

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

Present	Craig McLachlan (Chair) David Griffiths Mark Hardy	Nick Morgan Adam White	Wendy Ferguson Eric Thomson
In Attendance	Councillor Shamin Akhtar	PC Lorna Bairden	2 members of the public
Apologies	Jo Allen Councillor Brian Small	Andrew Hamilton	Councillor John McMillan

1 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of 9th October 2017 were agreed as correct. Proposed Adam, seconded Dave.

2 Matters Arising

- 2.1 2.2 The trees obstructing the street lights on Edinburgh Road and visibility from the Station Road junction have been cut back slightly. The street lights do still appear to be obstructed. Dave will ask Callum Redpath if he has seen them. **ACTION: DG**
- 2.2 2.3 Jo just received the contact details of the person who can arrange defibrillator training. She will now take this forward. **ACTION: JA**
- 2.3 2.6 Jo has contacted Keith Scott and Callum Redpath to formally request a disabled parking space outside the Coop. She is still to hear back from them.
- 2.4 2.8 Jo has written again to T-mobile and Three UK to express her disappointment that she hadn't had a response from them and to reiterate her request for information. She is still to hear back from them. EE has responded again. They say that the repair to their mast was completed on 10th November. They asked her to contact them if anyone is still having problems with their reception.
- 2.5 2.12 Wendy has been in touch with the company that ELC recommend for Christmas lights and she has purchased the lights. She said that Lillian Pryde had been very helpful. It is hoped to arrange a switching on ceremony for the Christmas lights.
- 2.6 5.7 There was a site meeting to discuss traffic calming measures. This is detailed in item 5.
- 2.7 6.1 Nick has written to Simon McCreery about the path that has been blocked again with straw bales. They met on site ten days ago and Simon has agreed to cut back the hedge to make space to walk past and to consider a permanent solution. Funding may be available for him to build a path, parallel to the track, to allow free passage past the bales. Nick will continue to monitor this. **ACTION: NM**

3 External Reports

- 3.1 Police:** Report of incidents between 6 October and 11 November.

- 3.1.1 On 15 October calls were made to the police regarding a male who had been drinking and playing loud music in a camper van parked in The Square. Police attended and the music had been turned off. No offences were detected.
- 3.1.2 The police have twice been in Gifford this month to check for speeding vehicles. As only one officer was available, any speeding drivers were stopped and warned, rather than being charged. On one occasion the speed check was carried out after dark, but surprisingly no speeding vehicles were recorded. There will be further speed checks carried out in Gifford.
- 3.1.3 During the early hours of 20th October the police received a call regarding an injured female being dropped off in the area from Edinburgh, by her partner. She was taken to hospital. There was then concern for the welfare of her partner. He was traced the following day near Gifford, where he was detained. He was arrested and put to court.

3.2 East Lothian Council:

- 3.2.1 Councillor Akhtar thanked Craig for his input to the Area Partnership Annual Public Meeting, which was very well attended.
- 3.2.2 A report from the external auditors Annual Report was discussed at the last Council meeting. Overall it was very positive. Councillor Akhtar will send a link to Nick to circulate. **ACTION: SA**
- 3.2.3 The Scottish Government has decided not to go down the regional governance route for education. There may be some collaboration between local authorities, but East Lothian Councillors want to ensure that the level of support remains the same. Councillor Akhtar will send a link for Nick to circulate. **ACTION: SA**
- 3.2.4 Councillor Akhtar that the current 600 hours of free child care is going to increase to 1140 hours by 2020. The nurseries in East Lothian are currently at capacity. It is considered that £13.5 million of capital will be required to build sufficient nurseries and £20 million revenue will be required to run the nurseries. The Council can only deliver what it receives funding for.
- 3.2.5 The Council will soon be holding an on-line consultation about its future budget.
- 3.2.6 The recruitment process has just started for the post of head teacher at Yester Primary.
- 3.2.7 Councillor Akhtar has just had a meeting with Duncan Priddle, the Council's Countryside Officer to discuss the Green Dog Walker Scheme. This may be a good follow up to the work that Jo has done about dog fouling. It is about to start up in Pencaitland and maybe it could be rolled out to Gifford.
- 3.2.8 Councillors have responded to the Scottish Government's consultation on Fairer Funding for Schools. It is not clear how a national funding formula would work and it is felt that Local Authorities know their schools and are best placed to know where funding is required.

4 Internal Reports

4.1 Roads, Lighting and Signs:

- 4.1.1 There are some new potholes on the road beyond Yester Mains. Dave will report these to Derek Flinn.
- 4.1.2 Two malfunctioning street lights on Tweedale Crescent have been repaired.
- 4.1.3 The footpath at the entrance to the Coop car park is breaking up. This has been reported to John McMartin.
- 4.1.4 Dave has reported to Gary Orr that many of the gullies in the village are full of leaves. He has said that a new system of monitoring is about to be implemented.

4.2 Planning: There were two applications this month:

4.2.1 Alterations and extension to Lilac Cottage, The Wynd.

4.2.2 Extension to agricultural building, Townhead Farm.

4.3 Finance: No report.

4.4 Area Partnership:

4.4.1 Craig reported that the Annual Public Meeting was well attended.

4.4.2 The next meeting is on 23rd November.

4.4.3 The footway along the Avenue will be restored using Area Partnership funding.

4.4.4 Any suggestions for projects that could benefit from Area Partnership funding should be sent to Craig.

4.5 Lunch Club:

4.5.1 The second Lunch Club lunch had been held that day. 26 people had attended, with a good mix of ages.

4.5.2 The Christmas lunch will be on 11 December and will be a joint event with the Good Companions.

4.5.3 Once the bank details have been sorted they will be in a position to apply for funding.

4.6 Community Woodland:

4.6.1 So far this year over £4,000 has been raised for the Community Woodland.

4.6.2 Two more volunteer days are lined up. One on 19 November and the next on 2 December.

5 Traffic Calming

5.1 Nick, Wendy, Mark and Colin Baird met on 28th October to look at potential locations for traffic calming measures. Colin interpreted the results of last year's speed survey and advised on the pros and cons of various traffic calming measures. A note was produced of the meeting, which was circulated to members of the Community Council.

5.2 On Duns Road, it was decided that speed tables could cause issues of noise and for drainage. It was decided that two speed cushions would be most appropriate next to the first street light coming into the village.

5.3 For the Edinburgh Road there is insufficient space to allow traffic islands to be built on either side of the bridge. They would impede agricultural vehicles and potentially could cause accidents. The issue there is that the road approaching the bridge is wide and straight and it is possible to see beyond the bridge. This is why any sort of chicane wouldn't work in this location. Again, it was decided that the best solution would be speed cushions about half way between the corner and Tweeddale Avenue. Three would be required here because of the width of the road and extra street lighting would also be required.

5.4 A similar solution could work on the Haddington Road and again, extra street lighting would be required.

5.5 It was agreed that Duns Road is probably the top priority location. There is the entrance to the primary school via Walden Terrace and it would be the cheapest location for the speed cushions, with it not requiring additional street lighting. If this location was tackled first then Edinburgh Road could be the next location to tackle.

5.6 It may be possible to apply to the Area Partnership for 50% funding from the General Spend and the Community Council pay the other half.

- 5.7 Nick will contact Marshall Greenshields at ELC and let him know the decision of the Community Council. Hopefully he will endorse the decision and give us a better idea of the likely cost. It is anticipated that we would then hold some form of consultation, or an open meeting to ensure that the community are happy for us to take this forward. **ACTION: NM**
- 5.8 The Community Council thanked Colin Baird for his continuing help and support.

6. Correspondence

- 6.1 Nick had received a letter from a Mrs Bryce complaining about the overgrown edges of the path across the grass between Park Road and The Wynd and also the build up of grass cuttings on the path. Nick contacted Bruce Allison at ELC and the following week the edges were cut back and the grass clippings cleared.
- 6.2 Nick had received a letter about the "Story of St Andrew and the Saltire" exhibition which will be held in the John Gray Centre until 30th January. Nick will put up a poster about it in the notice board.
- 6.3 Scotways have sent us a copy of their Annual Report.
- 6.4 We have received an invitation to the Provost's Christmas Reception. Craig and Nick will go.
- 6.5 We received a request from Savilles to advertise a property to let on the Gifford Village web site. It was agreed that this isn't appropriate for the web site. Nick will respond. **ACTION: NM**

7 AOCB

- 7.1 Jo had sent an e-mail before the meeting to say that she had e-mailed the Community Wardens about dog fouling and asked them to patrol the village. They have asked if any Community Councillors could join them either early evening or early morning.
- 7.2 Jo has been successful in her application to the Coop Local Community Fund. Findlay Marshall of the Fuears has been very helpful supporting this. We need to encourage as many people as possible to choose our scheme to receive the 1% of the value of Coop products bought. Jo is keen to publicise this widely.
- 7.3 Jo still intends to review the web site, but hasn't had time to do so. Wendy offered to help with this.
- 7.4 Dave reported that he had read in the Courier that the mobile library is at risk of being cut. Councillor Akhtar suggested that anyone who is worried about it contact Midlothian Council who run the service. Maybe something could be put on Facebook about this?
- 7.5 Dave also reported that Mary Todd had been out brushing the grass clippings off the path at Walden Terrace, as there were so many this year. It was agreed that this year had been exceptional and it is difficult for the person who cuts the grass to take a brush with him, etc. We will monitor the situation next year.
- 7.6 Sandy Stewart reported that the bulk of the work is now complete in Yester Estate and that the signs will soon be gone from the village.

- 8 Date of next meeting - 7:30 on December 11th 2017 in the Todrick Room, Gifford Village Hall.**