

**Minutes of the Gifford Community Council Meeting held
on 9th October 2017 in the Todrick Room, Gifford Village Hall**

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| Present | Craig McLachlan (Chair) Alex Renton Adam White | Jo Allen Wendy Ferguson Eric Thomson | Nick Morgan David Griffiths Andrew Hamilton |
| In Attendance | Councillor Shamin Akhtar Nic McCormick | Councillor Brian Small 4 members of the public | Councillor Tom Trotter |
| Apologies | Councillor John McMillan | | |

1 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of 11th September 2017 were agreed as correct. Proposed Adam, seconded Dave.

2 Matters Arising

- 2.1 2.1 The gullies by the school have been cleaned.
- 2.2 2.7 The trees obstructing the street lights on Edinburgh Road and visibility from the Station Road junction have been reported to the Council. Andrew promised to have them cut back.
ACTION: AH
- 2.3 2.10 Jo has been in touch with Suzie Vestrie and Garvald Community Council. It is hoped that a joint defibrillator training event can be organised.
ACTION: JA
- 2.4 2.11 Nick has put in a planning application for the new pedestrian access into Yester Estate from the Edinburgh Road.
- 2.5 2.13 Nick has checked with ELC's Estates Department and they say the boundary between Yester and the Council land is the fence around the park, not the centre of the river. It would appear that all of the fallen trees across the river are the responsibility of Yester Estate. Nick has e-mailed Sandy to tell him this.
- 2.6 6.1 Jo has been in touch with the lady who enquired about having a disabled parking space outside the Coop. She is pleased she can park in the loading area behind the Coop. Jo will contact ELC to ask if it would be possible to have a space painted outside the Coop and this may also require a dropped kerb.
- 2.7 6.3 Councillor Akhtar congratulated Jane and her team on holding the first lunch club's lunch. After an initial meeting, to appoint office bearers, the first lunch was held in the Goblin. The next lunch is on the 13th November in the Goblin at 12.00pm.
- 2.8 7.2 Jo wrote to EE, 3 and T-mobile about the poor coverage in the Gifford area. So far only EE has responded. They will look into the signal strength around Gifford. They have already upgraded the mast that covers the village. Customers who are still experiencing difficulty can request a booster for their property. Jo will chase up the other two companies.
- 2.9 7.5 Councillor Akhtar has been in touch with Anna Young, ELC's Housing Officer about the empty council houses in Gifford. The four properties in question are all being followed up. The garden at 24 Park Road has been sorted.

- 2.10 7.7 Jo sent in a response to the consultation on the East Lothian Plan, which she previously circulated to members of the Community Council.
- 2.11 7.9. Dave reported that the hedge has now been cut at the telephone exchange.
- 2.12 7.11 Wendy has been in touch with the company recommended for the Christmas tree lights. She has been trying to contact Stuart Pryde to find out how large the tree will be and when it is likely to be delivered. She will then be in a position to order some new lights for the tree.

3 External Reports

3.1 Police: No report has been received from the police this month.

3.2 East Lothian Council:

- 3.2.1 Councillor Small reported that the Council's 2018/19 budget is about to be set.
- 3.2.2 Councillor Small is going to suggest that the Policy Performance Review Committee should put the management of major events onto the work plan. Councillor Trotter agreed that such events can be good for East Lothian, but that the local communities should be consulted.
- 3.2.3 Councillor Akhtar reminded the meeting that anyone wanting to contact their local Councillor can do so by e-mail or text and there is no need to wait for Councillor's surgeries.
- 3.2.4 Councillor Akhtar reported that East Lothian Council has just launched its Parental Engagement Strategy, which aims to ensure that that all parents and carers are encouraged and supported to engage as partners in their children's learning, and to become involved in the life of the school.

4 Internal Reports

4.1 Roads, Lighting and Signs:

- 4.1.1 Dave said that there was nothing really to report other than a street light out on Tweedale Crescent.

4.2 Planning: There was one application this month:

- 4.2.1 Widening of gates and formation of hard standing on Duns Road. No concerns.

4.3 Finance: £8,554 remains in the account. The only cheque for £101 written this month is for the planning permission for the pedestrian access into Yester Estate.

4.4 Area Partnership:

- 4.4.1 The Annual Public Meeting will be on 2nd November at the new Community Hospital. Craig encouraged all to attend.
- 4.4.2 There is a possibility that the Roads budget may be used to re-set and re-surface the pavement along The Avenue. Craig is in discussion with ELC's Roads Services Manager about the cost of this project.
- 4.4.3 Craig encouraged members to think about possible projects that the Area Partnership could fund. Colin Baird suggested upgrading the streetlights.
- 4.4.4 Nick reported that the Area Partnership has agreed to fund two replacement picnic benches and three benches in the Bleachfield. It will also pay for four more benches to be installed on the local path network.
- 4.4.5 Adam said that the organisers of the Iron Man event have offered to pay for another bench for the village.

4.5 Community Woodland:

- 4.5.1 A silent auction had been held the previous week. There was fantastic support from local businesses, but only 28 people turned up on the night. Despite that the event still raised £2,000 for the woodland.
- 4.5.2 Work on the paths in Fawn Wood is planned to happen soon, with the paths in Speedy wood following on.
- 4.5.3 There will be an inter-club quiz held on 28th October.

5 Traffic Calming

- 5.1 Nick and Andrew had met with Marshall Greenshields and Councillor Small the previous week. The ideas of the sub-group were discussed and Marshall advised what he thought would work best for the village.
- 5.2 Marshall suggested that traffic islands on either side of the bridge on the Edinburgh Road may be effective at slowing traffic, although it is not know at this time if there would be sufficient width to allow agricultural vehicles through.
- 5.3 It was agreed that a speed table would be most effective on Duns Road, close to the Walden Terrace junction. Consideration would have to be given to drainage, which may mean that the speed table would have to be slightly further down the hill than the junction.
- 5.4 Marshall was less supportive of a 20mph limit, as he suggested that if motorists are not obeying the 30 limit, they would not obey a 20mph limit. The Scottish Government is currently considering changing the speed limit to 20mph in urban residential areas.
- 5.5 Councillor Trotter pointed out that it is the drivers that are causing the problem and not the roads. Much of the speeding is by villagers, so raising awareness of the issue is important. He suggested asking the police if they can issue fines to offenders and the message will get around that speeding is not being tolerated.
- 5.6 Concern was also raised about the speed of some cyclists in the village.
- 5.7 It was agreed that Andrew will arrange a date for him, Nick, Wendy, Colin Baird and Mark Hardy to take a look at various locations around the village and consider options.

ACTION: AH

6. Correspondence

- 6.1 Nick had received a letter and a phone call about the Annie Murray Path, which again is blocked with straw bales. This was reported to him last year and he contacted Yester Mains Farm. It was agreed to allow them to remove the bales as they needed them, but they would make sure the path was not blocked again this year. However, despite Nick contacting them in July and a second phone call the path is completely blocked this year. Nick will write to Yester Mains Farm requiring them to allow access past the bales. **ACTION: NM**
- 6.2 Nic McCormick from Lothian Broadband had e-mailed and also attended the meeting. Fibre broadband is being installed for Yester House and this will allow them to provide broadband to properties on Bablins Wynd, High Street, the area around the school and Station Road. There is to be a public meeting in the Village Hall on Wednesday 1st November at 7.30.

7 AOCB

- 7.1 Andrew reported that there had not been very much support for village tennis courts. He therefore suggested that it isn't worth spending any more time on the idea.
- 7.2 Jo reported that the P6 class produced some posters last year encouraging people to pick up after their dogs. Jo has written an article for the Courier about this and will distribute the posters around the village.
- 7.3 A member of the public reported that the salt bin on Walden Terrace has been used as a dog fouling bin.
- 7.4 This was the last meeting that Eck would be attending as he has decided to retire from the Community Council. Eck was thanked for the time and effort he had spent with the Community Council.

8 Date of next meeting - 7:30 on November 13th 2017 in the Todrick Room, Gifford Village Hall.