**Minutes of the Gifford Community Council AGM   
held** **on 9th October 2023 at Gifford Bowling Club**

**Participating** Adam White (Chair), Richard Austin, Dave Griffiths, Wendy Ferguson, Hugh Broad and Jill Hyslop

**In Attendance** Councillor Tom Trotter, Councillor George McGuire, Councillor John McMillan, Councillor Shamin Akhtar, Jane Ogden-Smith, Fiona Wilson and Paul Hurd

**Apologies** Eleanor Hulme, Rita Buchan and Neville Kilkenny

**1 Planning Older People’s Services in East Lothian**

Fiona Wilson, Chief Officer of East Lothian Health and Social Care Partnership (ELHSCP), gave a presentation on the next phase of the provision for older people programme. ELHSCP want to work with communities to identify options to support the development of high quality sustainable services for older people in East Lothian. This covers Intermediate Care (to provide support to prevent a hospital stay or enable a faster discharge), Palliative Care, Hospital Beds, Care at Home, Care Home Beds and the possibility of a Minor Injuries Unit. ELHSCP want to gather ideas, suggestions and solutions. Feedback can be given by email ([engagement-hscp@eastlothian.gov.uk](mailto:engagement-hscp@eastlothian.gov.uk)) or by completing the online survey (eastlothianconsultations.co.uk/communications/services-for-older-people/). A short discussion followed. Adam raised the issue of transport causing difficulties for carers, which can delay release from hospital. Not all carers have access to their own transport and this creates problems in rural areas. An issue was raised about patient confidentiality. An example was given where neighbours could not get information about a patient’s location and circumstances because they were not family members. This prevented them from giving support to their neighbour, who had no family living locally. To help gather feedback, Jane Ogden-Smith offered to attend a Lunch Club meeting. She also provided the number for the Contact Centre– 01875 824 309 – which can offer advice out about getting more social work and social care services. They can also provide numbers for other health services such as physio, OT, mental health support etc. The meeting thanked Fiona and Jane for their presentation.

**2 Chair’s Report & Appointment of Office Bearers**

The Chair reported on the year’s business as follows: “We have had a very busy year with a number of challenges such as Wind Farms and the Car Park at The Hopes. However, we have a brilliant team who all undertake a great deal of work and respond individually to the business of the Community Council. The administrative tasks of the council are looked after very professionally and those responsible for Finance and Planning do a great job. Our ‘eyes and ears’ of the village are looked after under ‘roads, paths, lighting etc’, while developing great relationships with ELC to get things actioned. We have individuals who have also put in a lot of work into such things as the survey to ensure the community are happy with the ‘Nature Networks’, liaising with the Nisa store, new Defibrillators, new Noticeboards and additional graveyard space to name but a few. We are all very grateful to the work that is done. Finally, I would like to thank our four councillors for the support that they give us.”

Wendy circulated the accounts for 22/23. These will be sent to an independent auditor before the end of the year. The accounts show income of £6,124 and expenditure of £8,978, leaving a balance of £8,452.

Councillor McMillan took over as Chair to oversee the appointment of office bearers for the next 12 months. Adam was re-appointed as Chair (proposed by Wendy and seconded by Richard). The meeting then approved the re-appointment of the remaining office bearers as follows: Richard Austin (Vice-Chair), Wendy Ferguson (Treasurer) and Jill Hyslop (Secretary).

**3 Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The meeting approved the minutes of 11th September (approved by Wendy and Dave).

**4 Items completed since last meeting**

4.1 The speed check display board has been moved from Duns Road to Edinburgh Road. Richard agreed to cut back some foliage around the board. **ACTION: RA**

**5. Matters Arising**

**5.1 Renewable Energy Projects**

Nothing to report. The planning application for Newlands has not yet been submitted.

**5.2 Defibrillators**

The bowling club defibrillator has been delivered and will be fitted once the planning application has been approved.

**5.3 New Noticeboard**

Once the noticeboard has been delivered, Richard will arrange a working group to do the installation.

**5.4 Lighting around the Square**

CC plans to ask the Area Partnership to fund the lighting improvements. However, discussions are taking place across the Council which might impact the Road Services element of Capital funding allocated to Area Partnerships. It was agreed that CC would wait a few weeks to see what decisions are made before proceeding with an application.

**5.5 Nature Corridors and Grass cutting**

Following the local survey, Adam and Eleanor attended a meeting at the council where it was agreed that Amenity Services will arrange to cut the grass in the Pound. They will then produce a plan for the Pound and liaise with CC regarding a public meeting and consultation during Winter 23. They will consider planting in the areas surrounding the Recreational Park. It was noted that the recent weather had impacted on the ground conditions which might delay the cutting.

**5.6 Airfield Memorial Plaque**

Wendy will collect the plaque so that a proper assessment can be made about where to put it.

**6. Projects awaiting update from East Lothian Council**

**6.1 Wheelie bins on the Main Street pavement**

Plans have been agreed with the council to move individual bins and place them by the NISA. Councillor Akhtar will engage with residents face-to-face to tell them about the changes. Any non-compliance will be enforced more formally by letter from the council. **ACTION: SA**

**6.2 Road Safety Crossing**

The council has approved parking restrictions at the end of Main Street beside and opposite the entrance to the Square. Following a statutory consultation period the order will be made and lines installed Q1 2024.

**6.3 Review of bus stop position**

The parking restrictions around the square (at **6.2** above) will facilitate the bus turning here and drivers have been instructed to do so.

**6.4 Resurfacing of lane between Tweeddale Crescent/Station Road.**

Ian Lennock reported that the lane does not meet the criteria for re-surfacing but will be considered for a lower level intervention in the next financial year. The meeting noted that this appeared to contradict previous reports that the lane would be re-surfaced. At least 3 people have fallen on the path. Councillor McMillan agreed to follow this up. **ACTION: JM**

**6.5 Condition of the steps at the bridge on Station Road.**

Ian Lennock reported that the steps have been reviewed and are considered to be fit for purpose.

**6.6 Path connecting Gifford to Bolton walkway**

Councillor Trotter is waiting for a response from Alan Stubbs about options for improving this path.

**7. External Reports**

**7.1 Police**

Between 1st and 30th September 2023 there were 9 calls to the area. This resulted in the police recording 1 crime of Vandalism.

**7.2** **East Lothian Council**

Councillor McMillan emphasised that the closure of the Macmerry Recycling Centre is only temporary. Councillor Akhtar reported on developments for an After School Club at Yester. Discussions with a previous supplier had fallen through, but a CIC called ‘Thrive’ is now looking at this. Councillor Akhtar is trying to speed up progress with the new NISA signage and has been in touch with NISA national HQ. Councillor Akhtar thinks that the local store managers need some support from the wider NISA organisation to get the planning dealt with. Hugh asked if there was any update on additional graveyard space. It was agreed that this will go back onto the CC Agenda and Councillor McMillan will speak to Eamonn John.

**7.3 Gifford Community Woodland**

The woods held a very successful children’s cinema event on 30th September. They have just finished another block of Forest School sessions with the Yester P2s. A newsletter has just been delivered to every household in the village giving details of events and volunteer dates.

**7.4 Yester Estate**

The Yester Fireworks event will take place on Saturday 28th October. It was noted that work to clear overgrown foliage on Park Road still needs to be finished.

**8 Internal Reports**

**8.1 Roads and Footpaths**

The Duns Road is being resurfaced and will be finished shortly.

**8.2 Lighting , Drains and Signs**

The bend warning sign at Slateford is now visible after foliage was cut back.

**8.3 Planning**

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

**8.4 Finance**

Finance reported at 2 above.

**8.5 Resilience**

‘Soup & Smile’ had paused for 1 week to allow people to attend the funeral of a local resident. Fish & chips had been delivered at the end of September and Lunch Club had been well attended. Adam will be attending a Resilience workshop on 2nd November at Penston House.

**9 Correspondence**

**9.1 Enforcement of disabled parking spaces.** The council has been in touch about plans to enforce disabled parking spaces. They will be maintaining a list of spaces, which will be updated annually. Jill contacted the team to tell them about the 2 spaces on Station Road and 1 on the Square which weren’t on the list.

**9.2 Signs on Edinburgh Road.** We have been informed that East Lothian Council’s Planning Department has received a formal complaint from a member of the public about the 2 signs on Edinburgh Road. The Enforcement Officer will investigate the complaint.

**9.3 Journey Hubs.** A consultation is now live and Adam plans to attend a meeting about this.

**9.4 Outdoor Play Sufficiency.**  A consultation is now live.

**10. AOB**

**10.1 Macmerry Recycling Centre.** As discussed above, the reported closure is a temporary measure.

**10.2 Duns Road Speed Bumps** When the speed bumps were removed for re-surfacing work, community council was asked by local residents if the speed bumps could be left off due to concerns about their effectiveness and complaints about noise.  Community Council approached ELC about the matter and was given a very short time to make a decision.  Having regard to the new 20 mph speed limit, the complaints about noise and doubts about their effectiveness, Community Council asked for the speedbumps not to be replaced. Community Council appreciates the hard work that went into the original installation of the speed bumps and will continue to engage with residents about traffic concerns.

**10.3 Remembrance Sunday.** Wendy confirmed that a wreath has been ordered.

**10.4 Lammermuir Larder donation.** Councillor Akhtar asked whether CC would be making a donation to the Lammermuir Larder this year. Wendy agreed to ask them if they were looking for donations and, if so, would arrange a payment of £250.

Date of next meeting: Monday 13th November.

**APPLICATIONS WITHIN GCC AREA**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Date Validated** | **GCC first discussed** | **Comments** | **Status** |
| 23/01082/P | Replacement windows | Waverley Tweeddale Crescent Gifford EH41 4QZ | 19/09/23 | Oct 2023 | Replace existing uPVC window at front with similar. | Awaiting decision |
| 23/00878/P | Extensions to house | Quarryford House Yester Gifford Haddington EH41 4PL | 04/08/23 | Aug 2023 | Revised proposals for extensions to the west of Quarryford House, similar to those approved under 21/01313/P in March 2022 | Approved |
| 23/00888/P | Change of use of flat to short term holiday let (Retrospective) | Kilchoan Main Street Gifford Haddington East Lothian EH41 4QH | 03/08/23 | Aug 2023 | Retrospective application for change of use of first floor flat. | Approved |
| 23/00699/ADV | Display of advertisements | Land North Of The Steading East Hopes Yester Gifford East Lothian | 28/07/23 | Aug 2023 | Signage, located at entrance to parking area, displaying opening hours for Hopes Car Park. | Approved |
| 23/00697/ADV | Display of advertisements | Land 20M South West Of Mid Hopes Cottage Gifford Haddington East Lothian EH41 4PL | 25/07/23 | Aug 2023 | Signage, located on approach road, displaying opening hours for Hopes Car Park. | Approved |
| 22/01169/P | Alterations, extensions to agricultural buildings to form 7 houses, erection of a shared domestic ancillary building and associated works | Longnewton Farm Steading Yester Gifford East Lothian | 12/12/22 | Jan 2023 | Conversion of stable block to form 2 dwellings, steading block to form four dwellings and granary to form one dwelling. Barn to be converted for shared use. | Awaiting decision |
| 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 | Six bedroomed house attached to the west of the clubhouse, for occupation by the owner/manager. The applicant has requested several extensions of time in order to prepare supporting information. | Awaiting decision |

**APPLICATIONS OUTWITH GCC AREA**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Date Validated** | **GCC first discussed** | **Comments** | **Status** |
| None |  |  |  |  |

**OTHER PLANNING MATTERS**

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

Submission of proposals to Scottish Government is anticipated to be during Q3/Q4 2023. A Memorandum of Understanding for Community Benefit has been agreed between Belltown Power and Gifford CC and Garvald & Morham CC.

**Dunside Wind Farm (EDF)**

Proposals were submitted to Scottish Government in July 2023 are being considered

**Solar panels at Crystal Rig Wind Farm (Fred Olsen Renewables)**

Project timeline indicates further consultation events and application submission during Q4 2023. Initial plans can be viewed at [www.crystalrigwindfarm.com](http://www.crystalrigwindfarm.com)

**Longcroft Wind Farm (Renewable Energy Systems)**

This proposed development of 24 turbines would be approximately 9km north of Lauder in the Scottish Borders, lying to the south west of the existing Fallago Rig Wind Farm and to the west of the proposed Dunside Wind Farm. The northern edge of the development is some 15km south of Gifford. Project website is www.longcroft-windfarm.co.uk