

Minutes of the Gifford Community Council meeting held on 11th June 2018 in the Todrick Room, Gifford Village Hall

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

1 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of 14th May 2018 were agreed as correct. Proposed Adam, seconded Eric.

2 Matters Arising

- 2.1 2.2 Alan Cater has let us know that he will no longer be supporting community web sites from the end of the year. We need to start advertising for someone to continue the web site. Jo will ask Lilian Pryde to circulate an e-mail to other Community Councils to see if there is a local person who can take this on. **ACTION: JA**
- 2.2 4.1.3 Nick had contacted East Lothian Council about the lack of TTROs for the traffic lights on the Haddington Road for the resurfacing of the pavement and at the school of furniture for Scottish Water work. They apologised for the lack of TTROs saying that the work would be completed by the 29th and 22nd May respectively.
- 2.3 4.1.4 Dave had contacted Derek Flinn at ELC about the step on the path between Station Road and Tweedale Crescent. It is recognised that it needs to be repaired, but it is not a priority. Craig will look into whether this can be undertaken by a contractor using Area Partnership funding. **ACTION: CM**
- 2.4 4.1.5 Nick has spoken to the Area Partnership Manager, Stuart Gibb, about various potential projects. This includes both entrances into the park, which could be undertaken by Amenity Services.
- 2.5 4.2.2 Nick had sent a note to Eric summarising the Community Council's concerns about this application. Eric and Craig will go and see the Planners about the application for various broadband cabinets in Tweedale Avenue, Tweedale Crescent and Station Road. There are various stories circulating about different cabinets being used and different locations proposed. If there have been changes made to the application, then a new application should be submitted. **ACTION: CM/ET**
- 2.6 4.2.3 Nick has e-mailed Planning about this application, for which he had already submitted a response from the Community Council. He has still not heard back from them. Adam asked what we can do as a Community Council when a member of the public raised concerns about such an application. We should encourage them to contact Planning and we can also contact Planning with their concerns.

- 2.7 4.2.7 Eric and Craig met with the Planners to discuss the concerns of the Community Council with the applications at Orchard House. A number of people had raised concerns about this application with Eric and members of the public present at the meeting also raised some concerns. A number of members felt that they were in a difficult position, given that the applications had been submitted by a member of the Community Council. Craig said that we must ensure that all members of the Community Council act with integrity, as any decision we make would be scrutinised. Councillor Trotter said that the Community Council must represent the public and take their concerns into account. Wendy said that we had all felt rather uncomfortable at last month's meeting when these applications were discussed and we had therefore asked Eric to get more information from Planners. Having heard the disquiet of members of the public and discussed the application with Planners we should respond giving those concerns. A note will be prepared by Eric and Nick, which will be approved by Craig before we send it to planning. Out of courtesy we will inform Andrew of our response.
ACTION: NM/ET/CM
- 2.8 8.2 Jo has responded to the Airfields of Britain Conservation Trust and is waiting for a reply.
- 2.9 9.1 Jo sent an e-mail to Penny Short, listing our concerns about the lack of consultation from the Council about cycle events, prior to her meeting with the Chief Executive.
- 2.10 9.2 Nick forwarded the contact details of the dog warden to Adam. Adam said that he has been very helpful.
- 2.11 9.3 Yester Estate are to arrange for a number of trees in the river to be cut up and removed. However, there is some doubt about where the boundary is between the estate and the Council. Dave will contact the Council's Estates Department to see if they can help.**ACTION: DG**

3 External Reports

3.1 Police: an update had been sent to us by PC Bairden.

- 3.1.1 On 7th of June police were called to Walden Place regarding a female assaulting another over a disagreement about dog grooming. A female was charged and a report sent to the Procurator Fiscal.
- 3.1.2 On 8th of June police received a call regarding a mother and daughter fighting in the street at Walden Terrace. No charges were brought on this occasion.
- 3.1.3 There were a couple of minor road traffic accidents over the period. The police are continuing with speed checks as in Gifford. One of the current CAP priorities is speeding motor bikes in Gifford.
- 3.1.4 On 22nd of May it was reported that the public toilets at Bleachfield had been vandalised, doors kicked in and soap poured over the floor. This happened again on 30th of May. To date the youths responsible have not been identified. Patrols will continue in the area at the relevant times. Anyone with any information please contact PC Bairden.
- 3.1.5 The next CAP meeting is on 16th July at 6.30 in Haddington Town Hall.

3.2 East Lothian Council:

- 3.2.1 Councillor McMillan reported that a new head has been appointed for Yester Primary. She is Heather Williams from Elphinstone Primary. A new head has also been appointed for Knox Academy. She is Sue Cook, from Trinity Academy.
- 3.2.2 Councillor Akhtar reported that the East Lothian Local Development Plan has been to the Reporter and returned with minor revisions. There is now a much more robust process for fracking and the requirement for developer contributions for community facilities.

- 3.2.3 Councillor McMillan noted that the Reporter had removed the housing allocations from Humbie and East Saltoun. While this may keep the objectors happy, this could prove to be a problem for the schools, with a limited number of children in the area and an ageing demographic.
- 3.2.4 Councillor Akhtar reported that the Council's Speeds on Roads Policy is being updated.
- 3.2.5 The Young Carers' Festival will be held on 15th June in Haddington.
- 3.2.6 The Local Housing Strategy has been agreed. Craig said that there are a couple of houses in Park Crescent that appear to be empty. Councillor McMillan asked him to send him details and he will follow this up. **ACTION: CM**
- 3.2.7 Following a workshop on Child Poverty and Food Poverty, each Area Partnership will receive additional resources for projects to help combat this. A steering group is to be set up.

4 Internal Reports

4.1 Roads, Lighting and Signs:

- 4.1.1 Dave reported that the road surface on The Avenue is breaking up. He has been informed that a new system for prioritising repairs has been adopted. The Jet Patcher is currently broken down.
- 4.1.2 Dave will report the potholes at the Y-junction to the Golf Course and the road beyond Castle Mains. **ACTION: DG**
- 4.1.3 A member of the public reported that the pavement along Station Road is in a terrible condition. Craig suggested that this could be a future project for the Area Partnership to consider. Dave will take a look at the pavement. **ACTION: DG**
- 4.1.4 Dave had been contacted by ELC asking if the Community Council approved of the proposal to put in a bollard to protect the bridge on Station Road. It was agreed that we did like the idea. Dave will let ELC know. **ACTION: DG**
- 4.1.5 Dave has informed the Council that many of the white lines in the village need to be replaced. He was told that a previous Community Council decision was not to have white lines in the Main Street. It was decided that we do want lines on the Main Street. Dave will contact the Council and ask for all of the white lines to be renewed. **ACTION: DG**
- 4.1.6 Adam has been contacted by a member of the public who is concerned about the junction on Edinburgh Road that leads to Yester Mains and the Golf Course. He thinks the junction is very dangerous. Dave will contact Peter Forsyth at the Council to ask if someone could have a look at the junction and see if improvements can be made. **ACTION: DG**

4.2 Planning: Only two new applications this month:

- 4.2.1 18/00480 Extension to Yester House (Garage) and 18/00446 Alterations to the stable block at Yester Estate. Although neither application is within keeping of the original buildings, neither of them will be visible, so the Community Council has no concerns.

4.3 Finance:

- 4.3.1 Andrew had e-mailed to say that there is £8,803 in the account.
- 4.3.2 Jo has received a cheque from the Co-op, so the total received towards the benches in the park is £457.

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 5th July.
- 4.4.3 The new Area Plan is being produced and inequalities and poverty will be the main focus.

4.5 Lunch Club:

- 4.5.1 There were 31 people at today's Lunch, which was held at The Tweedale Arms. The food was very good.

4.6 Community Woodland:

- 4.6.1 The application for funding submitted to Awards for All was not successful.
- 4.6.2 The Group will have a stall at the Church Fete on 17th June.
- 4.6.3 An educational evening in the woods was held for the Pencaitland Girl Guides.
- 4.6.4 The Group will man the feed station for the Ironman event on 1st July.
- 4.6.5 The AGM will be held on 27th August.

5 Cycle Events

- 5.1 Jo and Andrew met with the organisers of Ironman and East Lothian Council to discuss the event and how to limit impacts on the village. This event is well organised and they communicate well with communities. The main issues for Gifford is the closure of the roads and restrictions on parking which have a big impact on local trade.
- 5.2 Jo has managed to arrange a solution, which will allow people from the south side of the village to cross the road at Hoggs to access a segregated lane, where cars normally park outside the Goblin. This will mean that cars can drive out of the village via this marshalled crossing. She had hoped that a second crossing point would have allowed cars to cross from Station Road into The Avenue, so that they could also take advantage of this exit, but the organisers said this would not be possible.
- 5.3 It has been agreed that the parking restrictions won't come into force until the Sunday morning, so that people will still be able to visit the pubs on Saturday evening.
- 5.4 It is hoped that next year the event will use a loop, rather than returning through Gifford, which will reduce the impact that it has on the village.
- 5.5 There will also be a manned crossing at the Humbie/Bolton crossroads.
- 5.6 Jo and Adam also met with Douglas Proudfoot, East Lothian Council's Head of Development about previous communication issues, particularly with cycle events. They felt that he was the first person who has taken this seriously.
- 5.7 Douglas was keen that the Council looks beyond the county-wide economic impact of such events, but also considers the impacts on individual communities. He felt that Ironman was an example of an event that has too much impact on small communities. He was also alarmed to hear about the antisocial behaviour of some competitors on some other events.
- 5.8 Adam thought that the Ironman meeting was more positive than the Edinburgh Road Club meeting. He was hopeful of a positive outcome, but said that we had been hopeful before.
- 5.9 Councillor McMillan suggested that there should be a "hot review" after the Ironman event. He was keen on the loop idea and concerned about the disruption to local businesses. He said

that communities should benefit from Ironman and road races can't be allowed to ride roughshod over communities.

- 5.10 Jo said that Douglas had said that the Community Wardens could attend such events and that the organisers would have to pay the cost of the extra shifts.
- 5.11 Jo will ask the organisers of Ironman to contact carer organisations to ensure that carers are able to reach their clients. **ACTION: JA**

6 Traffic Calming

- 6.1 Wendy reported that the three-week consultation on traffic calming options has just been completed. 160 responses had been received, which amounts to approximately 29% of the households in the area. 75% of respondents were in favour of traffic calming on Duns Road, with 25% against it. 71% of respondents were in favour of traffic calming on the Edinburgh Road, with 29% against and 63% of respondents were in favour of traffic calming on the Haddington Road, with 37% against.
- 6.2 Mark had prepared a summary of the comments with responses from Marshall Greenshields. All members of the Community Council should read these and once approved it will be sent to all those who requested to be kept informed about the consultation. **ACTION: All**
- 6.3 Councillor Trotter questioned why the Community Council would have responsibility for the maintenance of the speed cushions, and indeed why the Community Council is having to fund their installation.
- 6.4 It was agreed that we should proceed with plans to install speed cushions on Duns Road. The process now will be to get ELC's Roads department to agree the exact locations and planning permission will be required. A safety audit will also be required, which will include all three roads.

7 Correspondence

- 7.1 The Scotways newsletter and subscription renewal has been received.

8 AOCB

- 8.1 Jo reported that this year is the 50th anniversary of the Yester school buildings. The Yester Parent Council AGM will be held soon. The new head teacher is keen to build inter-generational links between the school and the community.
- 8.2 Jo suggested that GDPR should be an agenda item for the next meeting. We all have responsibilities as data holders. There is an on-line presentation, which she will circulate before the next meeting. **ACTION: JA**
- 8.3 Jane reported that some members of the Lunch Club will be participating in the Safe Sanctuary exercise on 26th June.

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