

**Minutes of the Gifford Community Council meeting held  
on 14th May 2018 in the Todrick Room, Gifford Village Hall**

<b>Present</b>	Jo Allen (Chair) Wendy Ferguson Adam White	Nick Morgan Eric Thomson David Griffiths	Andrew Hamilton Mark Hardy
<b>In Attendance</b>	PC Lorna Bairden	PC Ian Porter	4 members of the public
<b>Apologies</b>	Craig McLachlan Councillor John McMillan	Councillor Brian Small	Councillor Shamin Akhtar

**1 Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting of 9th April 2018 were agreed as correct. Proposed Adam, seconded Mark.

**2 Matters Arising**

2.1 2.3 The hedge has been cut, probably a result of Dave leaving a message with the house owner.

2.2 2.4. Jo will try to look at the web site statistics, as he colleague has been too busy to do this.

**ACTION: JA**

**3 External Reports**

**3.1 Police:** Just a few items this month.

3.1.1 A two car collision near to Gifford on 14th April. No serious injuries.

3.1.2 On 19th April a hill walker called the police to report that he had found what he thought was an unexploded shell in a heather moorland south of Gifford. Police attended along with military personnel and established the item was a spent anti-tank shell.

3.1.3 The next CAP meeting is on 14th May at 6.30 in Haddington Town Hall.

3.1.4 PC Bairden reported that PC Lynne Black had moved on to a new post. The Community Council asked her to pass on our thanks and tell her that we were disappointed to hear she was leaving.

**3.2 East Lothian Council:**

3.2.1 No report was received.

**4 Internal Reports**

**4.1 Roads, Lighting and Signs:**

4.1.1 Dave reported that there were no issues with potholes, streetlights or signs.

4.1.2 Dave reported that the resurfacing of the footpath along The Avenue has been completed.

- 4.1.3 Dave also reported that the Council workmen have now moved on to the Haddington Road where the footpath is going to be resurfaced. He noted that we haven't received a TTRO for the traffic lights for this work. There are also traffic lights up at the school of furniture, but again we haven't received a TTRO for this. Nick will contact ELC to ask about the TTROs and how long the work on the Haddington Road pavement is likely to take. **ACTION: NM**
- 4.1.4 Dave had contacted ELC about the state of the steps on the path between Station Road and Tweeddale Crescent back in November 2016. Nothing has happened since. Dave will contact them again. **ACTION: DG**
- 4.1.5 A member of the public had asked Dave if the concrete ramp into the park could be repaired. Nick will see if this is something that Amenity Services can do via the Area Partnership. **ACTION: NM**
- 4.2 Planning:** There several new applications this month:
- 4.2.1 18/00453 Erection of 2 sheds at Yester Primary School. No concerns.
- 4.2.2 18/00391 Installation of 4 broadband cabinets and associated works. Tweeddale Avenue, Tweeddale Crescent and Station Road. A number of concerns were raised about this application. The cabinets may reduce the width of the already narrow pavements, preventing wheelchair or pushchairs getting past. There were concerns that both Lothian Broadband and BT are intending to install infrastructure at the same time, which may create unnecessary clutter. There is apparently another cabinet proposed up near Speedy Wood, which doesn't require planning permission. It is understood that one location has now been withdrawn. It is difficult to comment on a planning application when we are not clear about all of the details. The Community Council is not anti-broadband, but would like more consideration to be given to the locations for the cabinets. Nick will send a note to Eric, who will contact Planning raising our concerns. **ACTION: NM/ET**
- 4.2.3 A member of the public raised their concerns about a previous application by BT to install a cabinet on The Square. Apparently this application has now been withdrawn, but a position for a cabinet has been painted on Station Road where they park their car. Nick had written to Planning lodging the objections of the Community Council to the original application. We would have expected, therefore, to have been informed if the application had been withdrawn. It was questioned why a new location had been drawn on the road, but no new application appears to have been lodged. Nick will contact Planning to ask about this. **ACTION: NM**
- 4.2.4 18/00440 Erection of garage, shed and fence. 28 Park Crescent. No concerns.
- 4.2.5 18/00367 Erection of garage and installation of solar panels. Tweeddale House, Haddington Road. No concerns.
- 4.2.6 18/00302 Alterations to house, garage and erection of shed. 2 Walden Drive. No concerns. Andrew left the meeting for the following two applications.
- 4.2.7 18/00423 Erection of stone wall, fence and gate (Retrospective). Orchard House, Edinburgh Road and 18/00282 Change of use of public open space to form garden ground, erection of 2 sheds, carport, fencing, walls and hardstanding area. Orchard House, Edinburgh Road. There was much discussion about these two applications and a number of concerns were raised. Given that the applicant is a member of the Community Council, it was agreed that we should contact Planning and ask them to help, as a neutral party. **ACTION: ET**

### **4.3 Finance:**

- 4.3.1 Andrew reported that there is £8,375 in the account.
- 4.3.2 Wendy reported that there will be a cost of under £100 for the double-sided colour leaflets and laminated cards for the traffic calming consultation.

### **4.4 Area Partnership:**

- 4.4.1 There hasn't been an Area Partnership meeting since our last meeting.
- 4.4.2 The next meeting is on Thursday 17th May where various funding applications will be considered.

### **4.5 Lunch Club:**

- 4.5.1 There were 29 people at today's Lunch, which was held at The Restoration Yard in Dalkeith.

### **4.6 Community Woodland:**

- 4.6.1 An application for £96,000 funding for paths and bridges within the woods has been submitted to the SRDP.
- 4.6.2 An application has been submitted to Awards for All for £10,000.
- 4.6.3 The Community Woodland Group will have a stall at the church fete.
- 4.6.4 A number of events are planned over the next few months.

## **5 Cycle Events**

- 5.1 A meeting was arranged by Derek Oliver in April, which was attended by Jo and Craig along with PC Bairden, PC Nicolson, Councillor Small, Councillor McMillan, Council officers, Sheena from Bolton Community Council and the organiser of the Gifford Road Race. Jo was disappointed, as she had been promised a separate meeting with the organiser.
- 5.2 The police reviewed the photographs and videos and said they had no safety concerns. The riding was considered safe as there were outriders warning drivers, as would be the case if a combine harvester was on the road. They said that drivers need to be aware that the race was on. They noted that the club had also disqualified some riders for breaching the rules.
- 5.3 Nick disagreed that the event was run safely, having twice personally had to take avoiding action when driving on the route and having heard from other members of the community who had also had to take to the grass verge to avoid the peloton.
- 5.4 Although it had been better this year than in previous years, the antisocial behaviour is not acceptable. The Community Wardens won't attend as it is outwith their normal shift pattern. PC Bairden has said that she will attend next year's event.
- 5.5 It was agreed that the event needs to have more marshals. There was some discussion about how the organisers will get more marshals and what the minimum number would be. Would the event be cancelled if there were not enough marshals?
- 5.6 Adam was concerned that we had raised a number of points with the Council, but they responded that there were no issues. Jo said that it was agreed at the meeting that better communications will help in future years, but that the lack of response from Council officers had made things worse.
- 5.7 It was agreed that as a Community Council we were confident that we had done enough to ensure that the Council, organisers and others new about the concerns of the community. Having passed on these concerns it is up to them to ensure the safety of the event and to ensure that previous issues do not reoccur.

- 5.8 It is hoped that a meeting can be arranged between the organisers of the Iron Man event, the Council and various Community Councils. A number of concerns have been raised.

## **6 Traffic Calming**

- 6.1 Wendy reported that the consultation on traffic calming options is now open. Leaflets have been handed around as many households in the ward as possible. There will be two drop-in events in the Lanterne Rouge where people can come in and talk about the proposals.
- 6.2 Mark has contacted the safety auditor. He has confirmed that to do a safety audit for the three proposed locations would only cost £100 more than doing just the one. They can be done quite quickly.
- 6.3 Mark had contacted Marshall Greenshields three weeks ago, but hadn't received a response. He needs more information from him before the first drop-in event on Saturday.
- 6.4 Jo will put information onto facebook and the Gifford Village web site. She will also send details to the Courier.

## **7 Community Council Members' roles and responsibilities**

- 7.1 As members of the Community Council we are regularly told about a number of issues. Some of these could be dealt with without the involvement of the Community Council. We are all very busy and should not be expected to respond to every request. There was discussion about some recent examples.
- 7.2 Jo said that East Lothian Council has an on-line self-reporting web page. <https://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/reportit> Members of the Community Council should suggest that people can report issues directly to the Council this way, rather than expecting the Community Council to do so. Some issues, such as the recent damage to the toilets should be reported by the cleaner. Some other issues could be resolved by individuals talking to their neighbours.
- 7.3 A member of the public commented that the Community Council represents the community and is the only place they can come to for help.
- 7.4 It was noted that on occasions the Council does not respond to the Community Council, leaving it stuck in the middle of a bigger issue.
- 7.5 It was agreed that if a member of the public approaches a member of the Community Council about an issue, we should ask them what they have already tried to resolve the issue. We should suggest that they can contact their local Councillor, or the self-reporting web page. If they have already done this, but haven't had a satisfactory response then the Community Council may have a role to try to help.

## **8 Correspondence**

- 8.1 A copy of Homefront, the Council's newsletter for East Lothian Council tenants has been received.
- 8.2 An e-mail from the Airfields of Britain Conservation Trust had been received. There was an airfield at Townhead during WW1. They have offered a free plaque for its 100th anniversary. Jo will respond and contact Mike McDowell. **ACTION: JA**

**9 AOCB**

- 9.1 East Lothian Council's Chief Executive is meeting with representatives from three Community Councils today about the lack of consultation from the Council over planning applications and other matters. Jo has sent an e-mail to Penny Short who will be attending the meeting. Jo will forward her e-mail to members of the Community Council. **ACTION: JA**
- 9.2 Adam raised his concerns about a commercial dog walker who has been walking several dogs in the community woodland. Three people have reported to him that the dogs are not kept under proper control . He has not had any help from the Council. Nick will send him the contact details for the Council's dog warden. **ACTION: NM**
- 9.3 Concern was raised about an individual who has been walking in the road and acting aggressively towards drivers. It is a difficult situation, but it is considered that it is best to report any incidents to Social Services. If a number of reports are received then it is more likely that help will be given.
- 9.4 Andrew reported that there had found the remains of a campfire and litter in the woods close to the new entrance from Edinburgh Road. He had cleared it up.
- 9.5 Wendy updated the meeting about the Yester Church Summer Fair, which will be held on 17th June from 2pm to 4.30 at Broadwood, Edinburgh Road, Gifford.
- 9.6 Dave noted that the water level is currently low in the Gifford Water, which is ideal for cutting the trees that have fallen in the river. He will try to ask the estate if they are going to cut them. **ACTION: DG**

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