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

**on 8th August at Gifford Bowling Club**

**Participating** Adam White (Chair) Richard Austin Dave Griffiths   
 Jill Hyslop  Rita Buchan Eleanor Hulme

**In Attendance** Councillor George Maguire Councillor John McMillan

**Apologies** Wendy Ferguson Hugh Broad Councillor Shamin Akhtar

Councillor Tom Trotter

Before the start of the meeting, Eleanor circulated a leaflet about the Haddington Society's “Glimpses of Ukraine” concert, which had been held recently to raise funds for humanitarian and medical aid for Ukraine. A JustGiving page remains active if people wish to donate.

**1 Minutes of Previous Meeting**

  The meeting approved the minutes of the meeting of the 11th July (approved by Dave Griffiths and Rita Buchan).

**2. Matters arising**

**2.1 Newlands Wind Energy Hub**

Adam and Richard agreed to arrange a phone call with Belltown to discuss the proposed set up of any future Community Fund, ahead of the next AELCC meeting on 24th August. **ACTION: AW/RA**

**2.2 Dunside Windfarm**

Nothing to report.

**2.3 Edinburgh Road Widening Survey**

As previously reported, a survey has been done but Richard has not received any details/timescales yet. Richard had emailed Ian, Marshall and Alan again, but had not received a reply, partly due to holidays. Richard will copy Councillor McMillan into his next email. **ACTION: RA**.

**2.4 Additional Graveyard space**

Councillor McMillan has met with Eamonn John, who is planning a county-wide strategy which will include Gifford. There are land ownership/SEPA issues in various sites which need to be resolved. The project will also require a reallocation of budget to cover costs. Councillor McMillan informed the meeting that planning permission had been granted for a crematorium service at Musselburgh, but the decision is being contested.

**2.5 Wheelie Bins on Main Street**

Councillor Akhtar reported before the meeting that she was following up on the bin storage quote with a company that waste services recommended. Once a quote for construction is obtained, a planning application can then be made. **ACTION: SA**

**2.6 Defibrillator**

2.6.1 Garage defibrillator. Eleanor reported that she had checked on the defibrillator following the heatwave and it was still working. She reminded the meeting that if the temperature inside the cabinet goes above 30 degrees, the defibrillator should be removed. Once the new defibrillator is installed at the school, Wendy will look at the cabinet and order the same one for the garage. Consideration should be given to the position of the defibrillator in the garage to minimise the temperature if possible. **ACTION: EH/WF**

2.6.2 School defibrillator. Wendy reported before the meeting that she had delivered the defibrillator and cabinet to Kevin the school janitor and he has arranged for it to be installed the first week the school returns from holiday. This seemed sensible as the school will be unoccupied for long periods over the holiday. Training will be arranged by Sam (of the Scottish Ambulance Service) once the defibrillator is in place.

2.6.3 Bowling club defibrillator. No update yet, as the Bowling Club Committee have still to meet.

**2.7 Railings and School Shed**

Councillor Akhtar reported before the meeting that the railings at the school have now all been painted. The community pay back team are also going to paint the school garden railings. Councillor Akhtar has also had requests for other railings and lampposts to be painted in the village which she will follow up with them. Once Mrs Mercer has supplied a costing for the new shed, Community Council can arrange the funding. **ACTION: SA**

**2.8 Noticeboard**

Wendy reported before the meeting that she had not been able to progress matters, but when she is back from holiday she will mark up a map, showing the location of the new noticeboard, and get this in to ELC to approve. It was noted that there hasn’t been any recent vandalism of the existing cabinet. **ACTION: WF**

**2.9 Bus stop - review of position**

Councillor McMillan will follow this up with the Bus Committee. Adam reminded the meeting that if the bus stop was moved, it would be essential to arrange for a dropped kerb. **ACTION: JM**

**2.10 Disabled car parking for Gifford Community Woodland (to be positioned on Tweeddale Avenue)**

Adam reported that he had not heard back from Alan about this. It was noted that the hedge on Tweeddale Ave, at the junction with Station Road, has been trimmed back, but it was agreed that further work is required to enable the footpath to be used. Councillor McMillan agreed to convene a meeting with Andrew Hogarth and Adam. **ACTION JM/AW**

**3. External Reports**

**3.1 Police**

No police report received. Adam had written to Catriona Paton to ask about the community liaison service that Haddington will be able to provide going forward, but he was awaiting a response. Councillor McMillan agreed to speak to Jocelyn O’Connor. **ACTION: JM**

**3.2 East Lothian Council**

Councillor McMillan reported that he was exploring twinning opportunities for Gifford and mentioned Sancerre as a possibility. Councillor Maguire reported that complaints about antisocial behaviour had dropped significantly. There had been 65 complaints in February and only 6 last month.

**3.3 Gifford Community Woodland**

Adam reported that the newsletter had been published and was being distributed this week. To celebrate their 5th anniversary, the woodlands are holding a community event on Sunday 28th August in the woods, which will incorporate the AGM. There will be a Forest Church, Forest School activities, charcoal art, foraging walks and volunteering.

**3.4 Yester Estate**

Nothing to report.

**4 Internal Reports**

**4.1 Roads and Footpaths**

There has been no confirmation yet about a timescale for repairing the Longyester/Quarry road. Councillor McMillan agreed to follow this up. Although outwith the Gifford CC boundary, Dave raised the issue of the roadworks sign on the B6369 just past Lennoxlove. Councillor Maguire agreed to follow this up with Ian Lennock **ACTION: JM (Quarry)/GM (Roadworks)**

**4.2 Lighting**

Dave asked when the council would finish painting the lampposts. Eleanor reported that she had spoken to the council, who confirmed it is on the list but there is no definite schedule yet due to a lack of available resource.

**4.3 Drainage**

Nothing to report.

**4.4 Signs**

Yester Estate still need to take down the sign tied to the fence at the 3-way junction beside Gifford Golf Course.

**4.5 Planning**

Please see attached report for planning applications within and outwith GCC Area. Richard reported that the Castlepark Lodges have been approved, subject to 12 conditions which will ensure only short term holiday occupancy and control landscape planting. Gifford CC’s letter of general support was included in the officer’s report.

**4.6 Finance**

Wendy reported before the meeting that CC finances remain very healthy.

**4.7 Website**

Dave has given Jill a list of website updates to give to Liz. **ACTION: JH**

**4.8 Resilience**

Adam reported that fish and chips had been delivered on the last Friday of June to 40 people and had been well-received. 25 people had attended the lunch club.

**4.9 Local business liaison**

Councillor Akhtar reported before the meeting that she had spoken to the manager of the shop who is on holiday until the 10th. When he is back, Councillor Akhtar plans to arrange a visit with the enforcement officer regarding the shopfront. **ACTION: SA**

**5. Correspondence**

Jill reported that Community Council had been contacted by a Mental Health worker to ask whether there were any publicly-owned buildings in Gifford that could be used for 1-2-1 appointments. They had already approached the primary school, but were waiting on a response. Jill had replied to say that the village hall was the only building likely to be suitable, but had passed the details to Councillor Akhtar.

**6. AOB**

**6.1 Keep Scotland Beautiful**

Adam reported that 19 volunteers cleared 26 bags of rubbish at the village ‘spring clean’.  Adam had delivered a presentation to the Beautiful Scotland judges on behalf of Community Council, Gifford Community Woodland, Gifford Horti and Yester Estate. The results of the judging should be known in a couple of months.

**6.2 Food Sharing App**

A local resident had asked whether there was a local food sharing app. Richard agreed to ask the resident if they could provide any more details about how food sharing app would work. Councillor McMillan suggested that it might be possible to link in with the SOLE project, which is supported by the Scottish Tech Army. **ACTION: RA**

**6.3 ‘Sit and Get Fit’ Seated Exercise.**

Adam raised an issue concerning a local exercise class, which was delivering an important service to local residents, but was struggling to run at a profit due to low numbers. It was suggested that the organiser could apply for funding through the Area Partnership. Dave reported that the Bowling Club is considering whether the fee could be reduced. In the meantime, it was suggested the community council could offer to make a financial contribution to cover the cost of hiring the bowling club, while a longer-term funding solution is found. **ACTION AW/WF**

**6.4** Councillor Maguire had been contacted by a resident about an antisocial behaviour matter. Councillor McMillan reported that he was aware of the case and that a multi-agency response was ongoing.

Date of next meeting: Monday 12th September.

**APPLICATIONS WITHIN GCC AREA**

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|  | **Date Validated** | **GCC first discussed** | **Comments** | **Status** |
| 22/00714/P | Alterations to house | Wolfelee Tweeddale Crescent Gifford East Lothian EH41 4QZ | 23/06/22 | July 2022 | Replacement windows, new roof lights, garage conversion to form games room, new sliding doors to rear. | Awaiting decision |
| 22/00657/P | Erection of summerhouse and decking | Trebistor 2 Walden Drive Gifford EH41 4QY | 13/06/22 | July 2022 | Flat roof summerhouse, approximately 3m x 2m, in garden. | Approved |
| 22/00578/P | Change of use from agricultural ground to domestic garden ground, formation of hardstanding, extension to house and erection of garage (part retrospective) | 8 Longyester Cottages Yester Gifford EH41 4PL | 24/05/22 | June 2022 | Single storey, two bedroom extension and separate garage. Application includes retrospective change of use for driveway and garden. | Approved |
| 22/00549/P | Extension and alterations to house | Mellendean High Street Gifford EH41 4QU | 17/05/22 | June 2022 | Single storey extension to rear, replacing existing smaller lean-to. | 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. | Approved, subject to 12 conditions which will ensure only short term holiday occupancy and control landscape planting. |

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| 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? | Approved, subject to use only as a kindergarten nursery, with measures to protect the woodland. |

**APPLICATIONS OUTWITH GCC AREA**

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|  | **Date Validated** | **GCC first discussed** | **Comments** | **Status** |
| None.  Note: Applications for huts within Bolton Muir Wood will no longer be reported. Recent approved applications have all referenced the site and woodland development plans for the wider wood area. |  |  | . |  |

**OTHER PLANNING MATTERS**

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

Dates for the second consultation event are:

* Wednesday 21 September - Gifford Village Hall, 2pm - 8pm
* Thursday 22 September - Garvald Village Hall, 11am - 3pm
* Thursday 22 September - Stenton Village Hall, 4pm - 8pm
* Friday 23 September - Haddington John Gray Centre, 10am - 2pm

**Dunside Wind Farm (EDF)**

Planning application is expected early 2023.