

Minutes of the Gifford Community Council Meeting held 10th April 2017 in the Todrick Room, Gifford Village Hall

Present	Craig McLachlan (Chair) David Griffiths	Nick Morgan Adam White	Wendy Ferguson Alex Renton
In Attendance	Councillor John McMillan	5 members of the public	
Apologies	Andrew Hamilton PC Lynn Black	Jo Allen	Eric Thomson

1 Minutes of Previous Meeting

Councillor Broun-Lindsay had e-mailed his suggested amendments for the minutes of the meeting of 13th March 2017. These were accepted and the minutes were agreed as correct. Proposed AW, seconded CM.

2 Matters Arising

- 2.1 Craig has asked that the gullies in Gifford be given an extra clean through the Area Partnership.
- 2.2 Craig hasn't managed to contact the Courier to ask why they didn't publish the letter sent by the Community Council in response to the anonymous letter about blocked paths.
- 2.3 Dave reported that there have not been any further issues with kids kicking footballs against a house in Walden Place.
- 2.4 Eric has written to Planning in support of the planning application at Giffordbank Cottage.
- 2.5 Craig has spoken to Andrew about why the Community Council considers all planning applications in the ward.

3 External Reports

3.1 Police: The police report had been received by e-mail.

- 3.1.1 Between 29/03/17 and 30/03/17 a vehicle parked, secured and unattended on High Street, Gifford, was damaged by scratching down both sides of bodywork as if having being 'keyed'. Enquiry ongoing.
- 3.1.2 On 24/03/17 there was a two vehicle collision on Cockles Brae, Gifford – no serious injury, police in attendance.
- 3.1.3 On 04/04/17 there was a report to police of a vehicle having collided with gate/wall at property on The Avenue, Gifford – enquiry ongoing.
- 3.1.4 On 25/03/17 a Pro Laser speed check was conducted by PC's Bairden and Black at Edinburgh Road, Gifford – one female driver was issued with a Fixed Penalty Ticket for speeding at that road doing 43mph in 30mph zone.

3.2 East Lothian Council:

- 3.2.1 The 400 representations received during the Local Development Plan consultation have been sorted and sent to the Reporter's Unit.

4 Internal Reports

4.1 Roads, Lighting and Signs:

- 4.1.1 Very little to report - all seems good.
- 4.1.2 Dave has contacted the Council about the gullies under the vennel leading to the school. These can't be cleaned out using the usual machine. Craig will chase this up. **ACTION: CM**
- 4.1.3 The new pavement leading towards Sandyford Burn is very good, but it now shows up the poor condition of the existing pavement closer to the centre of the village.
- 4.1.4 Councillor McMillan said that someone had been in contact with him regarding grass clippings left on the paths at Walden Terrace. Craig will bring this up at the Area Partnership. **ACTION: CM**

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

- 4.2.1 17/00165 - Patio and wall at a house in Walden Terrace - no concerns.
- 4.2.2 17/00134 - Decking and new doors at a house in Park Crescent - no concerns.

4.3 Finance: No report.

4.4 Area Partnership:

- 4.4.1 Most of the remaining funds were allocated at the last meeting. These went towards:
- Blooming Haddington memorial garden restoration.
 - The motorbike project at the Bridge Centre, Haddington.
 - Knox Academy, pupil attainment and time management training.
 - Bridge Centre, antisocial behaviour wardens to work with young people.

4.5 Community Woodland:

- 4.5.1 The missives are to be exchanged next week.
- 4.5.2 The project was funded 95% by the Scottish Land Fund. 5% was raised locally and more than 100 households have donated to the project.
- 4.5.3 The opening day will be on 2nd June.
- 4.5.4 Neville Kilkenny has been appointed as Project Officer
- 4.5.5 They will now start fund raising for different projects within the woodlands.
- 4.5.6 The Woodland Group will man(/woman) a food and drink station at the Iron Man event, which will raise them £600.
- 4.5.7 Councillor McMillan suggested that the group make contact with Alba Trees as a good source of trees and supporter of local projects.
- 4.5.8 Councillor McMillan also suggested Leader as a potential source of funding.

5 Cycle Events

- 5.1 A lot of correspondence has been received from members of the public who were concerned with how the cycle event on 18th March was organised. This event has built up over the years and there have been problems in previous years, but they have usually been ironed out. However, the 2017 race had a number of issues, which have impacted on the community.
- 5.2 The Community Council did not receive any notification about this event, apparently because the notice was sent to the wrong e-mail list. Craig has contacted Bill Laird at East Lothian Council about this and is still waiting for a reply.
- 5.3 Craig raised concerns about the Iron Man event which is due to come through Gifford on 2nd July. This will involve 2,000 cyclists going through the village and many road closures. This will have an impact on many local businesses.
- 5.4 There have been other events such as the Poppy Scotland event and the Tour of Britain which were well organised. This shows that it is possible to organise such events well if the right procedures are followed.
- 5.5 Members of the public present at the meeting voiced their concerns and informed the Community Council about some of the antisocial behaviour and issues during the event on 18th March. These included urinating in people's gardens, speeding through the village, poor marshalling, closing off the Square, blocking people's gateways, littering, bad parking in the Avenue amongst other things.
- 5.6 The post of Event Coordinator is a new role for Bill Laird. The Council are setting up a new system for such events. Craig hopes to have a meeting with him to discuss these issues. It was suggested that it would be useful to meet with the organisers of the event, too. The concerns of the community need to be addressed and the organisers should be given an ultimatum that if the event is not better run in the future we will be requesting that it should be stopped.
- 5.7 It was asked why this event was not policed. The organisers can request police assistance for such an event, but this is very costly. It was suggested that the police should be informed the next time this event is due and asked to observe how it is run.
- 5.8 It was agreed that the village should have a say in how any future events are organised. Councillor McMillan will e-mail Bill Laird and ask him to contact Craig. **ACTION: Cllr McMillan**
- 5.9 Nick will put together a list of issues reported about this event and send it to Bill Laird.

ACTION: NM

6 Correspondence

- 6.1 The correspondence received all related to the above cycle event.

7 AOCB

- 7.1 A member of the public raised her concerns about the state of the wall at the side of the Edinburgh Road. This has been discussed at previous meetings and reported to Yester Estate.
- 7.2 A member of the public raised concerns about the contractor's sign on the Green. This has also been discussed at previous meetings and raised with the Council. We are still waiting for a response from Planning. It is not the only sign in the area and we must ensure that all signs are treated in the same way.
- 7.3 A member of the public raised concerns about the condition of the concrete section of the ramp down to the play area. Dave will ask ELC if something can be done. **ACTION: DG**

- 7.4 It had been reported that once again effluence has leaked into the river. This has been reported to SEPA and is being considered along with the previous incident and the spreading of slurry in the area.
- 7.5 Dave reported that the "Louping Stone" outside the Tweedale has been hit by a lorry. Eck will ask if this will be repaired and if the offending vehicle was identified. **ACTION: AR**
- 7.6 Andrew had e-mailed earlier saying that he would like to canvass interest in the village for a tennis court. It was agreed that he could do this, but with wording approved by the Community Council. It will be important to word it very carefully.
- 7.7 Andrew had also e-mailed the results of two of the Council's speed checks in the village. He is keen to keep this moving forward and for the Community Council to consider how any solutions, such as speed cushions, could be funded.
- 8 Date of next meeting - 7:30 on May 8th 2017 in the Todrick Room, Gifford Village Hall.**