

# Minutes of the Gifford Community Council Meeting held

8th May 2017 in the Todrick Room, Gifford Village Hall

<b>Present</b>	Craig McLachlan (Chair) Jo Allen	Nick Morgan Adam White	Wendy Ferguson Eric Thomson
<b>In Attendance</b>	Councillor Shamin Akhtar	7 members of the public	
<b>Apologies</b>	Andrew Hamilton Councillor John McMillan	David Griffiths PC Lynn Black	Alex Renton

## 1 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of 10th April 2017 were agreed as correct. Proposed Adam, seconded Wendy.

## 2 Matters Arising

- 2.1 5.8 Craig has still not manage to talk to Bill Laird, but he has spoken to Peter Forsyth. It is hoped that Bill Laird or Peter Forsyth will come to a future meeting. There are to be two public meetings in Haddington tomorrow about the Iron Man event. This was advertised in the Courier, but no contact has been made with the Community Council yet. It was noted that the Iron Man event and the previous cycle race based in Gifford are two different issues.
- 2.2 It is hoped that ELC will meet with the Community Council to discuss future events and draw up guidelines for organisers to adhere to. It was suggested that any groups not following the guidelines could risk being banned from holding any further events. However, it is unclear if this would be possible. The national guidelines only require organisers to inform the police of an event. Councillor Akhtar will talk to Bill Laird and try to organise a meeting. **ACTION: SA**
- 2.3 Jo said that she was concerned about the number of negative comments she has seen on social media regarding cyclists. It has already been noted that these events can have a negative impact on local businesses and cause disruption to the community. It is important to try to resolve these issues as soon as possible and the organisers should be keen to improve their image. Jo agreed to be involved in the an event sub-group. It was also suggested that we should invite organisers to future community council meetings.
- 2.4 5.9 Nick had compiled a list of concerns from the villagers following the March cycling event and sent it to Bill Laird, but hasn't received acknowledgement of his e-mail.
- 2.5 7.3 Nick has been in touch with Bruce Allison at ELC about the state of the concrete ramp leading to the play area. He is to look at it and will recommend how it can be repaired, possibly through the Area Partnership.
- 2.6 7.5 The Louping Stone has been repaired.

## 3 External Reports

- 3.1 **Police:** The police report had been received by e-mail. Only three incidents of note.
- 3.1.1 On 13th April during an eviction in Walden Terrace, a cannabis cultivation was discovered. The matter has been reported to the procurator fiscal.

3.1.2 On 30th April on the B6355 near Gifford, a call was received regarding fireworks having gone off within a vehicle. It transpires that two males were transporting agricultural bangers for bird scarers when they were ignited by unknown means. This resulted in serious burns for the passenger and both males were taken to the ERI.

3.1.3 On 2nd May a theft of 500 litres of heating oil occurred in Old Mill Lane, Gifford. Please remain vigilant to such thefts and where possible lock tanks and/or gardens.

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

3.2.1 The Community Council welcomed Councillor Shamin Akhtar and congratulated her on recently being elected as Councillor for the ward.

3.2.2 Councillor Akhtar said that the first meeting of the new Council will be on 23rd June. She said that both she and Councillor McMillan intend to come to all future meetings of Gifford Community Council.

3.2.3 Councillor Akhtar said that the Councillors are planning dates and locations for their surgeries. If anyone has any preferences for where these should be held please contact her.

## **4 Internal Reports**

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

4.1.1 Very little to report, other than the road markings have been painted on Park Crescent following its resurfacing.

**4.2 Planning:** There were no new planning applications in the area last month.

**4.3 Finance:** No report.

### **4.4 Area Partnership:**

4.4.1 There hasn't been an Area Partnership meeting since the last Community Council meeting. All of last year's budget has been spent and we are keen to commit this year's budget early in the financial year.

### **4.5 Community Woodland:**

4.5.1 The planned launch of 2nd June has been postponed until the 13th June, when a meeting will be held to discuss proposals and celebrate the successful purchase of the woodland.

4.5.2 The group are already thinking about parking by visitors to the wood. They would like to encourage people to park in the village and walk up to the woods, but it is recognised that people may want, or need to park closer. The group don't want to cause problems for local residents and will consider options to try and come up with a solution.

4.5.3 A member of the group is keen to put Gifford forward for the Village of the Year Award. The Community Council were supportive of this.

## **5 Speeding**

5.1 As well as the many previous discussions at the Community Council about speeding, there have recently been a number of concerns raised on social media. Over the last year, at the request of the Community Council, the police have undertaken an number of speed checks in the village, resulting mostly in drivers being warned about their speed. One speeding ticket has been issued. The Council were also asked to put speed strips across the three roads leading into the village to assess the speeds of vehicles. These have proved that over 75% of vehicles entering or leaving the village were exceeding the speed limit.

- 5.2 Nick and Andrew met with Marshal Greenshields and Peter Forsyth of the Council's Roads department last week. The Council are always cautious about putting out any physical speed reduction measures, saying that they can cause issues and these have to be outweighed by the potential danger caused by speeding. The Council also don't have the budget to install any such measures and a process has to be followed before anything can be done. Firstly, it has to be proved that there is a speeding issue, this has been done. Then a consultation has to be held in the village to see if there is agreement for any proposed interventions. Nick and Andrew agreed that the Community Council would look into raising funds and would help with any consultation. A note of this meeting has been put in the notice board.
- 5.3 It was agreed that speed tables would be the most effective solution for Gifford - one on Duns Road, one on the Edinburgh Road and one on the Haddington Road. Nick will contact Peter Forsyth and ask if they can give us a brief design and cost for any speed tables. He will also ask about how to go about the consultation. The Community Council would be prepared to help out with this if the Council can give us a template. **ACTION: NM**

**6 Correspondence**

- 6.1 No correspondence has been received, but Jo said that Yester Parent's Council were concerned about dog fouling in the play grounds and had said they would write to the Community Council.

**7 AOCB**

- 7.1 Jo has been told that there has been some vandalism to the toilets. A door has been kicked and the building is generally looking shabby. She will contact the Council and ask for repairs to be undertaken. Possibly Community Payback may be able to repaint the exterior. **ACTION: JA**
- 7.2 Nick has been approached by Yester Estate who have suggested that a gateway could be created in the wall on the Edinburgh Road to allow public access. This could make a local dog walk and possibly link into longer paths heading towards Yester Mains and allowing a longer, circular route to be made. Nick will take this forward through his work and will apply for planning permission on behalf of the Community Council. **ACTION: NM**
- 7.3 Rita kindly continues to look after the planters on each of the entrances to the village. The Community Council agreed to pay for new plants to be put in this spring.
- 7.4 There was some discussion about the relationship between the tennis court committee and the Community Council. It was agreed that they are two separate entities, but that the Community Council had been holding funds on behalf of the tennis court committee.

**8 Date of next meeting - 7:30 on June 12<sup>th</sup> 2017 in the Todrick Room, Gifford Village Hall.**