**Minutes of the Gifford Community Council Meeting   
held** **on 8th May 2023 at Gifford Bowling Club**

**Participating** Adam White (Chair), Richard Austin, Hugh Broad, Rita Buchan, Neville Kilkenny, Wendy Ferguson, Dave Griffiths and Jill Hyslop

**In Attendance** Councillor Tom Trotter and 3 local residents

**Apologies** Eleanor Hulme, Councillor John McMillan, Councillor George McGuire,

Councillor Shamin Akhtar

**1 Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The meeting noted one correction to the minutes of 17th April and then they were approved by Dave and Wendy.

**2 Matters arising**

**2.1 Newlands Wind Energy Hub**

Nothing to report. The developers estimate that they will submit a planning application to the Scottish Government in Q3 this year.

**2.2 Dunside Windfarm**

Nothing to report.

**2.3 Crystal Rig Solar Farm**

Nothing to report.

**2.4 Additional Graveyard space**

Nothing to report.

**2.5 Wheelie Bins on Main Street**

No update. Councillor Trotter offered to ask the council for an update on this. At this point, the meeting discussed what other updates were required from the council and the following list was given to Councillor Trotter:

* Replacement of the temporary signage at the NISA store, which has now been in place for approximately 18 months.
* Re-surfacing the lane between Tweeddale Crescent and Station Road.
* Determining whether the Gifford Circle bus stop should be moved.
* A review of the sufficiency of the street lighting around The Square. This issue is separate from the suggested review into the consistency of lampposts around the village.

**ACTION: TT**

**2.6 Defibrillator**

2.6.1 School defibrillator.  Richard has now been informed that planning permission is required. **ACTION: RA**

2.6.2 Garage defibrillator. An electrician needs to complete the installation of the new cabinet at the garage. Wendy agreed to speak to someone about this. The meeting agreed that a notice should be put on the cabinet to confirm that no pin is required. The same applies to the school defibrillator. Wendy is checking recycling options for the old garage cabinet. **ACTION: WF**

2.6.3 Bowling club defibrillator.  The Bowling Club has agreed to get a defibrillator for the outside of the building. Wendy agreed to work with the Bowling Club committee to look at costings and community council will submit the planning application, as the defibrillator is intended to service the wider community, rather than just the bowling club.

**2.7 New Noticeboard**

Wendy has contacted the Area Partnership to see whether funding might be available to cover some of the cost. They have informally said that the noticeboard might not fit into their focus on poverty and well being. However Wendy agreed to speak to them again on the grounds that the noticeboard reduces social isolation and supports the flow of community information, particularly for those who are not online. Wendy will also investigate other possible funding sources. Richard has submitted an application for Advertising Consent. The meeting agreed that the new noticeboard should carry a note telling people what sort of information the noticeboard is intended to cover and how they can get notices added **ACTION: RA/WF**

**2.8 Bus stop - review of position**

No update (also discussed at 2.5 above)

**2.9 Lighting Review**

No update (also discussed at 2.5 above)

**2.10 Road Safety Crossing Point**

The Head Teacher at Yester Primary has submitted a formal request to the council asking if Gifford can get a lollipop person. Ian Lennock has acknowledged receipt of the request and will arrange for an assessment of vehicular and pedestrian movements to see if the request meets the criteria.

**2.11 Additional Bins**

Following the discovery of a large number of poo bags being dumped in a local resident’s garden, two council wardens carried out a site visit. Community Council and Gifford Community Woodland are looking to add 3 additional bins. The suggested action is a site visit with Ed Hendrickson (ELC), community council and the woods to determine locations and bin specifications. **ACTION: JH**

**3. External Reports**

**3.1** **Police**

The Police Report stated that between 1st – 30st April 2023 there were 13 calls to the area, but no crimes were recorded. Speed checks were carried out on 4 May 2023 with several drivers warned accordingly. Numerous high visibility patrols have been carried out at busy times and no parking issues have been identified.

**3.2** **East Lothian Council**

Councillor Trotter updated the meeting on recent council business.

**3.3 Gifford Community Woodland**

Nev reported that work is ongoing to tidy up after the felling. The replanting has mostly been completed with 9 large trees still to be planted in Speedy Wood and 9 large pine trees to be planted in Fawn Wood. Water bars have been added to the path in Speedy Wood to try to reduce water damage. The paths around the welfare camp area have been improved to make them accessible and the toilet facilities have been updated. Two disabled parking spaces have been created by the council on Station Road.

**3.4 Yester Estate**

No update from Yester Estate. Community Council has been asked to clarify ownership of an area of land, which was previously thought to be a feuars field adjacent to Yester Estate. Wendy agreed to look into this. **ACTION: WF**

**4 Internal Reports**

**4.1 Roads and Footpaths.**

Nothing to report. The schedule for the resurfacing of the lane between Tweeddale Crescent and Station Road was raised at 2.5.

**4.2 Lighting**

Nothing to report on Lighting.

**4.3 Drainage**

Nothing to report.

**4.4 Signs**

Nothing to report.

**4.5 Planning**

Please see attached report for planning applications within and outwith GCC Area. It was noted that the retrospective planning application for the car park at the Hopes had been approved with opening hours 8am-7pm on Tue, Wed, Thu and Sun during Feb–Nov and additionally Fri during Dec and Jan. The signage is to be considered under a separate application for Advertisement Consent.

The Chair reminded the meeting that community council’s main role in planning matters is to raise awareness of planning applications and to make sure that people know how to give their feedback directly to the planning authority.

**4.6 Finance**

Wendy reported that community council has around £8,000 in the bank. Around £300 had been paid for website hosting. The noticeboard will cost around £4,000 although funding options are being investigated. Community council is looking to fund 3 new bins, with the cost tbc. Suggestions for any further spending can be made to Wendy.

**4.7 Website**

Dave asked if the Bowling Club might be able to add information to the website and Jill agreed to speak to Liz about this. **ACTION: JH**

**4.8 Resilience**

As previously reported ‘Soup & Smile’ has been paused over the summer and will resume in autumn. 30 people had attended a coronation-themed lunch club. 40 people had taken fish and chips at the end of April and this continues to be well-received. Wendy reported that a new resident had been added to the resilience list via the Volunteer Centre East Lothian.

**5. Correspondence**

The Area Partnership will hold its Annual Public Meeting on 23rd May, with the election of office bearers to take place beforehand.

**6. AOB**

6.1 Adam confirmed that the mini rugby coaches will arrange for the park benches to be repainted at the end of the season.

6.2 Wendy asked if anyone thought we needed to buy any extra Christmas lights. It was agreed that no extra lights were needed.

6.3 Jill asked whether any of the street signs (eg at Station Road) could be cleaned and/or repainted Councillor Trotter agreed to look into this. **ACTION: TT**

Date of next meeting: Monday 12th June

**APPLICATIONS WITHIN GCC AREA**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Date Validated** | **GCC first discussed** | **Comments** | **Status** |
| 23/00261/P | Alterations to house as changes to the scheme of development the subject of planning consent 20/00785/P | Avenue House High Street Gifford Haddington East Lothian EH41 4QU | 13/3/23 | Apr 2023 | Alterations to the detail of previously consented application for internal alterations and a single storey extension to the rear. | Approved |
| 23/00191/P | Alterations to garage to provide ancillary accommodation and formation of decked area | The Pirn Duns Road Gifford East Lothian EH41 4QW | 09/03/23 | Apr 2023 | Conversion of existing double garage at rear to form Home Office, Study and Lounge Area. Proposals do not involve WC, kitchen or bathroom and so are unlikely to constitute a separately occupiable property. | Approved, subject to only residential use associated with the main house. |
| 23/00172/P | Installation of solar panels and painting of front door | Threagowen 18 Old Mill Lane Gifford East Lothian EH41 4QQ | 02/03/23 | Mar 2023 | Installation of ten solar panels on roof to rear of property. | Approved |
| 23/00069/P | Replacement windows | Bank House High Street Gifford East Lothian EH41 4QU | 10/02/23 | Feb 2023 | Replacement wooden double glazed windows to existing design. | Approved |
| 23/00059/P | Change of use of agricultural land to form car park, erection of gates and fencing (Retrospective) | Hopes Estate Yester Gifford Haddington East Lothian EH41 4PL | 09/02/23 | Feb 2023 | Retrospective application for creation of car park. GCC comments relating to operational hours of car park submitted on 07/03/23 | Approved with opening hours 8am-7pm on Tue, Wed, Thu & Sun during Feb–Nov and additionally Fri during Dec & Jan. Signage to be considered under a separate application for Advertisement Consent. |
| 22/01169/P | Alterations, extensions to agricultural buildings to form 7 houses, erection of a shared domestic ancillary building and associated works | Longnewton Farm Steading Yester Gifford East Lothian | 12/12/22 | Jan 2023 | Conversion of stable block to form 2 dwellings, steading block to form four dwellings and granary to form one dwelling. Barn to be converted for shared use. | Awaiting decision |
| 21/01599/P | Erection of 1 house and associated works | Land Adjacent To Castlepark Golf Club Yester Gifford East Lothian EH41 4PL | 31/01/22 | Feb 2022 | Six bedroomed house attached to the west of the clubhouse, for occupation by the owner/manager. The applicant has requested several extensions of time in order to prepare supporting information. | Awaiting decision |

**APPLICATIONS OUTWITH GCC AREA**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Date Validated** | **GCC first discussed** | **Comments** | **Status** |
| None |  |  |  |  |

**OTHER PLANNING MATTERS**

**Newlands Hill Wind Energy Hub (Belltown Power)**

Submission of proposals to Scottish Government anticipated Q3 2023. Memorandum of Understanding for Community Benefit has been agreed between Belltown Power and Gifford CC and Garvald & Morham CC.

**Dunside Wind Farm (EDF)**

No further information.

**Solar panels at Crystal Rig Wind Farm (Fred Olsen Renewables)**

Initial consultation event was held in Garvald Village Hall on 28th February. Initial plans can be viewed at www.crystalrigwindfarm.com