**Minutes of the Gifford Community Council Meeting   
held** **on 10th July 2023 at Gifford Bowling Club**

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

**In Attendance** Councillor Tom Trotter, Jeanie Cole and David Symington

**Apologies** Hugh Broad, Neville Kilkenny, Wendy Ferguson, Councillor John McMillan, Councillor Shamin Akhtar and Councillor George McGuire

**1 Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The meeting approved the minutes of 12th June (approved by Dave and Adam).

**2 Items completed since last meeting**

A meeting has been scheduled with Ian Lennock of East Lothian Council for Friday 21st July to discuss the position of the bus stop and to look at options for helping people to cross the main road safely.

**3. Matters Arising**

**3.1 Renewable Energy Projects**

**Dunside Windfarm**. EDF held a public exhibition in Gifford Village Hall on Wednesday 21st June and they have now submitted the planning application to the Scottish Government. The documents can be viewed online and a hard copy is available in Haddington Library.

There were no updates about Newlands Wind Farm, Crystal Rig Solar Farm or the Longcroft Wind Farm.

**3.2 Defibrillators**

3.2.1 School defibrillator.  Richard will submit the planning application. **ACTION: RA**

3.2.2 Garage defibrillator. Wendy to speak to an electrician about completing the installation of the new cabinet at the garage. Recycling options for the old garage cabinet to be confirmed. Jill to arrange a sticker confirming that no pin code is required. **ACTION: WF/JH**

3.2.3 Bowling club defibrillator.  Dave confirmed that the Bowling Club does want to get a defibrillator. The bowling club committee still need to confirm the total cost. Richard will arrange the planning application.

**3.3 New Noticeboard**

Richard presented a document showing the design of the noticeboard. It was agreed that the wording will be: ‘Gifford Community Noticeboard’. The cost will be £2,650 + VAT. There will also be a £150 delivery cost. Richard will place the order once the Advertising Consent is approved. It should be delivered within 35 days of ordering. Dave asked whether a security camera will be installed to protect the new noticeboard. There was general agreement that a camera might help to protect the noticeboard from vandalism.  No decision was reached, but the matter will be reviewed in the future. **ACTION: RA**

**3.4 Lighting around the Square**

Glen Kane has provided an estimated quote of £25k to improve the lighting around the Square. The meeting agreed to ask the Area Partnership for funding. **ACTION: JH**

**3.5 Nature Corridors and Grass cutting**

Several local residents have contacted community council to voice concerns about the council’s trial policy of leaving the grass in the Pound uncut.  Rita outlined a number of concerns that have been reported to her from local residents.  There are dangers to children and pets from broken glass being hidden in the long grass and there is an increase in the number of ticks.  It was also noted that the longer grass makes it more difficult for elderly residents to use the area.  The Chair had understood that the grass was to be cut, however this has not yet happened.  The council’s Nature Corridors online survey has now closed.  To give a more accurate view of local opinion, the meeting agreed to put together a Gifford survey on nature corridors/grasscutting.  Eleanor and David Symington agreed to work together to look at possible questions.  The survey would be available from Hoggs and would be advertised via Facebook

**3.6 Additional Graveyard space**

Before the meeting the council had reported that it is currently working on key new cemetery requirements for Dunbar, Prestonpans and Tranent. No further update.

**4. Councillors’ Update on ELC actions**

**4.1 Wheelie Bins on Main Street**

No update.

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

No update.

**5. External Reports**

**5.1** **Police**

The Police Report stated that between 1st and 25th June 2023 there were 30 calls to the area, resulting in the police recording 2 crimes (1 x assault and 1 x vandalism).

Concerns were noted about the accuracy of the police report and also about the police response to reported matters. A recent incident of criminal damage was discussed where the police did not take action despite video footage being made available to them. Concern was also expressed about how to reduce vandalism/antisocial behaviour generally. It was noted that the public toilets have been closed for a 2nd time due to vandalism, and that the Gifford Garage is having problems with damage to cars. Councillor Trotter suggested that the Chair should make a list of incidents/problems for discussion with the Police. **ACTION: AW**

**5.2** **East Lothian Council**

Councillor Trotter updated the meeting on recent council business, including a review of East Lothian antisocial behaviour statistics.

**5.3 Gifford Community Woodland**

The woodland is currently running a 5-day Forest School Summer Camp for 15 children aged 6 – 10. Later this month they are holding a Silent Walk + Meditation. David Symington reported that the community orchard is doing well. All 9 fruit trees are currently healthy. Of the 100 or so Queens Greens Canopy Trees that were planted, around 80% are thriving. The orchard has recently been weeded by volunteers.

**5.4 Yester Estate**

No update from Yester Estate.

**6 Internal Reports**

**6.1 Roads and Footpaths**

Dave reported that the fence alongside the footpath connecting the High Street and Park Road needs repaired. It is a well-used path and is a key access route to the school. Dave to report. **ACTION: DG**

**6.2 Lighting , Drains and Signs**

Scottish Power is dealing with a fault affecting Tweeddale Avenue and Tweeddale Crescent. The lights have recently been permanently on.

**6.3 Planning**

Please see attached report for planning applications within and outwith GCC Area. The planning application to replace the temporary NISA signage is still not showing on the system.  Concerns were expressed that this matter is not progressing as quickly as it should, but no specific actions were agreed.  Rita continues to engage constructively with the staff at the shop to help with issues such as keeping the area around the shop tidy. The meeting acknowledged Rita’s ongoing efforts.

**6.4 Finance**

Nothing to report.

**6.5 Resilience**

‘Soup & Smile’ remains on hold over summer and will resume in September. 28 people attended the lunch club this month and 31 people had taken fish and chips at the end of June.

**7. Correspondence**

Correspondence relating to grasscutting was dealt with at 3.5.

**8. AOB**

**8.1 Gifford Open Gardens**

The meeting wished to congratulate Roger Wilson and the organising committee for running such a successful Open Garden Day. Nine gardens in the village were open, with 600 tickets sold.

**8.2 ELC’s Tree and Woodland Strategy**

Nev had prepared a detailed response to the Council’s Tree and Woodland Strategy. The meeting was happy for the response to be submitted on behalf of Community Council.

**8.3 Speed Check**

Richard asked whether the Speed Check display board could be returned to the Edinburgh Road. It has been on the Duns Road for some time. Dave agreed to look into this. **ACTION: DG**

**8.4 Haddington Townhouse**

Eleanor wished the meeting to note ELC’s decision to make the Haddington Townhouse unavailable for public use for the foreseeable future. The Haddington Concert Society has accepted the decision but is very disappointed about it.

**8.5 Footpath connecting village to Bolton river walk**

Dave asked whether anything could be done to improve the footpath that connects the village to the Bolton walk. It is a well-used footpath, but it is gradually disappearing. Dave will email details to Councillor Trotter.

Date of next meeting: Monday 14th August

**APPLICATIONS WITHIN GCC AREA**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Date Validated** | **GCC first discussed** | **Comments** | **Status** |
| 23/00670/P | Installation of solar panels | 3, 12, 14, 15, 23, 25, 32 & 40 Walden Terrace Gifford East Lothian EH41 4QP | 04/07/23 | July 2023 | Installation of roof mounted solar panels to eight properties in Walden Terrace. | Awaiting decision |
| 23/00669/P | Installation of solar panels | 5 Park Crescent Gifford East Lothian EH41 4QR | 04/07/23 | July 2023 | Installation of roof mounted solar panels to one property in Park Crescent. | Awaiting decision |
| 23/00601/P | Erection of buildings, dust extraction plants and associated works (Retrospective) | Myreside Grange Gifford East Lothian EH41 4JA | 05/06/23 | June 2023 | Retrospective application for new workshops at Chippendale Furniture School. | Awaiting decision |
| 23/00595/P | Formation of hardstanding area, steps, wall and handrail, erection of gates and installation of lighting (part retrospective) | Yester House The Avenue Gifford Haddington EH41 4JF | 02/06/23 | June 2023 | Partly retrospective application for terracing, landscaping, gardens and lighting immediately to the south of Yester House. | Awaiting decision |
| 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 August / September 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 have been submitted to Scottish Government. EDF held a further public exhibition at Gifford Village Hall on Wednesday 21 June 2023.

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

Initial consultation event was held in Garvald Village Hall on 28th February. 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