

Gifford Community Council Meeting Minutes

Date 08/12/2025

Location: Gifford Bowls Club

Chair Adam White

1. Welcome and Apologies

Attendance: Adam White, Anne Stunzner, Paul Smith, Nev Kilkenny, Alan Fortune, Cr George McGuire, Prasanth Baskaran & colleague (Premier Store)

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed attendees.

Apologies were noted from Richard Austin, Eleanor Hulme, Nicola Clayson, Wendy Ferguson, Cr John McMillan, Cr Tom Trotter, Cr Shamin Akhtar, Mandy Harrington (VCEL)

2. Matters Arising from Previous Meeting

Nev Kilkenny seconded that the minutes of the previous meeting were a true and accurate recording. There was no business arising.

None recorded.

3. Local Shop Discussion

- Concerns raised regarding limited product range compared to North Berwick Premier store.
- Accessibility issues highlighted: aisles too narrow for wheelchair users.
- Suggestion to collaborate with other Premier stores (Haddington, Dunbar) for bulk ordering.
- Proposal to run a Facebook survey via community groups to gather feedback on product ranges.
- Anne agreed to act as liaison between shop and council.
- The Premier store representatives agreed to attend another Council Meeting in three months' time to update on progress.
- Resolution: Council supports collaboration with other Premier stores and community survey.
- Action:
- Shop owners to explore collaboration.

- Anne to draft and publish survey.
- Council to schedule follow-up meeting in three months.

4. Airfield Memorial Plaque

- Update: Wall owners have no objection to plaque placement.
- Listed building consent required; advertisement consent fee £178.50.
- Discussion: whether to pay fee or construct plinth.
- Consensus: commission local tradesperson to build plinth to avoid planning costs.
- Resolution: Council will not pursue advertisement consent; plaque to be mounted on plinth.
- Identify local tradesperson to design and construct plinth.
- Confirm location (churchyard flowerbed suggested).

5. Policing and Safety

- Resident reported suspicious visit by individuals posing as police officers.
- Concerns raised about lack of police attendance at meetings and slow response to incidents.
- CAPP meeting scheduled; council to raise issue there.
- Resolution: Council to escalate concerns at CAP meeting.
- Action:
- Alan to present incident details at CAP meeting.
- Council to request improved police engagement.

6. Community Woodland

- Reported successful volunteer days: chainsaw training, tree planting, wood fuel production.
- Woodland group won the Community Woodland Award and the Tim Stead Award.
- Future events: possible spring foraging walk, collaboration with Haddington Festival.
- Upcoming volunteer days: Saturday (wood chopping), Sunday (tree planting).
- Resolution: Council congratulated woodland group on award and endorsed future events.
- Action:

- Woodland group to publicize award and events.
- Catherine (administrator) to coordinate communications.

7. Council Business

- Parking charges proposal in Haddington discussed.
- Concerns: negative impact on local businesses, questionable financial logic, high consultation costs.
- Councillor explained process: officers draft proposals, councillors vote.
- Strong community opposition noted.
 - Resolution: Council opposes introduction of parking charges in Haddington.
 - Action:
- Councillor George to represent local concerns in council debate.
- Council to prepare statement highlighting risks to local business.

8. Other Updates

- Graveyard extension: no progress (soil testing pending).
- Christmas tree provided by Yester Estate; replacement arranged after initial tree snapped.
- Council thanked volunteers for assistance.

9. Date of Next Meeting

- Next Meeting will be the 12th January 2026
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Summary of Resolutions

- Support collaboration with Premier stores and community survey.
- Plaque to be mounted on plinth; no advertisement consent pursued.
- Police concerns to be raised at CAP meeting.
- Council congratulates woodland group on award.
- Council opposes parking charges in Haddington.