric Thomson	Nick Morgan Adam White
<b>In Attendance</b>	CLlr John McMillan	PC Lorna Bairden	2 members of the public
<b>Apologies</b>	Jo Allen	Wendy Ferguson	CLlr Ludovic Broun-Lindsay

**1 Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting of 9th January 2017 were agreed as correct. Proposed AR, seconded AW.

**2 Matters Arising**

- 2.1 Craig will ensure that an extra clean for the gullies in Gifford is proposed at the next Area Partnership meeting. **ACTION: CM**
- 2.2 Dave has reported the missing and broken signs at the Newlands/Carfrae junction and at Danskine, but they have not yet been repaired.
- 2.3 Nick had circulated possible locations for the village cycle racks and the location outside the coffee shop was the most popular. These will be installed next month.
- 2.4 Nick is aware that Jo has made a Gifford Community Council Facebook page, but it hasn't been made public yet.
- 2.5 Jo has written an article about dog fouling, which appeared in the Courier a couple of weeks ago. She is intending to produce a poster for the notice board and local shops.
- 2.6 Nick had looked at the two blocked paths that had been reported at the previous meeting. He then contacted the farmer, who cleared one the same day and will ensure that the bales of straw do not block the other path in the future. Nick expressed his annoyance about the anonymous letter which appeared in the Courier after the previous meeting complaining about a lack of action about the blocked paths. The issue had been dealt with before the letter was published. Andrew offered to draft a response from the Community Council which he will circulate for comment. **ACTION: AH**
- 2.7 Nick visited the person who had enquired about the deer fence in Yester Estate and discussed her concerns. Although the fence does cross a number of tracks they all lead towards the curtilage of the buildings or garden ground. The lady has since contacted the estate to say she has accepted the situation.

**3 External Reports**

**3.1 Police:**

- 3.1.1 Due to ongoing complaints regarding speeding on Duns Road this is now a CAPP priority and will be given attention and speed checks whenever possible. East Lothian Council has also

been monitoring the speed of vehicles entering the village on Duns Road. They will also target the other two roads into the village.

- 3.1.2 On 023/02/17 a vehicle was stolen from East Saltoun. It was later found on fire on the road between Gifford and Duns. At present no suspects have been identified.
- 3.1.3 On 11/02/17 a vehicle was found on Gifford Golf Course, stuck in the mud on the practice green. Over £500 of damage was caused. Police have traced the male responsible and he has subsequently been charged with several offences.
- 3.1.4 The next CAPP meeting will be on 20th March 2017 at 6.30pm in the Town House, Haddington.

### **3.2 East Lothian Council:**

- 3.2.1 Councillor McMillan expressed his frustration that the new Scottish Government scheme for broadband has delayed the efforts that had been made by East Lothian Council to provide broadband access to rural areas.
- 3.2.2 The crematorium at Alderston House looks unlikely to happen as the sale of the property was never completed. It looks likely that a new cemetery will be built in the field above Briery Bank in Haddington, which will also serve the surrounding villages.

## **4 Internal Reports**

### **4.1 Roads, Lighting and Signs:**

- 4.1.1 All of the pot holes previously reported have been filled in. Dave has since reported some on Tweeddale Avenue, which have been marked for repair. He has also reported the general condition of the surface of The Avenue which is breaking up.
- 4.1.2 All of the street lights are currently working. Dave mentioned the trees on the Edinburgh Road, which are shading the lights. The house owner is aware!
- 4.1.3 The signs for the bridge on Station Road still haven't been replaced. However, Dave has been told that the bridge has been strengthened, so the weight limit no longer applies.
- 4.1.4 Andrew reported that the hole on the Edinburgh Road should be filled in within the next 10 days. Scottish Water have been slow to inspect the work, delaying its reinstatement.

### **4.2 Planning:** There were two planning applications in the area in the last month:

- 4.2.1 A replacement porch to the rear of a house on Duns Road. No concerns.
- 4.2.2 Amendments to the application to convert the old school, including a new gate and different doors. No concerns.

### **4.3 Finance:** The current balance is £6,790. Otherwise there is nothing to report.

### **4.4 Area Partnership:**

- 4.4.1 Most of the Area Partnership budget has now been committed.
- 4.4.2 A number of projects have been agreed for Gifford, including:
  - Replacing the steps between Station Road and The Square with a ramp.
  - Cycle racks to go outside the coffee shop.
  - Upgrading the first two sections of the road-side path towards Sandyford Burn to a tarmac path with kerbstones.
  - Re-surfacing of the whindust path behind the churchyard.

4.4.3 The Area Partnership has been supporting various other projects across the ward, including an anti-bullying project, young entrepreneur scheme and various other schemes to help young people.

#### **4.5 Community Woodland:**

4.5.1 The purchase of Fawn Wood and Speedy Wood is progressing well with agreement on the valuation price.

4.5.2 A condition of the grant was that it would only cover a percentage of the purchase price. The shortfall is being covered by pledges and fundraising.

4.5.3 Charitable status has been agreed and the group are now in the process of getting gift aid registration. After this the pledges can be collected.

4.5.4 The Project Manager post has been advertised.

4.5.5 A woodland quiz was organised through the school and the prize giving will be on 27th February. Part of the quiz was suggestions for the naming of some paths through the woods. The decision on this will be made by the village.

4.5.6 As the Community Land Company has membership of the Community Woodland Association, the Community Council no longer needs to be a member.

**5 Correspondence:** no correspondence has been received.

#### **6 AOCB**

6.1 Dave reported that there has been a large number of moles in the Bleachfield. He reported this to the Council and the mole catcher has been. There still seem to be one or two, which will need to be dealt with.

6.2 Dave has been in touch with Stuart Pryde about the graveyard. There are very few lairs left. There appear to be no suitable local locations for a graveyard, so Gifford may have to use the proposed graveyard near Briery Bank in Haddington.

6.3 Andrew has arranged to meet Garreth Wood of Yester Estate to talk about the community tennis court. He will keep the Community Council informed.

6.4 Andrew questioned the metal gate into the Nursery Wood. This is a temporary gate and will be replaced when the whole area is considered in the future.

6.5 Craig will be meeting SEPA about a business matter, but will take the opportunity to ask about slurry spreading on the fields and the mess left on local roads.

6.6 Craig wanted it noted that it was unfortunate that the Community Council had not been informed about the bench that has been put on the Green in memory of Margaret McDougall. As Margaret had been a long-standing member of the Community Council we would have liked to have been represented when the bench was dedicated. It was also queried whether a planning application had been lodged for the bench.

**7 Date of next meeting - 7:30 on March 13<sup>th</sup> 2017 in the Todrick Room, Gifford Village Hall.**