

# Gifford Community Council Meeting - Draft Minutes

12/01/2026 in Gifford Bowling Club

**Present:** Adam White (Chair), Richard Austin, Wendy Ferguson, Eleanor Hulme, Nev Kilkenny and Nicola Clayson.

In Attendance: Councillor Tom Trotter, Councillor John McMillan, Councillor George McGuire and several residents.

**Apologies:** Alan Fortune, Paul Smith, Anne Stunzner and Councillor Shamin Akhtar.

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## 1. Approval of Minutes (from previous meeting)

The minutes from the last meeting were Nev Kilkenny and Wendy Ferguson approval.

- **Discussion:** A comment was raised regarding missing internal reports in the previous minutes, suggesting that all standing items should always be listed. This system will be changed for future minutes.
- **Action Item:** The Secretary to ensure all standing items are listed in future minutes.

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## 2. Matters Arising / External Reports

### 2.1 Renewable Energy Projects

- **Newlands Hill:** The application has officially gone to a public local inquiry. Mr. Keith Bray has been appointed as the reporter to manage the inquiry on behalf of the energy consents unit. Belltown's statement is available online.
- **Crystal Rig 1:** The application for repowering the wind farm has been amended. The proposed 10 new turbines have been reduced in height from 250m tip height to six at 230m and four at 200m. The planning committee hearing was withdrawn due to recent comments.

### 2.2 Graveyard Extension

No new updates have been received since a site visit in December.

- **Action Item:** John to chase for an update on the graveyard extension.

### 2.3 Airfield Memorial Plaque

The airfield has been purchased by the Yester Estate. It was agreed that the plaque would be better placed on a plinth on the ground rather than requiring a planning application to mount it on a wall.

- **Action Item:** Adam White to approach Yester Estate regarding the plaque.

### 2.4 Community Woodland

A successful volunteering day was held recently. There is currently a slight surplus of logs available for order.

### 2.5 East Lothian Council Updates

The majority of councillors voted for the introduction of parking fees in Dunbar, Haddington, and Musselburgh. This moves to a consultation period for traffic regulation orders (TROs).

Other concerns raised included lighting issues, brown bin services, and the appointment of Gregor Mill as the new community police officer.

- **Action Item:** Lighting concerns to be forwarded to Glen Kane.

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## 3. Internal Reports

### 3.1 Defibrillators (AEDs)

All six community defibrillators are ready for emergency use and listed on "The Circuit". The new unit at the Long Newton phone box has been electrically connected and will be available soon.

Discussion focused on increasing public awareness and training. The current awareness sessions were described as having mixed feedback regarding the presentation and proof of understanding.

- **Discussion Points:**
  - Survival rates for collapse out of hospital in rural areas are less than 1 in 10.
  - A proposal was made to leaflet the whole village to encourage more training uptake.
  - A map of locations needs to be made easily accessible.
  - A church first aid session will include defibrillator information.
- **Action Items:**
  - Nev and Eleanor to design a leaflet showing locations and benefits of training.
  - An offer was made to create a digital map for the website if content is provided.

### 3.2 Police Report

Key updates from the Police and Fire Scrutiny Committee include overall reductions in crime statistics like housebreaking and shoplifting. A specific incident involving cardboard waste set on fire is under investigation with video evidence.

The importance of reporting all incidents to the police (rather than just on social media) was emphasized.

### 3.3 Planning

A quiet month on planning. Two applications (fencing and dormer windows) were approved.

A change in central government regulation (Category 7A) now allows changing window materials (e.g., wood to PVC) in conservation areas with a simpler, lower-fee "prior notification" process, provided they are visually similar.

- **Action Item:** Richard to contact Graham Marsden (replacing Keith) to circulate details on the new window planning regulations to Community Councils.

### 3.4 Finance & Administration

- **SumUp Account:** The council now has a SumUp account for receiving card payments for donations (e.g., at events like Carols around the tree). As part of anti-money laundering regulations, the supplier requires validation of the organization, including member names and copies of minutes.
- **Christmas Lights:** Many strands of the Christmas lights are broken. It was approved to research the cost of replacement lights.
- **Community Councillor Details:** A request was received from Stuart Baxter for the names and home addresses of all councillors and their roles. Concerns were raised regarding GDPR and privacy, as these details are currently on the church notice board.
- **Action Items:**
  - Wendy to send member names and minutes to SumUp for validation.
  - Wendy to investigate the cost of new Christmas lights.
  - Council members to determine whether home addresses need to be publicly displayed on the notice board.

### 3.5 Resilience & Community Support

- The "Soup and Smile" initiative is regularly delivering to 19 people per week. The "Frozen Meals" from the Community Kitchen is also proving successful with several residents.
  - Community trips, such as to the pantomime and school/compass school visits (sporting memories groups), continue to be valuable for social engagement.
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#### **4. Correspondence**

- A letter from Lee Denny, an AED specialist/seller, was received as an introduction.
  - A request for feedback on the budget is under discussion.
  - Training calendars and dates for future meetings will be uploaded to the website.
  - **Action Item:** Anne to ensure the link for the full police and fire reports is circulated to Community Councils.
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#### **5. Date of Next Meeting**

- 9<sup>th</sup> February