**Minutes of the Gifford Community Council Meeting held**

**on 9th August 2021 via Zoom**

**Participating** Adam White (Chair) Wendy Ferguson Mark Hardy

David Griffiths Eleanor Hulme

**In Attendance** Councillor Craig Hoy Councillor John McMillan Gavin

Ewan

**Apologies** Councillor Shamin Akhtar Councillor Tom Trotter Andrew Hamilton

Ishbel Benzie Richard Austin PC Colin Boyd

Liz Stewart

**1 Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The meeting approved the minutes of the meeting of the 14th June (Approved by Mark Hardy and Dave Griffiths).

**2 Matters Arising**

2.1 Road safety and Parking

2.1.1 A meeting took place with the Roads Department to discuss the danger of the footpath on the bridge on the Edinburgh Road. Suggestions have been made as to how the pavement can be widened and will report back to Adam.  **ACTION: AW**

2.1.2 Councillor McMillan did not have any feedback on the parking issues raised at the last meeting by a resident in the High Street

2.1.3 Councillor McMillan had received a concern about the temporary removal of parking outside Lewis and Clarke. This had been passed to the Roads Department

2.2 Wendy reported that ELC did not have a problem with us pursuing an area behind the church for additional graveyard space. The next stage would be an environmental report from SEPA which would take about a year and could be quite costly and potentially be met from Community Council funds. Councillor McMillan felt that this could be seen as part of strategic work and promised to follow this up with the relevant people. **ACTION: JM**

2.3 Traffic Calming.

2.3 Mark reported that the quote had been accepted for the safety audit and this would now take place this Wednesday and a report submitted of the findings. Adam thanked mark and his team for the huge amount of work that this had taken and we are all pleased it is now reaching a conclusion. **ACTION: MH**

2.4 Councillor Hoy reported on the ongoing issue of the wheelie bins on the pavement of the Main Street. The Council are looking at various alternatives including binvelopes and Councillor Hoy said he would report back at our next meeting. Dave wondered why the residents could not be given smaller bins especially those with single occupancy. **ACTION: CH**

2.5 Defibrillators. Discussion is ongoing with this with ELC. **ACTION: WF**

#### 2.6. Beautiful Scotland. The judging for this took place on the 2nd August and it went very well. We will hear how we did in the middle of September. Councillor McMillan complimented the group on the amazing standard of the portfolio and expressed his view that we were the most beautiful village in Britain. . ACTION: AW

2.7 Adam is still to meet with Andrew Hogarth about the tree at the Witherspoon plaque.

**ACTION: AW**

2.8 The wall around the churchyard is still to be repaired and Councillor McMillan agreed to speak to the relevant person in the repair team. **ACTION: JM**

2.9 Wendy reported that there now is a lovely show of flowers around the War Memorial. One of Andrew Hogarth’s people has suggested getting a planter for the small path that can then be removed for Remembrance Sunday. Wendy will organise this. Councillor McMillan asked when is the centenary of the memorial and suggested recognising that occasion in an appropriate way. Wendy will investigate. **ACTION: WF**

2.10 Nothing has as yet happened with the railings at the steps to Yester School.

2.11 Adam has written to the chair of the School Council to ask if the subject of litter at the Bleachfield could be brought up at a School Assembly **ACTION: AW**

2.12 Overhanging Trees

2.12.1 The person who owns the trees that are overhanging Station Road have been ‘carded’ to tell them to cut them back. They have been cut at head height but still need to cut back the overhanging trees.

2.12.2 Concern has also been expressed about trees covering speed limit signs.

**3 External Reports**

**3.1 Police:**

3.1.1 This report is based on incidents between 11/06/2021 and 07/08/2021. 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

3.1.2 Regular patrols have been carried out by both police and community wardens in the local area.

3.1.3 Officers have continued to carry out speed checks in the area, six fixed penalty tickets have been issued.

3.1.4 On 13/6/21, a male motorbike rider was seriously injured following a vehicular accident near Gifford, the road was closed for a number of hours.

3.1.5 On 13/7/21, following an accident near Gifford, a female driver was found to have no insurance.

3.1.6 On 14/7/21, a male was injured in an accident involving a quad bike near Gifford.

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

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

3.2.2 Local Access Forum met last month and the minutes are available for anyone wishing to see them.

3.2.3 CAPP met with priorities around speeding and antisocial behaviour

3.2.4 The project: Queen’s Green Canopy has been introduced in East Lothian.

3.2.5 Various issues after Councillor Hoy’s street surgery have been followed up including the path between the village and Bolton, the path between Tweeddale Crescent and Station Road, the pavement in Station Road, a water ponding in Tweeddale Crescent and the issues around cleaning of gullies.

**3.3 Community Woodland**

3.3.1 The AGM is on the 30th August in the woods.

3.3.2 Volunteer events are continuing and are well supported.

3.3.3 The HLF project has commenced and the recruitment process has been completed.

**4 Internal Reports**

**4.1 Roads and Footpaths.**

4.1.1 Dave has not been informed of any major potholes. He has reported a pothole on Duns Road within the village outside Bert’s house. Roads department have some repair work filling in potholes on the Longnewton to Longyester Road this past month.

4.1.2 The B6355 the road to Duns was closed for 3 weeks in June between Townhead to Danskine and work has started again today, 9th August for a further 3 weeks. Areas being dug up and re-compacted.

4.1.3 The cattle grid at the start of the moor at the Darent house has been repaired

4.1.4 The surface of the concrete pavement at the yard entrance to the Co-op is starting to break up.

4.1.5 Lothian Broadband had dug trenches in the pavements to carry out work in the Walden’s area, Park Road and the Main Street and have put them back in good order, some better than before their work.

**4.2 Street lighting.**

4.2.1 The new street lighting on Duns Road has been completed, the lamp at the war memorial has been added to the top of the post. The three old lamp posts have been removed. The bottom meter of each pole have not been painted black to be the same of the rest as yet.

4.2.2 The lamp posts on Station Road have been painted black, they look good. Dave believes the lamp posts in the rest of Gifford are going to be painted. Is that the case, only Station Road been done so far? Eleanor’s understanding is that all lampposts in the village would be painted.

**4.3 Drainage.**

4.3.1 No change from the last meeting as far as gullies being emptied. There is a problem with the drainage at the end of Tweeddale Avenue going onto Station Road. When there is heavy rain the water ponds in the gardens each side. It does soak away, the property owner on the corner said there has been a problem for a few years. Water also ponds on an area of the road on Tweeddale Crescent with rain. Not known why?

**4.4 Signs.**

4.4.1 Foliage growth needs to be cut back around the 30 mph signs leaving the village on the Haddington and Edinburgh roads.

**4.5 Planning**

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

**4.6 Finance:**

4.6.1 No issues and we have the money we need at the present time.

**4.7 Website**

4.7.1 Nothing to report about the website this month but it is up to date.

4.7.2 If anyone has anything they would like to add to the website please contact Liz direct.

**4.8 Covid Vaccination Update**

4.8.1. A report is attached as an appendix and Eleanor would welcome feedback on her report.

4.8.2 A discussion was then held on how to encourage people to take up their vaccinations and understand what is the reason for them refusing vaccines.

**4.9 Yester Estate**

4.9.1 Garreth Wood from Yester Estate did not attend the meeting but had nothing to report.

**5 Resilience Update**

5.1 We will keep the update on the agenda in case we need to step up at some stage.

**6 Items for Discussion**

6.1. Gavin Rodgers from Lothian Broadband spoke at the meeting about the service they are providing to the village. He said he felt that they do bring a real benefit to the village and recognised that they could have done a better job of communication. Gavin said they were very keen to work with the community and Wendy thanked him for providing an installation into Yester Church which allowed for church services to be received by a wider audience.

6.2 Ewan Fisher from Home Energy Scotland spoke to the meeting about the company he works with the key aims of helping alleviate fuel poverty and to try to help householders to cut carbon omissions. It is free and impartial advice on renewable technology and renewable heating options. The idea is to try to create a presence in Gifford. Eleanor offered to act as the link with the Community Council to help and promote the service. **ACTION: EH**

6.3 Dave brought up a concern about the number of Council owned void properties in the village. There are five properties which are currently void. Councillor McMillan took a list of the properties and said he would follow up on them. **ACTION: JM**

6.4 The Community Council has been asked to organise the ‘Carols round the tree’ this Christmas. We currently do the Christmas Light Switch on and the Christmas Post. The members agreed it would be good for the Community Council to do this. **ACTION: AW**

6.5 We have three people who do not wish to stand in the next election. Adam would contact some of our Resilience Volunteers to see if they would be interested. **ACTION: AW**

6.6 The village hall is now open for business and we discussed when we could go back to meeting in person. Adam would follow this up. **ACTION: AW**

6.7 Councillor Hoy asked for nominations for a local hero. He would like to host a reception for them at the Scottish Parliament. Adam & Wendy would come up with an appropriate person from the Resilience Volunteers. **ACTION: AW**

6.8 Dave asked what the status was of the Lawrence Beveridge Award. Adam said he would retrieve the salver. **ACTION: AW**

**Date of next meeting -** 7:30pm on 13th September 2021 via Zoom.

**APPLICATIONS WITHIN GCC AREA**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Date Validated** | **GCC first discussed** | **Comments** | **Status** |
| 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. | Awaiting decision |
| 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 |
| 21/00590/P | Alterations to house, formation of raised decked and erection and heightening of fencing (Part Retrospective) | 15 Walden Terrace Gifford EH41 4QP | 03/06/21 | June 2021 | Installation of air source heat pump, triple glazing and decking area to rear. | Approved subject to erection of 2m high fencing |
| 21/00615/P | Change of use of open ground to domestic ground and erection of summer house | The Heddle The Square Gifford EH41 4QJ | 14/05/21 | June 2021 | Resubmittal of 21/00403/P | Approved with condition of no use for business purposes |
| 21/00540/PCL | Alterations to building | Yester Primary School 16 Walden Terrace Gifford Haddington East Lothian EH41 4QP | 14/05/21 | June 2021 | Roofing works | Approved |
| 21/00499/P | Replacement windows and doors | 8 Tweeddale Crescent Gifford East Lothian EH41 4QZ | 17/05/21 | June 2021 | Replacement windows and doors. | Approved |
| 21/00358/CAC | Demolition of walls | Yester Primary School Walden Terrace Gifford Haddington East Lothian EH41 4QP | 26/04/21 | May 2021 | Associated with 21/00357/PCL, below. | Approved |
| 21/00357/PCL | Erection of fencing and piers | Yester Primary School Walden Terrace Gifford Haddington East Lothian EH41 4QP | 23/04/21 | May 2021 | Replacement of boundary wall with fencing. | Approved |

**APPLICATIONS OUTWITH GCC AREA**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **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 |
| 20/01224/P | Alterations, extensions to agricultural buildings, erection of buildings to form shop (class 1), visitors/conference centre (class 10), auditorium (class 11), cafe (class 3), bar (sui generis), letting bedrooms (class 7), offices/meeting rooms, 6 self contained holiday lets and associated works | Papple Steading Papple Whittingehame East Lothian EH41 4QD | 15/12/20 | Feb 2021 | Attended the planning committee meeting on 30/03/21 and reiterated GCC’s concerns regarding increased traffic through our village. The committee’s majority decision was to accept the planning officer’s recommendation to approve the application, with a total of 24 conditions. These include improvements to the C130 road from East Linton and provision of signage. It is understood that this route from the north will be promoted as the primary access to Papple.  Minutes from the 30/03/21 meeting were approved at a meeting on 01/06/21. | Approved subject to 24 conditions, details of which can be viewed on the planning portal. Conditions 19 to 22 relate to travel arrangements to and from the venue. |

**Report for 9th August 2021:**

**From national statistics source below as of Friday 6th August:**

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

**Nationally:**

**Adults 18 and over 90% have had 1st dose of a Covid-19 vaccine, and 74% both.**

Adults 18-29: 73% had 1st dose and 26% both

**Vaccines given (numbers rounded off):**

AZT: 2 million people have had 2 doses (first vaccine used, mainly over 40 year olds, but not exclusively)

Pfizer Biontec: 1,750,000 have had 2 doses

Moderna : 45.500 recent introduction

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**Lothian:** Adults 18+ 87.4% had 1st dose and 69.4% had both

**EAST LOTHIAN:**

**18+ 94.0% 1st dose and 78.7% both doses**

**ELCH vaccination centre (reliable source):** clinic is less busy than 2 months ago, 250 appointments per day, but in 18- 30s approx. 40% DNAs.

Drop ins: approx. 100 per day. Mixture of young for 1st jags and 30-50 yrs. 2nd dose.

The message must be aimed at getting more 18-30yr olds to attend either via their appointment or drop in. Clinic is open at weekends for drop ins too. All are seen.

Expecting decision on booster and flu together for all over 50s and underlying health conditions.

Eleanor Hulme (Dr Eleanor Kerr, GMC 2344618)