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

**on 18th April 2022 at Gifford Bowling Club**

**Participating** Adam White (Chair) Jill Hyslop Dave Griffiths Richard Austin             Hugh Broad  Rita Buchan

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

 Andrew Hamilton

**Apologies** Wendy Ferguson Councillor John McMillan Eleanor Hulme Councillor Craig Hoy

**1 Minutes of Previous Meeting**

  The meeting approved the minutes of the meeting of the 17th March (approved by Hugh Broad and Richard Austin).

**2 Matters Arising**

2.1  Newlands Wind Energy Hub. The next community consultation is expected in June/July with a planning application expected around August.

2.2 Dunside Wind Farm. A public exhibition was held in Gifford on Thursday 24th March to introduce the proposal and gather feedback.  Richard confirmed that he had submitted comments on behalf of community council in relation to the Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report. Adam stated that community council would continue to encourage people to speak directly to the developers to ensure that their views were heard. There was a discussion about the complexities involved with the operation of windfarm community funds.

2.3 Duns Road.  Richard had requested an update from Ian Lennock, but was still waiting for a response, as Ian was on holiday.  When submitting comments to the council’s review of the 20mph speed limits, Richard had said that any decision on speed limits had to be linked to the wider issue of traffic calming on Duns Road and Edinburgh Road.

2.4    Edinburgh Road.  Awaiting response from Ian Lennock (See 2.3 above).

2.5    Longyester Quarry. Held over to next meeting as Councillor McMillan was absent.

2.6    Lane between Tweeddale Crescent/Station Road. Councillor Hoy had reported before the meeting that the council was hoping to resurface the lane sometime in the autumn, but there is no confirmed schedule in place. Dave reported that they still need to decide how it will be resurfaced, which will include deciding whether the steps can be removed and replaced with a ramp.

2.7    Additional Graveyard space. Wendy and Councillor MacMillan to provide an update at the next meeting. **ACTION: JM/WF**

2.8    Wheelie bins on Main Street pavement.  Following a site visit on Thursday 17th March, Waste Services have suggested housing a shared bin within a wooden unit, which could have plants on top. The unit would require planning permission and would result in the loss of a parking space. Adam reminded the meeting that removing the bins from the street was necessary to ensure that pedestrian access could be maintained.   The meeting agreed that a shared bin on the road was the only viable solution. Councillor Akhtar agreed to confirm the container dimensions with Waste Services and get a quote for the construction of the wooden unit.  **ACTION: SA**

2.9    Defibrillators. Eleanor had reported before the meeting that the defibrillator posters had been put up in the village. Wendy had reported that she had heard nothing from Sam of the Scottish Ambulance Service, so she had written again. Sam had previously said that they are very busy.

2.10  Beautiful Scotland signage.  Adam informed the meeting that Gifford would be making another application to Beautiful Scotland this year. The application would involve Community Council, Gifford Community Woodland, Gifford Horti and Yester Estate. Payment for this year’s signage is understood to be in progress following the successful application to the Area Partnership.

2.11  Trees (Tweeddale Arms/Witherspoon Plaque/Queen’s Green Canopy). Adam was pleased to report that 3 cherry trees had been planted outside the Tweeddale Arms and a new tree had been planted beside the Witherspoon Plaque. An article had been published in the Courier about the trees at the Tweeddale. Jill to register trees on the Queen’s Green Canopy website and inform the Courier about the replacement of the Witherspoon tree (which had originally been planted to celebrate the 40th anniversary of 1st Gifford Brownies).  **ACTION: JH**

2.12  School Railings.  Councillor Akhtar reported that the railings will be painted very soon.  The team were just waiting for a good weather window. The paint will be dark grey and will be purchased through the council at a reduced rate. Councillor Akhtar has spoken to Wendy about payment.

2.13  Noticeboards.  Dave, Wendy and Adam to discuss how to take this forward. Wendy reported before the meeting that she has asked the furniture school if they would like to help, as it would be good to support a local enterprise. **ACTION: DG/WF/AW**

2.14 Position of bus stop on Goblin Ha side of the road.  This was held over to the next meeting as Councillor McMillan was absent.

2.15  Public Toilets.  It was confirmed that the toilets had reopened.

2.16      Removal of parking spaces on Main Street. Lewis & Clarke have been given a permit for outside tables, resulting in the removal of three parking spaces. To protect the safety of customers sitting outside, 2 large planters have been supplied by the council. The council had intended 2 of the parking spaces to be made available when the cafe is closed but the size and weight of the planters make this impossible. There is nothing the cafe owners can do about this, and it will be for East Lothian Council to decide if any action is necessary.

**3      External Reports**

**3.1    Police**

The police report stated that there had been 22 calls to the Gifford area during the period 14th March – 11th April, resulting in the police recording 4 crimes. The number of calls was thought to be quite high. Jill agreed to ask if it was possible to provide any further detail on any of the matters.  **ACTION: JH**

**3.2**    **East Lothian Council**

3.2.1     Councillor Akhtar reported that the council was dealing with an increasing number of queries relating to the cost of living crisis. She encouraged community council to continue to promote services such as the Lammermuir Larder. The council offers advice on debt and benefits to try to prevent people reaching crisis point.

3.2.2    Planning NPF4 consultation. Councillor Akhtar reported that the council had submitted its response and offered to share the details with community council. **ACTION: SA**

3.2.3 Councillor Trotter reported that there had been an escalation of anti-social behaviour in Haddington and the authorities were considering how to address this.

3.2.4 In response to a question from Dave, Councillor Akhtar agreed to ask the housing dept about 2 properties where the occupiers are thought to be away for long periods. **ACTION: SA**

3.2.5 There was a discussion about overgrown hedges blocking pedestrian access along footpaths. Councillor Trotter confirmed that the council can take enforcement action where hedges are blocking pedestrian access. There was a discussion about whether community council should approach owners/occupiers first, with some members favouring this approach. There was consensus that it was East Lothian Council’s responsibility to maintain clear access along public footpaths.

3.2.6 The meeting thanked the councillors for their hard work and for all the support they provide.

**3.3    Community Woodland**

Neville Kilkenny, Project Manager of the Community Woodland, was present at the meeting and provided the following update.  5 classes from Yester Primary School had received introductory Forest School sessions. Bad weather had delayed the remaining 2 sessions. The Primary 2 class will be starting weekly sessions from the 29th April. A Family Volunteer Day was scheduled for the 21st April, with 4 further volunteer days to follow. A contractor was scheduled to remove the trees damaged during Storm Arwen, allowing the path repairs to take place.  The paths will occasionally need to be closed while weeds are sprayed. Some tree thinning work is to be carried out next month using horses. There had been a successful Easter decoration event, using offcuts from the woods and the next Open Woods Meeting was due to take place on 30th May. Councillor Akhtar congratulated the woodlands for setting up and running the forest school sessions.

**4      Internal Reports**

**4.1    Roads and Footpaths**

4.1.1 The road repairs at Danskine had been completed.

4.1.2 The council had cut back the ivy growing over a wall onto the path between Park Road and High Street.

**4.2    Lighting**

Dave raised the issue of the 2 redundant street lights on Duns Road. Councillor Ahktar asked Dave to give her the details. **ACTION SA/DG**

**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.

**4.6    Finance**

Wendy has ordered this year’s Christmas tree and is liaising with Nick regarding payment for the tree protectors.

**4.7    Website**

Nothing to report.

**4.8    Covid Vaccination Update**

Before the meeting Eleanor had asked whether it was time to stop reporting on vaccination rates. The meeting agreed that it was appropriate to stop this report and thanked Eleanor for the very valuable service she had provided.

**4.9    Yester Estate**

No report received.  Adam informed the meeting that Yester Estate had agreed to support the Beautiful Scotland campaign.

**4.10  Resilience Update**

Adam reported that fish and chips had been delivered on the last Friday of March and had been well-received.  The Lunch Club had restarted in April.

**4.11  Local Business**

Rita reported that she had agreed to help Nisa staff clean the street outside the shop. Rita asked the councillors’ advice about the rubbish bin outside the store. It is heavily used and is often crammed with rubbish. Rita asked whether a larger bin, or an extra bin could be supplied. Councillor Ahktar agreed to speak to Amenity Services. **ACTION: SA**

**5.     Correspondence**

Nothing to report

**6.     AOB**

6.1 Recent Cycle Race. Adam has spoken to Sandy Baptie and Jon Fleetwood about his safety concerns following the cycle race on 19th March. The first race had to be stopped when a cyclist was seriously injured. The race was not able to continue as the first aid person was attending the incident. There were also difficulties when a car that was parked outside the Goblin reversed out into the path of the oncoming cyclists. Adam also reiterated his concerns about the fact that the race does not have a Temporary Traffic Order.

6.2 Andrew Hamilton asked the councillors if they could provide information about how council properties are allocated.

**Date of next meeting -** 7:30pm on Monday 9th May 2022.

**APPLICATIONS WITHIN GCC AREA**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Date Validated** | **GCC first discussed** | **Comments** | **Status** |
| 22/00407/P | Alterations to outbuilding, erection of fencing and gate (Part Retrospective) | 4 The Avenue Gifford East Lothian EH41 4QX | 06/04/22 | Apr 2022 | Alterations to studio at Rose Cottage and erection of fence. | Awaiting decision |
| 22/00370/P | Change of use of agricultural land to domestic use for the installation of ground mounted solar panels and associated works | Giffordbank House Edinburgh Road Gifford Haddington EH41 4JE | 31/03/22 | Apr 2022 | Fencing and hedging of 20m x 20m part of the field adjacent to Giffordbank House for installation of ground mounted solar panels. | Awaiting decision. |
| 22/00100/P | Erection of greenhouse and trellis | Garden Cottage Edinburgh Road Gifford East Lothian EH41 4JE | 16/02/22 | Mar 2022 | Erection of greenhouse in grounds of Garden Cottage | Approved. |
| 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 | This is a separate application to that for the holiday lodges (21/01457/P, below) and involves a six bedroomed house attached to the west of the clubhouse, for occupation by the owner/manager. | Awaiting decision |
| 21/01457/P | Erection of 28 holiday lodges, 1 reception/plant room/store building and associated works | Castlepark Golf Club Gifford East Lothian EH41 4PL | 01/03/22 | Jan 2022 | Application has been re-submitted and validated. GCC comments, broadly in support of the development, have been submitted.  | Awaiting decision. |
| 21/01313/P | Change of use of woodland to domestic garden ground, extensions to house, erection of wall, gate, building for residential ancillary accommodation, generator building and installation of air source heat pumps | Quarryford House Yester Gifford East Lothian EH41 4PL | 10/11/21 | Dec 2021 | Two storey extension and annexe on west face of Quarryford House. | Approved, subject to no use as a separate dwelling. |
| 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 |

**APPLICATIONS OUTWITH GCC AREA**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Date Validated** | **GCC first discussed** | **Comments** | **Status** |
| 22/00087/P | Erection of hut and composting toilet | Bolton Muir Gifford Haddington East Lothian EH41 4JH | 01/02/22 | Feb 2022 | Application includes a Site Management Plan, Woodland Management Plan and Species Protection Plan as were required as conditions of approving similar application 20/01247/P (22/10/21). | Approved subject to 11 conditions. |
| 21/01433/P | Erection of hut and shed (Part Retrospective) | Bolton Muir Wood Gifford Haddington EH41 4JH | 20/01/22 | Feb 2022 | Application makes no reference to a Site Management Plan, Woodland Management Plan and Species Protection Plan (See 22/00087/P above) | Approved subject to 10 conditions, including submission of the three plans. (See comments.) |

**OTHER PLANNING MATTERS**

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

* GCC have submitted comments to the Scottish Government on the Scoping Report for the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).
* First public consultation exhibition was held on Wednesday 16th March, at Gifford Village Hall.
* EIA and detailed project plan will now be prepared.
* Second consultation event is expected in June / July.
* Target date for planning submission to Scottish Government is August 2022. and formal planning submission to Scottish Government is expected

**Dunside Wind Farm (EDF)**

* GCC have submitted comments to the Scottish Government on the Scoping Report for the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).
* An exhibition was held on Thursday 24th March, at Gifford Village Hall.
* Planning submission expected in Spring 2023.
* This is an extension to the existing Fallago Rig wind farm, adding 100MW of capacity to the south east of the existing turbines. The site is entirely within Borders Council Region. Access will be from the south using the existing tracks to Fallago Rig.
* A previous application to extend Fallago Rig wind farm was rejected by Scottish Government in 2020.