

**Minutes of the Gifford Community Council meeting held  
on 12th March 2018 in the Todrick Room, Gifford Village Hall**

<b>Present</b>	Craig McLachlan (Chair) David Griffiths Mark Hardy	Jo Allen Wendy Ferguson Adam White	Nick Morgan Eric Thomson
<b>In Attendance</b>	Councillor John McMillan	PC Lorna Bairden	11 members of the public
<b>Apologies</b>	Andrew Hamilton	Councillor Shamin Akhtar	Councillor Brian Small

**1 Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting of 12th February 2018 were agreed as correct. Proposed Adam, Seconded Mark.

**2 Matters Arising**

- 2.1 2.1 Jo has arranged defibrillator training. It will be held on the evening of 28th March in the village hall. Members of the community in Garvald and have been invited along with local businesses. There will be a meeting tomorrow evening to finalise arrangements and Jo will send out invitations. **ACTION: JA**
- 2.2 2.2. Jo will contact the Council and ask for the trees to be cut back on Station Road that are obscuring the signs. **ACTION: JA**
- 2.3 2.5 Craig has apologised, but he hasn't written a letter about the hedge that is growing onto the private lane below Park Road. He will endeavour to do it. **ACTION: CM**
- 2.4 4.1.1 Nick had contacted Sandy about the building signs for Yester House. They were removed the following day.
- 2.4 4.2.1 Nick contacted Planning and objected about the location of the proposed BT cabinet. He suggested that a better location should be sought.
- 2.5 4.2.3 Nick contacted Planning and objected about the proposal for 15 telegraph poles in the village for broadband. He suggested that the more evidence needs to be shown for the need for the poles and their locations.
- 2.6 4.2.4 Nick contacted planning about the application for change of use from public space to garden ground. Planning published the plans on their web site and this application seems to be uncontroversial.
- 2.7 6.2 The safety audit for the proposed traffic calming was talked about later on the agenda.
- 2.8 7.9 Councillor McMillan was disappointed to hear that Jackie Gardiner or Susan Smith have still not responded to Jo's e-mail.
- 2.9 7.11 The organisers of the Gifford Road Race met with Jo and Adam. See later in the minutes under Cycle Events.
- 2.10 8.1 Jo attended the meeting of the Association of Community Councils on 14th February, where she informed members of other Community Councils about the upcoming PPRC meeting which had major events on the agenda.

- 2.11 9.1 Jo will ask her colleague to look at the statistics from the Gifford Village web site, once he has completed other work he has to do. **ACTION: JA**
- 2.12 9.4 Jo has been in touch with Mike Foy about the Lime tree that was taken down on the Avenue. A new Lime tree is to be planted in its place and the area will be tidied up by Amenity Services.
- 2.13 9.5 Jo has spoken with Kim Whyte about the Duke of Edinburgh Award and she will contact Andrew about a financial contribution toward the hire of a mini bus.

### **3 External Reports**

#### **3.1 Police:** Very few incidents this month.

- 3.1.1 There have been a number of minor vehicle accidents this month, mostly due to icy roads. There were also several vehicles abandoned during the severe weather at the turn of the month.
- 3.1.2 Speed checks were carried out on the 16th February with several warnings and another ticket issued in Gifford. There are more checks due to go ahead in the near future.
- 3.1.3 There have been a number of horrific posts on Facebook recently about sheep worrying. Lambing time has already started for some farms. The police want to remind everybody to keep their dogs on leads and away from sheep. Even if your dog does not touch a sheep it can still miscarry if chased or put under stress. Being at large (that is to say not on a lead or otherwise under close control) in a field or enclosure in which there are sheep is also an offence.
- 3.1.4 The next CAP meeting is on 16th April at 6.30 in Haddington Town Hall.

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

- 3.2.1 Councillor McMillan informed the meeting that the Council's Local Plan has been received back from the Reporter and it will be released on Wednesday.
- 3.2.2 The PPRC meeting was held on 21st February. Jo and Adam attended because Major Events were going to be discussed.
- 3.2.3 The Council's budget was passed on 13th February.
- 3.2.4 The new Local Transport Strategy is out for public consultation. There will be focus groups in towns as part of the consultation.
- 3.2.5 The Economic Development Strategy is under review. This will include ways of supporting the rural economy.
- 3.2.6 The flag competition is about to be judged.
- 3.2.7 The Keep Scotland Beautiful awards ceremony will be held in Haddington on 6 September.

### **4 Internal Reports**

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

- 4.1.1 Dave reported that there are a lot of potholes in the area due to the winter weather. He said that it is not really reporting them at this time, but the Council is making repairs.
- 4.1.2 The streetlight officer from the Council has had a look at Duns Road and agrees that there should be more street lights there. He will see if there is any funding available to improve the lighting.

4.1.3 The gully sucker has been and cleared all of the gullies in the village, other than a couple that were inaccessible due to parked cars.

**4.2 Planning:** There no new applications this month:

4.2.1 Councillor McMillan said that a number of Community Councils had reported that it was now more difficult to find planning applications in their areas. The weekly planning list may be brought back.

**4.3 Finance:** No report received.

**4.4 Area Partnership:**

4.4.1 The next meeting will be on 15th March.

4.4.2 The Area Partnership's draft Local Area Plan will be discussed.

4.4.3 There are a number of applications for funding which will have to be considered.

**4.5 Lunch Club:**

4.5.1 There were 28 people at today's Lunch.

4.5.2 An outing to a restoration yard is being organised for the 14th May.

**4.6 Community Woodland:**

4.6.1 Adam reported that the woods are not looking their best because of the extraction of timber and the time of year.

4.6.2 2,700 trees have been planted to replace the non-natives that were felled.

4.6.3 A film night will be held in the woods on 24th March, which will be showing The Gruffalo early in the evening and then later on the Blair Witch Project.

## **5 Cycle Events**

5.1 Craig summed up the work that the Community Council has done to trying to ensure the safe running, and to reduce disruption to the village, during various cycle events over the last few years. There have been some large events that have gone through the village without any issues, but the Edinburgh Road Club's Gifford Road Race has caused a number of concerns in the past. The Community Council has reported these concerns and put a lot of effort into trying to communicate with the Council and the organisers. Sadly this appears to have fallen on deaf ears and this weekend's event continued to cause concerns to members of the community. Craig said that he was massively disappointed with this, given the amount of hard work that some members of the Community Council had put in.

5.2 Jo and Adam had met with the organiser of the Gifford Road Race and thought that it had been a positive meeting. They had been assured that many of the concerns of the community would be addressed. Unfortunately, it seems that many of the cyclists had ignored the advice from the organisers.

5.3 There is an increasing level of annoyance in the village about the behaviour of the competitors on this event. There have been many incidents of bikes being left all over, people changing in the street, competitors setting up bike rollers in private doorways and road safety issues. Clearly the assurances have not been adhered to.

5.4 Councillor McMillan said that the Council's role is to set the standards. The organisers should monitor the behaviour of the competitors. There have been so many examples of bad behaviour in the past that there should have been people out monitoring the event. The

Community Wardens and the CCTV van could have been used. He said there is no point in having rules if they are not enforced.

- 5.5 Jo had spoken to local businesses, and the only place that benefits from the cycle events is the coffee shop. All of the other shops and pubs say their takings are down on the days the cycle races are on. The Goblin reported a number of competitors visiting, only to use the toilets.
- 5.6 It was noted that there were some improvements in that the marshals directed competitors to park in The Avenue.
- 5.7 Adam had circulated a note of some issues that had been reported to him. Nick had also received two e-mails from members of the public who were concerned about road safety and other issues. The rolling road closures clearly didn't work and it was questioned how they can work for a race such as this that does several laps of the same route, with cyclists becoming dispersed.
- 5.8 Some of the comments made on social media about the lack of action from the Community Council were circulated. These comments are misguided and the individuals are obviously unaware of the enormous amount of work that has been going on over the years by members of the Community Council to try to address the concerns of the community. It was noted that there are many more members of the community who appreciate the work that has been done.
- 5.9 A number of comments were made by members of the public. Local feedback suggested that the organiser, Rob, didn't have enough volunteer support and therefore couldn't enforce some of the issues. It was suggested that he should have a committee of people to help him. It was asked if the event could be cancelled in future years as there had been so many complaints about this event.
- 5.10 Councillor McMillan said that the Council's Safety Advisory Group needs to take local knowledge into account when considering road safety. It is up to the Council to enforce the rules, or decide to cancel the event. Antisocial behaviour is a separate issue. Councillor McMillan has e-mailed Council officials to ask for a meeting.
- 5.11 Jo said that the local Councillors have been very supportive of the concerns raised by the Community Council. It is the Council officials who have not responded to e-mails.
- 5.12 It was agreed that:
- John McMillan will meet with Council officials before the Cabinet meeting in the morning.
  - The Community Council will contact ERC to discuss the concerns raised following the race.
  - PC Bairden requested to be at any meeting held with ERC.
  - The Community Council will push for a better response from Council Officers.
- Craig asked the members of the public present if there was anything else they would like the Community Council to do.
- 5.13 It was suggested that races happen all over the country. There must be national guidelines and British Cycling must provide insurance. Presumably the event must conform to the guidelines in order for the insurance to be valid.
- 5.14 It was suggested that given the amount of local disturbance and safety concerns, the event should not be given a second chance.
- 5.15 It was noted that there were not enough marshals for the event.
- 5.16 There are a number of practice runs for the event most weekends, with cyclists speeding through the village.

- 5.17 There was concern raised by some members of the Community Council, that despite a lot of effort, if there is no change made to how the event is run, it will look bad on the Community Council, giving the impression that they have not been passing on the concerns of the community.

## **6 Resilience in the Community**

- 6.1 Following his attendance at the previous meeting Sandy Baptie had sent an e-mail asking if Gifford Community Council would like to take part in the Resilient Communities initiative.
- 6.2 It was agreed that we would like to take part. Adam will be the Single Point of Contact and Wendy will be the deputy.
- 6.3 Gifford Community Council will participate in Rest Centre training in the future.
- 6.4 Gifford Community Council will take part in the forthcoming workshop on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2018. Three people will attend.
- 6.5 We will ask for more information about the Rest Centre training exercise that is taking place in June. Nick will respond to Sandy Baptie. **ACTION: NM**

## **7 Cemetery**

- 7.1 We had received an e-mail from Stuart Pryde saying that Yester Churchyard is almost full up and is likely to become closed to burials within the next 6 to 12 months. There have been no appropriate sites identified for burial around the village. Once the remaining stock of new ground is exhausted, residents from the village have the option of burial within the cluster provision at St Martins Cemetery in Haddington or may consider other local provision at East Saltoun, Pencaitland or West Byres.
- 7.2 Nick has also been approached by Amenity Services and asked to find out if the vacant plots belonging to the family of the Marques of Tweeddale are likely to be required. Rita know Lady Marioth Hay's daughter and will ask her to contact the Council.

## **8 Traffic Calming**

- 8.1 Nick has been in contact with the consultant recommended by ELC to undertake the Safety Audit for the traffic calming proposals. He has given us a price of £700 plus VAT to look at the proposal on Duns Road.
- 8.2 It was agreed that it would most likely be more cost effective to have the consultant look at the three roads into Gifford, rather than just Duns Road. We would need to ask Marshall Greenshields to confirm the locations of the speed humps on the Edinburgh Road and Haddington Road. Before this can be done. Councillor McMillan asked to be copied into any correspondence to Marshall. **ACTION: NM**
- 8.3 It was agreed that we should consult with the community again about the specific proposals before we go ahead with the Safety Audit. Wendy suggested an open meeting as part of the consultation.

**9 Correspondence**

- 9.1 Mrs Hilsley had written to the Community Council to thank us for the flowers and letter that had been presented to her.
- 9.2 Various companies had sent catalogues for play equipment and bins.

**10 AOCB**

- 10.1 Councillor McMillan reported that the post of Head Teacher for Yester Primary has been re-advertised
- 10.2 Councillor McMillan said that Haddington Rotary Club is offering grants of up to £300 for community projects.
- 10.3 Jo reported that the Co-op Community Fund has already raised £219.20 towards benches for Gifford.
- 10.4 Mark has been in touch with Richard Pearson of the Ironman event. He has offered to come to a future meeting. Mark will invite him to the April meeting. **ACTION: MH**

**11 Date of next meeting - 7:30 on April 9th 2018 in the Todrick Room, Gifford Village Hall.**