

GIFFORD COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Date: 11th May **Location:** Gifford Bowling Club 7.30pm

Attendees: **Attendance:** Adam White, Anne Stunzner, Paul Smith, Nev Kilkenny, Richard Austin, Nicola Clayson, Wendy Fergusson, Cr Tom Trotter, Cr Shamin Akhtar.

Apologies: Alan Fortune, John McMillan, George McGuire

1. Renewable Energy Projects

- Update provided on the public inquiry for local renewable energy proposals.
- Appeals website noted as the source for ongoing updates.

2. Graveyard Extension

- Concerns raised about the original site near the church due to waterlogging.
- Hugh Broad offered alternative land near Gifford Golf Course and soil testing scheduled for autumn.
- Change-of-use discussions with East Lothian Council required before progressing.

3. Airfield Memorial Plaque

- Agreement reached to place the plaque in the churchyard.
- Alternative location behind the aerodrome field noted.
- Mounting structure (slab/stone) required.
- Signposting may be needed to ensure visibility.

4. Police Report

- Incident reported involving a failure to stop after an accident.
- Ongoing issues with marshals stopping traffic during cycle races.
- Need for stronger police presence at events emphasised.

5. Community Events & Woodland

- Open Day on 31 May at Yester Estate announced for the walled and white gardens.
- Woodland group reported on volunteer days, long-term management, and chronic oak decline.

6. Village Shop

- New leaseholder confirmed.
- Importance of community engagement, stock management, and licensing compliance highlighted.
- Survey results discussed; need to share findings with residents.
- Council to establish contact with the new manager and clarify expectations.

7. Housing & Infrastructure

- Concerns raised about local housing issues and infrastructure pressures.
- Updates shared on East Lothian Community Planning Partnership priorities: safety, financial wellbeing, and living well.
- Scottish Government infrastructure strategy noted.

8. Roads, Paths & Maintenance

- Manhole cover repaired; broken rail removed at swing park.
- Overhanging hedges require trimming to improve visibility—timing to avoid disturbing birds.
- Defibrillator and roadside equipment status updated.

9. Planning Applications

- Recent applications reviewed, including internal works and window changes at Broadwood.

10. Finance

- Annual grant from East Lothian Council received.
- Current financial position stable.
- Discussion on community support programmes such as Super and a Smile.

11. Community Support & Resilience

- Ongoing programmes include fish & chips deliveries and coffee with dogs.
- Online community resilience course available; to be shared publicly.
- Continued focus on emergency preparedness.

12. Beautiful Scotland Application

- Application for this year discussed.
- Need for improved documentation, photographs, and involvement from community groups.
- Horticultural Society confirmed as lead.

13. Other Business

- Missing charger for heat meter to be followed up.
- Village hall and bowling club seeking additional volunteers.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Install the airfield memorial plaque in the churchyard at the agreed location.
2. Confirm alternative plaque location behind aerodrome field and arrange mounting slab/stone if required.
3. Conduct soil testing on the proposed graveyard extension site in autumn.
4. Confirm with East Lothian Council whether change of land use for the alternative graveyard site is acceptable.
5. Trim overhanging hedges once timing is agreed to avoid disturbing birds.
6. Confirm whether the heat-meter charging plug was supplied; obtain replacement if missing.
7. Coordinate preparation and submission of the Beautiful Scotland application, including gathering photos and documentation.

8. Distribute village shop survey results to the Community Council and interested residents & Publish a public summary of the shop survey results.
9. Submit the Christmas tree form to East Lothian Council by 5 June.
10. Contact the new shop leaseholder to introduce the Council and discuss expectations and licensing.
11. Email the new leaseholder with Council contact details and key operational questions.
12. Request an email address from the new leaseholder for future correspondence.

Next Meeting June 8th