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

**on 8th November 2021 at Gifford Bowling Club**

**Participating** Adam White (Chair) Wendy Ferguson Jill Hyslop

David Griffiths Eleanor Hulme Rita Buchan

Richard Austin

**In Attendance** Councillor Shamin Akhtar Councillor Craig Hoy Councillor Tom Trotter Councillor John McMillan Andrew Hamilton

**Apologies** PC Colin Boyd Hugh Broad

**1 Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Subject to noting that no further street lamps will be painted until after winter, the meeting approved the minutes of the meeting of the 11th October (approved by Wendy Ferguson and Eleanor Hulme).

**2. Presentation about the work of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission**

Community Council was pleased to welcome David Murray to explain the role of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC). As well as looking after around 1.7 million grave sites worldwide, the CWGC also looks after memorials honouring the war dead, including those who may have died without an identifiable grave. The CWGC wants to interact more with local communities by raising awareness about the information and presentations that can be obtained from their website (<https://www.cwgc.org>). They would like community groups and individuals to use these presentations to understand more about the work of the CWGC and to increase awareness about the people who are listed on the memorials. Community Council thanked Mr Murray for his interesting and thoughtful presentation.

**3 Matters Arising**

3.1 Road safety

3.1.1 Potential for widening the footpath at the bridge over Gifford Water

Richard reported that the council’s Structures team and Roads Engineers are exploring the feasibility of moving the carriageway south to enable some localised footway widening.  The council’s next step is to undertake further survey work and then complete an option design later this year. In an email from Alan Stubbs, the council confirmed its commitment to this project, but did highlight that they were dealing with a massive backlog of projects due to the impact of Covid.

3.2 Additional Graveyard space. Following Community Council’s decision in the October meeting that they could not raise £25,000 to cover the cost of the SEPA assessment, Councillor McMillan has forwarded details about this matter to the council with a view to getting them to assume responsibility for this project. **ACTION: JM**

3.3 Traffic Calming

3.3.1 Duns Road. Richard has requested an update from the council about whether there are plans to carry out a 2nd survey to assess the effectiveness of the speed cushions, but is waiting for a response.

3.3.2 Edinburgh Road. Richard reported that the council intends to look at the feasibility of traffic calming measures on the Edinburgh Road when they conduct the survey for widening the footpath (see 3.1.1 above).

3.4 Wheelie bins on Main Street pavement

Councillor Akhtar reported that Waste Services are currently working on the implementation of the new recycling system, which starts on the 15th of November. Once that has gone live, Waste Services intend to engage with residents to look for a possible solution. Some concern was expressed that the new recycling regime might aggravate the situation as landfill and recycling will now be presented on the same day. **ACTION: SA**

**3.5** Defibrillators.

Wendy reported that the Acting Head Teacher at Yester Primary School would like the defibrillator to be kept in a locked cabinet, as people are known to enter the school grounds out of hours. Wendy will investigate how that would work in practice and how access codes would be made available. Wendy reminded the meeting that the school was chosen as the preferred site because of the danger of pupils being taken unwell on school playing fields, and also because there was already a defibrillator at the Gifford Garage. It was noted that the Garage defibrillator is now several years old and may need a new battery. Councillor McMillan informed the meeting that it may be cheaper to buy a new defibrillator rather than replace the battery. It was noted that training will be given on how to use the new defibrillator once it is in place and this will include CPR skills. Wendy has a few more pieces of information to gather, including speaking to Garvald CC about their set-up, before proceeding to the purchase stage. **ACTION: WF**

3.6. Beautiful Scotland signage. Adam will contact the Roads department to arrange the new signs and he will seek funding from the Area Partnership to cover the cost. **ACTION: AW**

3.7 Adam is still waiting for Andrew Hogarth to reply about the tree at the Witherspoon plaque.

3.8 War Memorial. Wendy confirmed that the autumn planting has been completed around the war memorial.

3.9 School Railings. Councillor Akhtar reported that the Community Payback Team is looking into this to see if they can proceed. **ACTION: SA**

3.10 Litter in the Bleachfield. Councillor Akhtar had spoken to the Chair of Yester Parent Council about the Keep Scotland Beautiful children’s litter campaign, but she had not yet heard back.

3.11 Christmas Events

Wendy displayed a draft poster that is being produced to highlight the Christmas events. This will be finalised shortly. **ACTION: WF**

3.11.1 The Christmas Light Switch on will take place on 3rd December.

3.11.2 The Christmas Post Box will be available in Lanterne Rouge from Monday 13th December - Saturday 18th December.

3.11.3 Christmas Carols. This will take place on Thursday 23rd December.

3.12 Noticeboards. Peter is dealing with the notice board on the High Street. Dave has done a couple of minor repairs to the cabinet notice board on the Nisa shop wall. The cost of replacing the cabinet with a new one would probably be around £200 plus fitting. Adam confirmed that community council is able to fund this work and that the noticeboards were an important feature of the village **ACTION: AW/DG**

3.13 Dog poo bins in the Bleachfield

Rita had contacted the council about this, but nothing had yet happened. As the cost of a new bin is £400, Rita had asked whether one of the existing bins at the road-side of the Bleachfield could be moved to the river side. There was a discussion about how best to tackle dog poo and litter problems. It was acknowledged that some people will not pick up after their dogs whatever facilities are available, however there was general consensus that having a bin nearer to the river might help and was therefore worth pursuing further. Councillor McMillan suggested that Area Partnership funds might be able to cover the cost. He also reminded the meeting that Dog Wardens can visit people who are spotted not picking up after their dog. **ACTION: RB**

**4 External Reports**

**4.1 Police**

This report is based on incidents between 10/10/2021 and 4/11/2021. During the period since the last police report there have been very few incidents of note in the Gifford area. There may be more incidents but due to the nature of these or ongoing investigations I cannot give full details.

4.1.1 In response to reports of underage drinking in the Walden Place/Terrace areas of Gifford, these areas will continue to be patrolled by both police and community wardens.

4.1.2 There continues to be complaints of inconsiderate parking in the Walden Terrace/Place areas of Gifford.

4.1.3 Following reports of a lorry parked up at the entrance to the Bolton walk, the police have spoken to the company concerned. If the lorry continues to be parked there, the driver may be reported for road traffic offences.

4.1.4 Enquiries are ongoing in relation to the reported theft of stone from Yester Castle.

**4.2** **East Lothian Council**

Councillors Akhtar, Hoy, McMillan and Trotter started by paying their respects following the death of Councillor Willie Innes, They acknowledged his enormous contribution to East Lothian. The Councillors then reported on the following issues and encouraged anyone who would like further information about any of these initiatives to contact them direct.

4.2.1 The vaccination bus had been very busy, with around 800 people being vaccinated in Ormiston and Gullane. The service was so popular that some concern was expressed about whether there might be a cumulative build up of people trying to access the service as it moves around the county. The Councillors wished to thank the staff and volunteers running the service.

4.2.2 Councillor McMillan passed on early details about a new project relating to broadband in rural economies.

4.2.3 The consultation regarding a National Care Service has now closed. The councillors are following developments and highlighted the possible impact on local communities.

4.2.4 Void council houses. Councillor Akhtar reported that a previously empty council house at 22 Walden Terrace was now occupied.

4.2.5 In relation to the Queen’s Green Canopy initiative, Castle Park Golf Club have offered the use of their land for planting trees.

4.2.6 Councillor Hoy reported that some confusion had arisen about the timing of covid booster jabs and in what circumstances these could be given together with the flu jab. It was noted that NHS Lothian will be writing to people to confirm arrangements.

**4.3 Community Woodland**

Adam reported that the Community Woodland was working on a 3-year plan/programme of events. The Woodland is very grateful to have such a large group of volunteers who continue to offer their support.

**5 Internal Reports**

**5.1 Roads and Footpaths**

5.1.1 Dave received an update from the Roads department about the Longyester road as follows. The C92 from Longyester to Kidlaw has been Needs Assessed and has a high rating. The section between Longyester and the Quarry entrance is subject to a planning condition whereby the quarry operator is conditioned to fully repair the road once instructed to do so by ELC. However, once this condition is fulfilled then it falls back to ELC to maintain. It is currently anticipated that the quarry will be operational for quite a considerable period yet. The section between Longnewton and Kidlaw is programmed for resurfacing work and that should be undertaken during the winter months. In the meantime, Alan Stubbs will arrange for a service inspection to be undertaken and any defects identified programmed for repair according to their risk assessment rating.

5.1.2A couple of potholes on each side of the bridge on Station Road have been reported.

**5.2 Street lighting**

5.2.1 The flashing light on Main Street reported at the last meeting has been fixed.

**5.3 Drainage**

Nothing to report on drainage except the seasonal problem of autumn leaves building up. Dave asked whether there had been a cut back in the road sweeping teams as they did not seem to visit as frequently. Councillor McMillan was not aware of any reduction in service, but would investigate further.

**5.4 Signs**

Dave agreed to report that the Give Way sign at the junction beside Gifford Golf Club had been knocked over.

5.5 **Planning**

Please see attached report for planning applications within and outwith GCC Area. Richard drew attention to the Bolton Muir Woodland test case and highlighted the conditions that had been attached to the planning decision. Following a discussion about noise coming from a summerhouse, Councillor McMillan reminded the meeting that the planning department can be notified about noise problems, which arise after permission has been granted.

**5.6 Finance**

5.6.1 Wendy handed out copies of the Community Council’s accounts showing income and expenditure up to the 3rd of November 2021. Wendy was pleased to report a balance of £14,626, which means that Community Council is in a position to fund appropriate projects, such as the renovations to the village noticeboards. Wendy and Adam will now start to plan any expenditure necessary to support the Christmas events. The meeting thanked Wendy for her careful management of the accounts.

**5.7 Website**

5.7.1 Liz Stewart will continue to update the website, but Jill will take over updating Social Media. Following a query about accessing the website, the address is https://www.giffordvillage.org

**5.8 Covid Vaccination Update**

5.8.1. A report is attached as an appendix. The report now additionally covers information about the booster jab.

**5.9 Yester Estate**

5.9.1 Nothing to report from Yester Estate. The fireworks event was very well attended and Community Council thanked the estate for putting on this event for the benefit of the local community.

**6 Resilience Update**

6.1 Wendy and Adam reported that 44 people had received fish and chips on the last Friday of the month. The operation is running very smoothly and the Tweeddale Arms is providing an excellent service.

6.2 Adam has written to the members of the Lunch Club about holding a Christmas Lunch and has received 36 positive responses. Due to a limit on numbers, there will be no additional guests. The venue will be the Tweeddale Arms. All Lunch Club members have received their covid booster, but not all intended volunteers have received theirs. It was suggested that volunteers should do a Lateral Flow test before helping.

**7. AOB**

7.1 Jingle Bags. Following a discussion on the Association of East Lothian CCs email group, Jill asked the meeting whether they wanted to sponsor the production of East Lothian Foodbank’s ‘Jingle Bags’, which are non-perishable Christmas meals given out to people in need in December. Adam and Wendy reported that they will be looking into producing their own local festive bags. **ACTION: AW/WF**

7.2 Bulbs for the new path at the Wynd/Park Road. Dave suggested that bulbs could be planted alongside the newly widened path and everyone agreed that this was a good idea. Dave will phone Andrew Hogarth to see if the council has any spare bulbs. He will also ask Andrew about the cherry trees.

7.3 Encouraging usage of present businesses, transport and artistic presentation of our village. Rita had been asked if Community Council could support our local businesses and bus service by encouraging people to use them. Adam suggested that the Christmas events would provide a good initial opportunity to do this. He will be speaking to local businesses to see how they would like to be involved. Jill agreed to do a ‘shop local’ post on Facebook. Councillor McMillan reminded the meeting about East Lothian’s Giftcard scheme, which includes some Gifford businesses. The Council might have ‘shop local’ campaign materials, which could be used in Gifford. **ACTION: AW/JH**

7.4 Councillor McMillan wanted to pay his respects following the death of Douglas Morrison, highlighting his enormous contribution to the local community. Adam informed the meeting that the family were arranging a commemorative bench for Douglas and Bev for the Community Woodlands.

**Date of next meeting -** 7:30pm on Monday 13th December 2021 at the Bowling Club.

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**APPLICATIONS WITHIN GCC AREA**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Date Validated** | **GCC first discussed** | **Comments** | **Status** |
| 21/01294/P | Extension to house, installation of oil storage tank and formation of hardstanding areas | Highwood Tweeddale Avenue Gifford Haddington EH41 4QN | 08/09/21 | Nov 2021 | Further to earlier application 20/01265/P, approved 20/01/21. This now includes a larger extension to the rear. | Awaiting decision |
| 21/01242/P | Erection of shed | Dolphin Cottage The Square Gifford Haddington EH41 4QJ | 24/09/21 | Oct 2021 | Timber shed approx. 3m x 2m to rear of house. | Awaiting decision |
| 21/01128/P | Erection of outbuilding for use as ancillary residential accommodation | Curlew Cottage Duns Road Gifford East Lothian EH41 4QW | 06/09/21 | Sept 2021 | Studio in garden behind Coop car park. Comprises living area, bedroom and wetroom shower/WC. Design statement refers to office and studio space for Curlew Cottage residents use – not to be sublet. | Awaiting decision |
| 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? | Awaiting decision |
| 21/00866/P | Extension to house, installation of air source heat pump, rooflights and solar panels, erection of shed and fencing, replacement door and windows and formation of decking | 5 Old Mill Lane Gifford Haddington East Lothian EH41 4QQ | 14/7/21 | Aug 2021 | Extension and decking to rear of property. | Approved |

**APPLICATIONS OUTWITH GCC AREA**

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|  | **Date Validated** | **GCC first discussed** | **Comments** | **Status** |
| 21/00563/P | Change of use of woodland area for the erection of domestic garage | Membland Gifford East Lothian EH41 4JH | 21/7/21 | Aug 2021 | Erection of a garage in woodland to the right of the driveway to Membland | Awaiting decision |
| 20/01247/P | Erection of hut and treehouse (Retrospective) | Bolton Muir Wood Gifford East Lothian EH41 4JH | 22/01/21 | Feb 2021 | This is the latest of a number of applications for the erection of huts and other structures in parcels of woodland sold by woodlands.co.uk at Bolton Muir Wood.  As reported at May meeting. | Approved with conditions. See note below. |

Note: Retrospective application 20/01247/P for erection of a hut in Bolton Muir Wood was approved on 22/10/21, subject to eleven detailed conditions.

These include:

* Restrictions on the number of days of occupancy.
* No use as a holiday let or for other commercial purposes.
* Measures to ensure that the hut can be removed leaving no trace at the end of its use – no permanent foundations, no connection to mains water, electricity or sewerage.
* No boundary fences.
* Only one vehicle parking space.
* Species Protection Plan to be submitted prior to use of the hut.
* Site Management Plan and Woodland Management Plan to be submitted within 3 months.

Permission for erection of the treehouse was rejected.

This decision is likely to set the standard for other similar applications for huts at Bolton Muir.

**OTHER PLANNING MATTERS**

None

**Report for 8TH November 2021:**

**From national statistics source below as of Saturday 6th November:**

<https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/phs.covid.19/viz/COVID-19DailyDashboard_15960160643010/Overview>

**Nationally:**

Over 12s + all adults: Dose 1= 90.3%

Over 18s: Dose 2 = 87.7%

Booster/Dose 3 over 18s plus all adults: 20.8%

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**Lothian:**

Over 12s + all adults: Dose 1=90.3%

Over 18s: Dose 2 = 85.5%

Over 50s: Boosters =30.5% Note different recording form the national statistics

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **AGE** | **DOSE 1 %** | **DOSE 2 %** | **Booster** |
| 12-15 | 67 | 1.4 | 0 |
| 16-17 | 90 | 21 | 0 |
| 18-29 | 86.8 | 76.3 | 3.6 |
| 30-39 | 90.9 | 84.3 | 6.3 |
| 40-49 | 92.7 | 89.1 | 8.8 |
| 50-54 | 99 | 96.9 | 9.8 |
| 55-59 | 98.5 | 97.1 | 12.1 |
| 60-64 | 100 | 100 | 20.7 |
| 65-69 | 100 | 100 | 49.3 |
| 70-74 | 100 | 99.8 | 51.6 |
| 75-79 | 100 | 100 | 67.1 |
| 80+ | 100 | 100 | 76.5 |
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