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

**on 9th January 2023 at Gifford Bowling Club**

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

**In Attendance** Councillor John McMillan Neville Kilkenny

**Apologies** Councillor George McGuire Councillor Shamin Akhtar Councillor Tom Trotter

**1** **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Following the cancellation of the December meeting, the November minutes had already been approved to avoid delaying publication.

**2** **Matters arising**

**2.1 Newlands Wind Energy Hub**

The 2nd public exhibition was held in November 2022. Adam and Richard, together with Garvald CC, met with Belltown in December to look at how a Community Fund might operate if the development goes ahead. Community Council will continue to help publicise information about the project and will continue to advise people to give feedback, whether positive or negative, directly to the developers or to contact one of their MSPs.

**2.2 Dunside Windfarm**

Nothing to report.

**2.3 Edinburgh Road Widening Survey**

Richard had previously forwarded an initial sketch of the works, which will see the footpath on the left-hand side (as you enter the village) being widened. Richard has asked Ian Lennock if traffic calming measures can be incorporated into the work, but he has not received a response. It was noted that some traffic calming measures might generate additional noise. **ACTION: RA**

**2.4 Additional Graveyard space**

Following the November meeting, Hugh contacted Councillor McMillan to question the basis for the very high cost of the SEPA survey, which is currently estimated at £25k. Councillor McMillan plans to speak to Eamonn John as soon as possible. **ACTION: JM**

**2.5 Wheelie Bins on Main Street**

Councillor Akhtar was not at the meeting, but had reported that she will phone Adam to update him. Councillor Akhtar to be asked to circulate images of the proposed bin storage unit. **ACTION: SA**

**2.6 Defibrillator**

2.6.1 School defibrillator.  The defibrillator has been installed and staff have been trained. The only item outstanding is the retrospective planning application. Wendy to provide details of the location, etc. to Richard. **ACTION: RA/WF**

2.6.2 Garage defibrillator. Regarding the replacement of the cabinet for the garage defibrillator, Wendy has found a contact who deals with refurbished cabinets and she will pass the details to Eleanor.  **ACTION: EH/WF**

2.6.3 Bowling club defibrillator.  No update.

**2.7 School Shed**

Prior to the meeting, Councillor Akhtar had reported that the Head Teacher at Yester will get in touch with Jill to confirm the cost for the new shed. The delay in supplying the details has been caused by a change in purchasing policy.

**2.8 Noticeboard**

As part of the preparations for the planning application, Adam and Richard had reviewed site options for the noticeboard. Wendy reminded the meeting that the new noticeboard will consist of 3 x A1 panels. It was suggested that a funding application could be made to the Area Partnership to cover the cost of the new noticeboard and Wendy agreed to take this forward. It was suggested that CC TV might prevent further damage to the existing noticeboard. Councillor McMillan suggested that Ken Black and Callum Colquhoun, from the Antisocial Behaviour Team, could come to a future meeting to discuss this.  **ACTION: WF/RA**

**2.9 Bus stop - review of position**

Councillor McMillan had raised the issue of moving the bus stop at a Bus Forum, but there was no progress to report.  **ACTION: JM**

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

Woods Project Manager, Nev Kilkenny, was present at the meeting and reported that he had spoken to Keith Scott about this. The next step is for Nev to meet with Keith on site.

**2.11 Dropped Kerbs**

It is understood that the proposed list of dropped kerb locations has been given to Ian Lennock. When contacting Ian about the Bridge Widening (at 2.3 above), Richard had asked for an update, but was still waiting for a response.

**3. External Reports**

**3.1** **Police**

No Police Report had been received. The Draft Local Police Plan has been circulated around community council members and feedback can be given until 12th February. Concern was expressed about the overall reduction in the level of community service being received from the police. Councillor McMillan agreed to speak to Chief Inspector Jocelyn O’Connor about this. **ACTION: JM**

**3.2** **East Lothian Council**

Councillor McMillan reported that the council is facing a budget shortfall of £45m over 3 years.

**3.3 Gifford Community Woodland**

Woods Project Manager, Nev Kilkenny, reported that the felling licence for the ash dieback work is at public consultation stage. The felling and re-stocking will be done in March. The removal of the softwood logs stacked by Station Yard has been delayed due to problems with transportation. Path repairs (to mend damage caused by Storm Arwen) are due to start soon. They have published the schedule of volunteer days for the next couple of months to continue work to remove rhododendron.  The Fruit Trees group intend to plant 9 fruit trees in January and will be preparing the ground on Saturday 14th January. They still have a budget shortfall to cover the cost of the fruit trees. Two Yester School visits have been arranged and the next block of Forest School sessions will start after the February break. One of the woods volunteers has completed Outdoor First Aid and Risk Assessment training to enable her to host volunteer days. Nev reported that they are likely to be able to generate lots of wood fuel for sale at low cost to the local community. He asked if community council would consider funding a log splitter at a cost of c.£1,500 - £2,000. It was suggested that the woods should apply to the Area Partnership for funding.

**3.4 Yester Estate**

Yester Estate had provided several hundred bags of free wood fuel to local residents on 3 dates before Xmas. They had also provided 44 packs of venison sausages and burgers which had been distributed to people on the ‘Soup & Smile’ and Lunch Club lists. It was agreed that a note of thanks should be passed to Yester Estate for their community support, which local residents had really appreciated. **ACTION: JH**

**4 Internal Reports**

**4.1 Roads and Footpaths**

The road from Longyester to Longnewton has been repaired to a high standard and resurfaced in places, including between Longyester and the Quarry. On the C98 (the road to the Hopes), the first section from Longyester Schoolhouse to Harlaw Burn will be shut from 9th to 27th January during weekdays to reseal the road. The next section was done a couple of years ago. Due to the winter weather, potholes will be appearing in the community as probably in the rest of the county. There is a deep one on the B6369 on Haddington Road near the entrance to the churchyard. The hole was reported last week to road services.

On footpaths, there is no further information about when the footpath between Station Road and Tweeddale Crescent will be improved.  There have been some further comments from locals about the unevenness of the pavement beside Station Road. The Roads Department have looked at it in the past. It is their decision as to whether any repair needs to be done. The new barrier at the ramp on Park Crescent / Bablins Wynd junction has been damaged, probably by a coal lorry. The Roads Department knows of the damage.

**4.2 Lighting**

There is a major fault with the street lights in the first section of Walden Terrace from the junction with Duns Road towards the school entrance, and from Duns Road / Walden Terrace junction to the 30 mph limit. These lights have been out since the 23rd of December. A couple of residents informed Dave on the 24th. Dave contacted ELC customer services and the emergency number and reported the fault. Dave emailed road services informing them that the street lights were not working. He did get a reply that an engineer was on his way to investigate. With more phone calls and one to Scottish Power, no information was received until the 4th January. Road Services would not supply the incident report number, which meant that Dave could not speak to Scottish Power.

Dave contacted Councillor McMillan by email and wheels were put in motion, but the street is still in darkness. Seemingly it is a Scottish Power problem to fix and there could be a 6-week lead-up to repair the fault. Dave has emphasised the importance of getting the lights fixed, particularly having regard to the time of the year, dark nights, and weather conditions. The ELC lighting department informed Dave by email that they will try to bring the matter forward. There have been previous problems with these lights, which were related to a fuse. It appears to be a different problem this time.

One street light is out on Tweeddale Crescent and this has been reported to the lighting department.

No update was reported about ELC’s review of the sufficiency of the lighting on Main Street in the area between Hoggs Newsagent, Goblin Hotel next to the Square, and the intersection to the High Street. Alan Stubbs had reported in November that Glen would look at what was possible within current design guidelines. This item is to be added to Matters Arising for the February meeting.

**4.3 Drainage**

Gullies that are filled with leaves have not been emptied yet. It was reported that the gully sucker did empty two drainage points at the start of Tweeddale Avenue from Station Road where flooding was reported into one of the residence gardens. Not known if any further investigation was done or proposed. Callum Redpath had agreed to tell Dave when the gully sucker would visit Gifford, but details have not been received yet.

**4.4 Signs**

Yester Estate still need to confirm whether they still need the sign at the junction by the golf course, or if it can be removed.

**4.5 Planning**

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

Dave raised an issue about difficulties with construction traffic that might arise from work due to take place in The Wynd to convert a garage into a dwelling. The planning application was approved in 2018, but had recently come back onto the system in relation to some minor modifications. Although the time for submitting comments has expired, Richard will email the Planning Officer about the concerns. **ACTION: RA**

**4.6 Finance**

Wendy reported that the finances remain in a healthy position. The meeting noted its thanks to the Area Partnership for the donation of £1,375 to cover 50% of the cost of the weekly Soup & Smile deliveries. It was reported that the Village Hall is facing a challenging situation with very high monthly energy bills. It was agreed that community council should make a donation to assist the village hall. **ACTION: WF**

**4.7 Website/Communications**

Nothing to report.

**4.8 Resilience**

Wendy reported that ‘Soup & Smile’ was being delivered to 20 – 25 people weekly and continued to be well-received. Between 40 and 50 people take fish & chips on the last Friday of the month. 44 people had attended the Xmas Lunch Club and around 30 people had attended the festive coffee morning. Wendy and Anikó had obtained money from a hardship fund, which was being used to support families in the area. Payments had been made for things like school trips. Councillor McMillan suggested that applications can also be made to the East Lothian Educational Trust, which meets every 2 months. There was a discussion about how best to identify people who need support and assistance in the community and it was agreed that this should be discussed in more detail at the February meeting.

**5. Correspondence**

Nothing to report. At the November meeting, a local resident had emailed to ask about the possibility of getting the existing half-hourly bus service between Edinburgh and Pencaitland extended to come into Gifford.   Councillor McMillan had raised this at the Bus Forum and East Coast Buses were going to come back to him.

**6. AOB**

**6.1 Parking in the Wynd/Park Road**

This was discussed under 4.5 Planning above.

**6.2 CC Dates for 2023**

Community Council will meet on the 2nd Monday of each month, except for the April meeting which will be moved to Monday 17th April. It was agreed that there was no need to move the May meeting, although it will fall on the Coronation Bank Holiday.

Date of next meeting: Monday 13th February.

**APPLICATIONS WITHIN GCC AREA**

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|  | **Date Validated** | **GCC first discussed** | **Comments** | **Status** |
| 22/01388/P | Erection of porch (Retrospective) | 2 Old Quarryford Cottages Gifford Haddington EH41 4PL | 15/12/22 | Jan 2023 | Retrospective application for porch built to front of cottage. | Awaiting decision |
| 22/01339/P | Extension to house, formation of dormer and hardstanding area and erection of gate | Earn Tweeddale Avenue Gifford East Lothian EH41 4QN | 09/12/22 | Jan 2023 | Extensions to side and rear and loft conversion with dormer to rear. | Awaiting decision |
| 22/01252/P | Alterations and design changes to house, installation of solar panels and erection of walls as changes to the scheme of development the subject of planning permission 18/01192/P | Garages North/East Of Jasmine Cottage The Wynd Gifford East Lothian | 22/11/22 | Dec 2022 | Non-material variation to consented application 18/01192/P, involving addition of solar panels and solar water heater, relocation of some windows, additional rooflight, additional windows to gable end and alterations to boundary wall. | Awaiting decision |
| 22/01177/P | Erection of porch, extension and heightening part of house | 7 Yester Mains Cottages Yester Gifford Haddington EH41 4JG | 21/11/22 | Dec 2022 | Roof height of extension and Increase in height of part of existing is to the same level as existing two storey part of cottage. | Awaiting decision |
| 22/01228/P | Repainting of windows and door (retrospective) | 4 The Avenue Gifford East Lothian EH41 4QX | 07/11/22 | Nov 2022 | Retrospective application for change of colour of windows and door to black. | Approved |
| 22/01128/P | Alterations to house | Garden Cottage Edinburgh Road Gifford EH41 4JE | 14/10/22 | Nov 2022 | Replacement windows, internal alterations and flue for woodburning stove. | 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 |

**APPLICATIONS OUTWITH GCC AREA**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Date Validated** | **GCC first discussed** | **Comments** | **Status** |
| 22/01217/P | Erection of furniture making studio (Class 4) and associated works | Bolton Muir Wood Gifford East Lothian  | 25/11/22 | Dec 2022 | Site at corner of Bolton Muir Wood, opposite junction to Eaglescarnie. Site was previously consented for erection of three holiday lodges. | Awaiting decision |

**OTHER PLANNING MATTERS**

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

A second consultation event was held in Gifford Village Hall on Wednesday 9th November. This exhibition included visualisations of the turbines from various locations, including Longyester and the Haddington Road out of Gifford.

**Dunside Wind Farm (EDF)**

A second consultation event was held in Gifford Village Hall on 26th October.