**Minutes of the Gifford Community Council Meeting (AGM) held**

**on 11th October 2021 via Zoom**

**Participating** Adam White (Chair) Wendy Ferguson Jill Hyslop

David Griffiths Eleanor Hulme Rita Buchan

Richard Austin

**In Attendance** Councillor Shamin Akhtar Councillor Tom Trotter

**Apologies** Councillor John McMillan Councillor Craig Hoy Andrew Hamilton

Hugh Broad

**(a) Roll Call**

Councillor Akhtar opened the AGM and thanked everyone for their contribution to Community Council.

**(b) Appointment of Office Bearers**

Officer Bearers were appointed as follows.

Chair: Adam White (nominated by Wendy Ferguson and seconded by Richard Austin)

Treasurer: Wendy Ferguson (nominated by Adam White and seconded by Rita Buchan)

Secretary: Jill Hyslop (nominated by Adam White and seconded by Wendy Ferguson)

Vice Chair: Richard Austin (nominated by Wendy Ferguson and seconded by Adam White)

**1 Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The meeting approved the minutes of the meeting of the 11th September (approved by Dave Griffiths and Richard Austin).

**2 Matters Arising**

2.1 Road safety and Parking

2.1.1 Adam reported that no feedback had been received from the council yet, with regard to widening the bridge.

2.1.2 The parking spaces outside Lewis and Clarke were still operating as normal.

2.2 Additional Graveyard space. Wendy informed the meeting that the cost of the SEPA assessment would be £25,000. This sum would be payable regardless of whether there was a positive outcome or not. In the circumstances, it was agreed that it would not be appropriate for community council to attempt to fundraise this amount and the matter should instead be transferred to East Lothian Council. The next step is for the appropriate council officer to investigate funding options. **ACTION:JM**

2.3 Traffic Calming

2.3.1 Duns Road. Mark informed Council about a complaint that has been raised by a resident about noise caused by heavy lorries passing over a speed cushion, which is positioned beside their property. The council is investigating the complaint and has indicated that it might be necessary to move the speed cushion. Adam reminded the meeting that there had been a 4-year consultation process and that all guidance had been adhered to. Speed cushions had been chosen specifically to minimise noise. Mark will forward the emails concerning this matter to Richard. As Mark has now stood down from community council, and has had a handover with Richard, it was agreed that Mark will no longer need to be included in communications about this going forward. The Chair thanked Mark for his hard work and Councillor Akhtar additionally thanked Mark for his help with constituents.  **ACTION: RA**

2.3.2 Edinburgh Road. Richard had nothing to report. However, he will request an update when following up the Duns Road issue (2.3.1 above). **ACTION: RA**

2.4 Wheelie bins on Main Street pavement

Adam emphasised the importance of reaching a solution, as this matter had been going on for a year. Due to the narrowness of the pavement, the wheelie bins effectively block access, meaning that people have to walk on the road. Councillor Akhtar reported that she had tried to engage with residents to find a solution. She had discussed the possibility of removing a parking space, but this was not supported. Councillor Akhtar had spoken to Gifford Garage to see if they could provide space, but this was not successful. The matter has now been transferred to Waste Services, but Councillor Akhtar reported that Waste Services would only advise residents about bins and could not instruct them. Dave asked whether they could look at widening the pavement and also queried whether some residents might be able to use smaller bins. The action point is for Waste Services to engage with residents to look for a possible solution. Wendy thanked Councillor Akhtar for all her efforts so far.

2.5 Defibrillators. Wendy confirmed that she had written to the Scottish Ambulance Service. Although they cannot recommend a specific company, they can offer some advice. The next step is to finish the planning application, which includes speaking to the school to finalise the location. Regarding the cost, community council will pay for the defibrillator and the money will be reimbursed by Garreth Wood. **ACTION: WF**

2.6. Beautiful Scotland. Adam was pleased to confirm that Gifford had been awarded a Gold Certificate and had also received the award for Best Newcomer. This can be added to the 3 village signs at a total cost of £500. Adam will look into how this should be paid for. Councillors Trotter and Akhtar congratulated everyone who had contributed to this. **ACTION: AW**

2.7 Adam has written to Andrew Hogarth about the tree at the Witherspoon plaque.

2.8 War Memorial. Wendy has spoken to Andrew Hogarth, who confirmed that the bed will be planted with appropriate winter flowers ahead of the Remembrance Sunday service.

2.9 School Railings. Councillor Akhtar had a site visit with Dave to measure the railings and will follow this up. **ACTION: SA**

2.10 Litter in the Bleachfield. Adam reported that Yester Parent Council had agreed with the school to promote litter awareness amongst pupils. Councillor Akhtar informed the meeting that Keep Scotland Beautiful is running a campaign for kids about litter, and she agreed to forward the details to Alan Laidlaw, Chair of Yester Parent Council. **ACTION: SA**

2.11 Home Energy Scotland. Eleanor informed the meeting that the gazebo event had been very successful. The organiser had been pleased with the response. Eleanor has been publicising details of a Webinar event which will take place on 12th October.

2.12 Christmas 2021. Adam confirmed that 3 events are planned: Christmas Light Switch on, Christmas Post and the Christmas Carols with a torchlight procession.

2.12.1 The Christmas Light Switch on will probably take place on 3rd December, as the tree is normally in place during the last week of November. Community council will be looking to involve local businesses and will need to find somebody to switch the lights on. Anyone interested in helping should contact Adam. **ACTION: AW**

2.12.2 Christmas Post. The post box will be located in Lanterne Rouge from Monday 13th December - Saturday 18th December. All proceeds will go to St Columbas Hospice. A group will be organised to collect and deliver the post. **ACTION: AW**

2.12.3 Christmas Carols. This will take place on Thursday 23rd December. The Minister had asked for it not to be held on a Sunday as they are very busy with church services. Wendy has arranged for someone to lead the carols. **ACTION: WF**

2.13 The next Community Council meeting will be held in Gifford Bowling Club. The cost is to be confirmed. The room is big enough to allow for social distancing. **ACTION: AW**

2.14 Noticeboards. Dave reported that the noticeboard beside the Co-op had been renovated. The one beside the green still needs to be done. It is more complicated as the wood is rotten. Adam reminded Dave that community council funds were available to support this work, and that the noticeboards were an important feature of the village **ACTION: AW/DG**

**3 External Reports**

**3.1 Police**

This report is based on incidents between 12/09/2021 and 10/10/2021. During the period since the last police report there have been very few incidents of note in the Gifford area. There may be more incidents but due to the nature of these or ongoing investigations I cannot give full details.

3.1.1 Regular patrols continue to be carried out by both police and community wardens in the local area.

3.1.2 Overnight on 09/10/2021 a building on a rural property near Gifford was broken into and two quad bikes were stolen. Enquires ongoing.

3.1.3 PC Boyd asked community council whether the pop-up police stations, which they have been running at weekends, were a good idea. Everyone agreed that these were useful and should continue.

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

Councillors Akhtar and Trotter reported on the following issues and encouraged anyone who would like further information about any of these initiatives to contact the Councillors direct.

3.2.1 The Lammermuir Larder has been supporting constituents and Councillor Akhtar informed the meeting that many constituents were facing difficulties with food poverty, fuel poverty and problems arising out of the end of the furlough scheme. East Lothian Council will be agreeing a Poverty Action Plan.

3.2.2 The council is looking into the possibility of a local vaccination bus.

3.2.3 The meeting was reminded about the consultations regarding 20mph speed limits and ‘spaces for people’. Councillor Akhtar strongly encouraged people to engage and contribute to the consultation processes.

3.2.4 Void council houses. Councillor Akhtar agreed to follow up the matter of an empty council house at 22 Walden Terrace. **ACTION: SA**

**3.3 Community Woodland**

Adam reported that the new Charcoal Kiln was a major success. It would generate revenue and provide a way to use the debris resulting from the clearance of the rhododendrons. He also reported that work was starting on path repairs and drainage. Adam also reported that the Woodlands had been grateful to receive a generous legacy payment from the estate of a village resident.

**4 Internal Reports**

**4.1 Roads and Footpaths**

4.1.1 The focus of this month’s report is the C class road between Longyester and Pishwanton wood including the entrance to the quarry. The road has been patched up many times but it is currently in a very bad state and needs upgrading work done to it. The road would probably need to be closed for 2 weeks. Dave reported that he had spoken to the quarry manager, who said that the company would work with the council regarding the road closure. Dave reported that it was the quarry, rather than East Lothian Council, that had recently filled in potholes with 5 tonnes of tar. Councillor McMillan reported (by email before the meeting) that he had forwarded Dave’s report to Alan Stubbs and his team. **ACTION: JM**

4.1.2Following the discussion at last month’s meeting about garden hedges on Tweeddale Avenue encroaching onto public paths, Dave asked whether the council had looked at overgrown hedges in other parts of the village, including Park Road and the High Street. The residents of one house were known to be away for long periods and Dave queried whether the council should look after the hedge in such circumstances. **ACTION: JM**

4.1.3The hedge on the core path between Haddington Rd and Duns Rd on the edge of the field has been cut back by the owner and is not obstructing walkers.

4.1.4 Dave reported that he had spoken to Andrew Hogarth about the slabbed path across the green between the Wynd and Park Road becoming narrow due to grass growth. Contractors were reported to be on site and a new, wider path will be in place shortly.

**4.2 Street lighting**

4.2.1 The street light outside the Goblin is flashing, which Dave will report. **ACTION: DG**

4.2.2 The steps from Park Road up to the school where the railings have been highlighted for re-painting have 3 lights, only one works. **ACTION: JM**

4.2.3 No further street lamp posts have been painted black.

**4.3 Drainage**

Nothing to report on drainage. The drains had coped well during heavy rain on 5th October.

**4.4 Signs**

Richard reported that he had spoken to the relevant property owners and the trees partially obscuring the speed limit sign on the Edinburgh road would be cut back.

**4.5 Planning**

4.5.1. Please see attached report for planning applications within and outwith GCC Area

**4.6 Finance**

4.6.1 Wendy reported that Stewart Paton had now been paid for the safety survey, leaving Community Council with a bank balance of £14,688. There will be payments due soon for the Christmas Tree and Insurance.

**4.7 Website**

4.7.1 Nothing to report about the website this month. Liz Stewart will continue to update the website and she has now additionally taken over the role of updating social media.

**4.8 Covid Vaccination Update**

4.8.1. A report is attached as an appendix.

**4.9 Yester Estate**

4.9.1 Nothing to report. Community Council is aware of the planned fireworks event on 5th November.

**5 Resilience Update**

5.1 Adam and Wendy reported on a resilience effort to support residents during the closure of the main store in the village. The former co-op will be closed for a week to allow NISA to re-fit and re-stock. Resilience volunteers have been asked to check on neighbours to see if they need help shopping, as some people are known to be nervous about visiting large shops and/or may be reluctant to use public transport.

5.1.2 Wendy and Adam reported that 41 people had received fish and chips on the last Friday of the month. Adam reminded the meeting that people pay for their own food, but Community Council administer the orders and deliver the food. It was estimated that this would continue on the last Friday of each month for about 6 months. Anyone wishing to help should contact Adam or Wendy.

**6. AOB**

6.1 Dog Poo. Rita raised the issue of people not picking up dog poo, particularly on the Bleachfield. She proposed getting 2 new bins to be positioned at the Gifford Water side of the Bleachfield. Councillor Akhtar estimated that the bins would cost £350 each and suggested that funds might be available from the Area Partnership. Councillor Akhtar thought the request should be passed to Andrew Hogarth and Rita agreed to email him. Councillor Akhtar reminded the meeting that people can contact the East Lothian Dog Warden anonymously if they witness people not picking up dog poo. She also offered to supply posters for display in the village, which Rita agreed to help with. **ACTION: SA/RB**

6.2 Lorry parked at the Bolton Walk entrance. Concern was expressed about a large lorry which is parking up during weekends at the entrance to the Bolton Walk. The lorry is sticking out into the road, causing a hazard. Adam thought that the matter should be forwarded to PC Colin Boyd and Eleanor agreed to do so on behalf of Community Council. **ACTION: EH**

6.3 Richard asked whether there had been any further instances of anti-social behaviour outside the Tweeddale Arms. Adam was not aware of any further complaints.

**Date of next meeting -** 7:30pm on Monday 8th November 2021 at the Bowling Club.

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**APPLICATIONS WITHIN GCC AREA**

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|  | **Date Validated** | **GCC first discussed** | **Comments** | **Status** |
| 21/01242/P | Erection of shed | Dolphin Cottage The Square Gifford Haddington EH41 4QJ | 24/09/21 | Oct 2021 | Timber shed approx. 3m x 2m to rear of house. | Awaiting decision |
| 21/01128/P | Erection of outbuilding for use as ancillary residential accommodation | Curlew Cottage Duns Road Gifford East Lothian EH41 4QW | 06/09/21 | Sept 2021 | Studio in garden behind Coop car park. Comprises living area, bedroom and wetroom shower/WC. Design statement refers to office and studio space for Curlew Cottage residents use – not to be sublet. | Awaiting decision |
| 21/01108/P | Change of use of woodland area for use as a nature kindergarten for nursery children, erection of log cabin, toilet, log store and associated works | Wester Wood Near Gifford East Lothian | 09/09/21 | Sept 2021 | Erection of 6.5m x 2.75m log cabin, compost toilet and log store in Wester Wood. Possible implications for right of access? | Awaiting decision |
| 21/01028/P | Erection of garden shed (Retrospective) | 3 Burnside Cottages Station Road Gifford EH41 4QL | 11/08/21 | Sept 2021 | Retrospective application for 3.75m x 1.9m timber shed. | Approved |
| 21/00956/P | Erection of fence (retrospective) | 26 Walden Terrace Gifford Haddington EH41 4QP | 21/7/21 | Aug 2021 | Replacement of leylandii hedge with fence. | Approved |
| 21/00866/P | Extension to house, installation of air source heat pump, rooflights and solar panels, erection of shed and fencing, replacement door and windows and formation of decking | 5 Old Mill Lane Gifford Haddington East Lothian EH41 4QQ | 14/7/21 | Aug 2021 | Extension and decking to rear of property. | Awaiting decision |

**APPLICATIONS OUTWITH GCC AREA**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Date Validated** | **GCC first discussed** | **Comments** | **Status** |
| 21/00563/P | Change of use of woodland area for the erection of domestic garage | Membland Gifford East Lothian EH41 4JH | 21/7/21 | Aug 2021 | Erection of a garage in woodland to the right of the driveway to Membland | Awaiting decision |
| 20/01247/P | Erection of hut and treehouse (Retrospective) | Bolton Muir Wood Gifford East Lothian EH41 4JH | 22/01/21 | Feb 2021 | This is the latest of a number of applications for the erection of huts and other structures in parcels of woodland sold by woodlands.co.uk at Bolton Muir Wood.  As reported at May meeting. | Awaiting decision |

**OTHER PLANNING MATTERS**

None

**Report for 10th October 2021:**

**From national statistics source below as of Friday 8th October:**

<https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/phs.covid.19/viz/COVID-19DailyDashboard_15960160643010/Overview>

**Nationally:**

**Adults 18 and over: 2 doses 87%**

September: 84.9%, August 74%

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**Lothian: 2 doses 84%**

September 81%, August 70%

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**EAST LOTHIAN:**

**Adults 18+:**

Total population age 12+: Dose 1 : **96.1%** Dose 2**: 91.2%**

September 2 doses 89%, August 2 doses 78%

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| **AGE** | **DOSE 1 %** | **DOSE 2 %** |
| 12-15 | 38 | N/A |
| 16-17 | 87 | 14 |
| 18-29 | 85 | 71 |
| 30-39 | 90 | 82 |
| 40-49 | 92 | 88 |
| 50-54 | 98 | 96 |
| 55-59 | 98 | 97 |

OVER 60s: near 100% for each age cohort

Eleanor Hulme (Dr Eleanor Kerr, GMC 2344618)