

**Minutes of the Gifford Community Council meeting held  
on 9th April 2018 in the Todrick Room, Gifford Village Hall**

<b>Present</b>	Craig McLachlan (Chair) Wendy Ferguson Adam White	Nick Morgan Eric Thomson	Andrew Hamilton Mark Hardy
<b>In Attendance</b>	Councillor Brian Small	Richard Pearson	6 members of the public
<b>Apologies</b>	Jo Allen Councillor John McMillan	David Griffiths PC Lorna Bairden	Councillor Shamin Akhtar

**1 Minutes of Previous Meeting**

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

**2 Matters Arising**

- 2.1 2.1 Jo had sent an e-mail saying that the first aid and defibrillator training event had gone well. 30 people attended and great feedback had been received. She thanked Sam at Scottish Ambulance Service and Rab Sneddon and Suzie Vestri of Humble First Responders. She is following up some actions with Sam and hopes to build on this event. Possibly a future event with the Parent Council and school. She also suggested that we should aim to get a defibrillator sited at the school, which could also serve the Walden area. Adam reported that he has been told by the Ambulance Service that defibrillators are available for £900 now, down from £2,000.
- 2.2 2.2. Jo has been in touch with Mike Foy to ask if the trees can be cut back on Station Road that are obscuring the signs.
- 2.3 2.5 Craig hasn't written a letter about the hedge that is growing onto the private lane below Park Road. He will endeavour to do it, possibly with Nick's help. **ACTION: CM**
- 2.4 2.11 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**
- 2.5 6.5 Nick has responded to Sandy Baptie giving details of how Gifford CC will be involved with the Resilient Communities initiative.
- 2.6 10.4 Mark has been in touch with Richard Pearson, who is attending this evening's meeting as a result.

**3 External Reports**

**3.1 Police:** A very quiet month, with only one incident reported.

3.1.1 A man was charged with driving whilst using a mobile phone.

3.1.2 The next CAP meeting is on 16th April at 6.30 in Haddington Town Hall.

**3.2 East Lothian Council:**

3.2.1 Councillor Brian Small had nothing new to report.

## **4 Internal Reports**

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

- 4.1.1 Dave had previously updated Nick that he has called the Council to report that the Road Closed signs are still in place on the Duns Road.
- 4.1.2 Dave had also said that there is a hole in the pavement by the Bowling Club that he will report to the Council.
- 4.1.3 Jo had also informed Nick that she has contacted the Council to report that the sign on Old Mill Lane has been squashed, presumably by the snow plough.

### **4.2 Planning:** There was only one new application this month:

- 4.2.1 18/00223 Extension to house and formation of access ramp at Longyester. No concerns.
- 4.2.2 Councillor Small raised his disquiet that when Councillors try to raise community concerns at Planning Committee they are sometimes told that such concerns cannot be taken into account for a technical reason. He feels that there is little point in having a Planning Committee if such community concerns are not taken into account. He will be raising this with the Chief Executive.

### **4.3 Finance:** Approximately £8,500 in the account.

### **4.4 Area Partnership:**

- 4.4.1 The last meeting was on 15th March and the next meeting will be at the end of May.
- 4.4.2 The Area Partnership's budgets for 2018/19 will remain the same as previous years. For 2019/20 the Education budget will be administered differently.
- 4.4.3 The benches that have been funded by the Area Partnership are currently being installed. Two are located in Yester Estate, one in Fawn Wood and one in the fields towards Winding Law. There will also be four new benches in the park to go with the two new picnic benches. Amenity Services have also refurbished three of the old wooden benches and will install them above the park nearer the lime trees.

### **4.5 Lunch Club:**

- 4.5.1 There were 33 people at today's Lunch.
- 4.5.2 An outing to a restoration yard in Dalkeith is being organised for the 14th May. When asked about what they wanted to do, members only wanted one outing a year.
- 4.5.3 For the next three months the Lunch Club will be using the Tweedale as a trial.
- 4.5.4 Adam asked about a condition of the funding from the Area Partnership. It was agreed that it was a suggestion, rather than a condition, to encourage outreach to isolated communities. The Gifford Lunch Club would be very happy to offer help to encourage other communities to start up such an initiative.

### **4.6 Community Woodland:**

- 4.6.1 Adam reported that the film night in the woods was very successful with up to 130 people attending the afternoon showing of the Gruffalo and approximately 50 people at the later showing of the Blair Witch Project.
- 4.6.2 A number of grants have been applied for and are expected in.

## **5 Cycle Events**

- 5.1 Following last month's meeting Jo sent pictures and videos of the Edinburgh Road Club's Gifford Road Race to the Council. These pictures were on the club's web page and facebook page and they clearly show cars overrun by cyclists, cyclists on the other side of the road during peloton and how close driving cars were to bikes. Jo had asked for a meeting with ELC and a separate meeting with the ERC, but Derek Oliver has convened a meeting for all parties on the 18th April. Jo has asked that PC Bairden be invited to the meeting. She also felt that Derek Oliver's response was not constructive and suggested that, as the organiser had said there were no issues, there were no problems with the event.
- 5.2 Councillor Small said that he will be at the meeting and that he believed Councillor McMillan will also be attending. Craig will also attend with Jo to represent the community council.
- 5.3 Adam expressed his frustration that, although he was at the first meeting with Derek Oliver, he hadn't been invited to the meeting on the 18th. Because he is unable to make this meeting he has e-mailed a list of issues that the community had to Derek, but hasn't even received an acknowledgement.
- 5.4 It was noted that Ralph Averbuch from Pencaitland Community Council has e-mailed all the other community councils to express their disappointment about not being taken seriously over planning issues. This has resulted in a number of responses from other community councils complaining about some Council departments not appearing to be interested in community concerns. Ralph is proposing to write to ELC's Chief Executive.
- 5.5 Richard Pearson from the Ironman Event came to talk to the meeting.
- 5.6 This year's event will be held on 1st July, following the same route as last year and the road closures will be the same.
- 5.7 There will be a lot of community engagement, there is a communications plan, meetings with all community councils on the route are planned, Richard will be calling into businesses on the route and contacting other businesses close to the route.
- 5.8 There will also be three Iron Kids events - one in each local authority area on the Saturday.
- 5.9 Richard said that Ironman is still holding £500 as a contribution for a bench in Gifford. There will be a similar community fund this year that community councils can apply for.
- 5.10 Adam asked if more toilets could be provided this year to prevent queues for competitors.
- 5.11 Nick asked if an alternative return loop could be considered to reduce the length of time that the roads need to be closed in Gifford. Richard has looked at alternatives, but feels that there isn't an appropriate alternative route that could be used for racing.
- 5.12 Wendy asked if it had been arranged for the event to run for three years. Richard confirmed this, but said that he would like it to run for a couple more years if there is sufficient demand.
- 5.13 The times the roads will be closed in Gifford are likely to be from 8.30am until 12.30pm, although last year the roads were re-opened about an hour earlier.
- 5.14 Richard offered to attend future community council meetings if necessary. He was thanked for attending this meeting and left at this point.

## **6 Traffic Calming**

- 6.1 Mark and Wendy had met on 6th April to discuss the traffic calming project. Mark had then sent a comprehensive note of the meeting to the members of the Community Council.

- 6.2 Mark said that Nick was standing down from the sub-group and thanked him for his previous work.
- 6.3 Mark and Wendy have produced a time line and hope to develop a plan for consultation. They will contact Steph Kerr from ELC about the consultation and hopefully have a firm plan by the next meeting. It is intended to hold the consultation during May.
- 6.4 It is expected that the speed cushions will be installed on Duns Road this year and the other locations can be done the following year, possibly using Area Partnership funding.

## **7 Correspondence**

- 7.1 A newsletter had been received from the Scottish Rights of Way Society.
- 7.2 A catalogue had been received from a company that produces speed reactive cameras.

## **8 AOCB**

- 8.1 Jo had been told by a member of the public that the toilets are being closed early because, it is claimed, they are being vandalised. Jo contacted ELC about this, but they were unaware of the vandalism or that the toilets were being closed early. Jo has offered to help the Council to promote any messages.
- 8.2 Adam asked if the Community Council would agree a budget to help with the Christmas lights and a switching on ceremony. It was agreed to do this.
- 8.3 Wendy reported that the Yester Church Summer Fair will be held on 17th June in Yester Estate's walled garden.
- 8.4 Adam said that the Community Woodland Group were hoping to hold an open day on the 17th June, but they may now change the date to avoid clashing with the Church Fair. There was some discussion about how to let people know what events are planned on what days. It was suggested that there could be an events page on the web site. Maybe this could be promoted on the Gifford Families facebook page.
- 8.5 Nick updated the meeting about the pedestrian access into Yester Woods from the Edinburgh Road. Work has been delayed for a number of reasons, but the entrance has been made in the wall and piers have been built. A blacksmith has been sub-contracted to produce and install a gate, but a short section of path will be built and a bridge installed over a ditch first. Yester Estate have generously offered to pay for a short section of path to connect up to the bridge. From the bridge there will be no formal path, but people will be able to make up their own mind where they go from there.

## **9 Date of next meeting - 7:30 on May 14th 2018 in the Todrick Room, Gifford Village Hall.**