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

**on 13th February 2023 at Gifford Bowling Club**

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

**In Attendance** Councillor George McGuire Councillor Shamin Akhtar Councillor Tom Trotter Neville Kilkenny

**Apologies** Rita Buchan Hugh Broad Councillor John McMillan

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

The meeting approved the minutes of 9th January (approved by Wendy Ferguson and Dave Griffiths).

**2** **Matters arising**

**2.1 Newlands Wind Energy Hub**

Nothing to report from the developers. The Association of East Lothian Community Councils (AELCC) is considering whether a 3% equity ownership arrangement might be used to generate county-wide benefits. Adam emphasised that discussions about future benefits are only taking place so that community councils are properly prepared *if* planning permission is granted.

**2.2 Dunside Windfarm**

EDF are issuing monthly reports about Dunside. During January they refined the design of the wind farm and reviewed the infrastructure currently in place that could be utilised. In February they will be completing environmental checks onsite, including surveys and peat measurements. They will be developing the onsite habitat management provisions and setting out areas with the most potential for biodiversity enhancements. They also plan to complete the final design freeze and review for the project.

**2.3 Edinburgh Road Widening Survey**

In response to Richard’s question about whether traffic calming measures could be incorporated into the road widening project, Ian Lennock has said that traffic lights would be necessary due to the lack of forward visibility and he does not think the location is suitable for this. Speed cushions are not being proposed at this stage due to negative feedback about the cushions on Duns Road. Richard suggested that a chicane further up the Edinburgh Road might help to reduce speeding. It was also noted that the new road layout will probably need a ‘narrow bridge’ sign as the edge of the carriageway will be right beside the bridge parapet. **ACTION: RA**

**2.4 Additional Graveyard space**

Before the meeting Councillor McMillan reported that he will arrange a meeting with Eamon and Wendy. **ACTION: JM**

**2.5 Wheelie Bins on Main Street**

Councillor Akhtar has been having pre-planning discussions with the Planning team about the proposed bin storage unit. Planning Advisor, Paul Zochowski,would like to arrange another site visit to look at alternative locations. **ACTION: SA**

**2.6 Defibrillator**

2.6.1 School defibrillator Planning application.  Richard and Wendy had intended to arrange a site visit to confirm the details for the application. However, Richard raised the question of the whether the planning application should be submitted by East Lothian Council as they own the school building. He asked if Councillor Akhtar could look into the best process for the application. Wendy also agreed to look at whether the school defibrillator has been registered on The Circuit (which is the national register of defibrillators). **ACTION: SA/WF/RA**

2.6.2 Garage defibrillator. Eleanor confirmed that the garage defibrillator is working. Regarding the replacement of the cabinet, she had spoken to someone who deals with refurbished cabinets and had arranged a site visit for Wednesday afternoon to look at the best cabinet option. Adam agreed to the Golf Club if their defibrillator was registered on the Circuit. **ACTION: EH/AW**

2.6.3 Bowling club defibrillator.  Wendy will supply costing information to Dave. It was agreed that the cost could be split 3 ways: the bowling club will look at grant options via the East Lothian Volunteer Centre, then the remaining cost will be divided between the Bowling Club and Community Council. **ACTION: WF/DG**

**2.7 School Shed**

Community Council will arrange funding once the school confirms the cost. Councillor Akhtar agreed to pass on dates for the Yester Parent Council meetings. **ACTION: SA**

**2.8 Noticeboard**

Richard reported that the planning application is nearly ready to submit. The new noticeboard will have a dark green painted aluminium frame and will consist of 3 x A1 panels. The wording at the top will read ‘Gifford Community Noticeboard’. It will use magnets rather than drawing pins. It will be positioned inside the churchyard, close to the wall and will face out, so that items can be read and added from outside the churchyard. It was noted that it might be necessary to move the bench. The cost is £4,143 + VAT. Nev advised Richard to check what the back of the noticeboard will look like, as the woodlands had received complaints about their noticeboard. Richard is intending to submit the planning application as Agent. He had spoken to the Session Clerk, however it was confirmed at the meeting that the churchyard is owned by East Lothian Council. Richard will need to confirm who owns the NISA building as the planning application will cover the removal of the existing noticeboard.  **ACTION: WF/RA**

**2.9 Bus stop - review of position**

No update as Councillor McMillan was absent. It was suggested that Councillor McMillan could speak to the officers that deal with the bus companies, rather than wait for the next Bus Forum.  **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 asked Keith Scott for an update, but was waiting to hear back. It was noted that a disabled parking space will need the hedge at the end of Tweeddale Avenue to be cut back. Adam agreed to speak to Alan about this. **ACTION: AW**

**2.11 Dropped Kerbs**

No update.

**2.12 Lighting Review**

Councillor Ahktar agreed to chase Glen Kane for information about when the review of lighting around the Square will take place. **ACTION: SA**

**3. External Reports**

**3.1** **Police**

A Police Report was received which stated that between 1st and 31st January 2023 there were 12 calls to the area, which resulted in the police recording 2 crimes: 1 x assault and 1 x vandalism.

Following the CAPP meeting on 30th January 2023, a local priority for Gifford was agreed as:

* Gifford – ASB (school bus arriving after school) COMMUNITY WARDEN/OUTREACH TEAM

The Antisocial Behaviour team had attended the village, but had not witnessed any antisocial behaviour while they were there. There was a discussion about the problems antisocial behaviour is causing to local residents. The councillors emphasised the importance of reporting all instances of antisocial behaviour. They also suggested that the antisocial behaviour team could visit the school. It was also agreed that community council should look at setting priorities for the next CAPP.

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

All the councillors emphasised the budget difficulties that the council is facing. It was noted that council tax revenue only covers 24% of council services. Richard asked whether the proposed new recycling deposit scheme would impact on the current weekly recycling services. The councillors did not know about any plans to change the weekly service. Nev asked whether the councillors were aware of problems with mould in houses in the village that had been reported on local social media. Councillor Ahktar agreed to look into the matter. **ACTION: SA**

**3.3 Gifford Community Woodland**

Woods Project Manager, Nev Kilkenny, reported that the felling licence for the ash dieback work had been approved and work would start at the end of February/beginning of March. The removal of the softwood logs stacked by Station Yard continues to be delayed, but he hoped the first lot would be moved imminently. There had been 2 school visits, 3 volunteer days and 2 ASN bushcraft sessions in the woods. The orchard trees had been planted. There is no schedule yet for the path repairs (to mend damage caused by Storm Arwen). Nev has started work on the annual tree safety survey and is also carrying out some replanting. The woods trustees had reviewed the pond signage following a query from community council. The current signage meets insurance requirements. However it was agreed that the location of the pond would be shown on the new entrance sign that is being arranged, and water safety advice would be included in events involving children. Dates have been set for a birch sap tapping event on 25th March, a fungi foray on 9th September and a woodland cinema on 30th September. An all ability foraging event is also being considered.

**3.4 Yester Estate**

Yester Estate had indicated to Adam that they might be able to supply more logs and venison to the local community. When telling the community about such initiatives, it was noted that not everyone is on Facebook and a printed notice would be helpful, either on the noticeboard or in Hoggs newsagents. The website could also be used.

**4 Internal Reports**

**4.1 Roads and Footpaths**

Due to the winter weather, there are potholes in the community but none have been reported to the CC as serious.  There are a couple of road closures on minor roads outside the village. It does not say on the TROs what the work involves. Nothing to report on Footpaths.

**4.2 Lighting**

Nothing new to report. The reason the street lights on part of Walden Terrace and part of Duns Road were not working for a month in the darkest time of the year was a blown fuse.

Two redundant street lights between Walden Terrace and the 30 mph limit on Duns Road have not been removed yet.

Lighting around the village square area was discussed at 2.12 above.

**4.3 Drainage**

The gully sucker has been in the village since the last meeting emptying drainage gullies.

**4.4 Signs**

Nothing new to report on signage.

**4.5 Planning**

Please see attached report for planning applications within and outwith GCC Area. Proposals have been issued for a new Solar Energy field on the site of the existing Crystal Rig Wind Farm. An initial consultation event will be held in Garvald Village Hall on 28th February, 10am – 2pm.

It was noted that the purpose of the community council planning report was to raise awareness locally about planning matters. To that end, it was agreed that the planning report can be added to the noticeboard after each community council meeting, rather than waiting until the full minutes of the meeting are approved. Jill to highlight on Facebook that the planning reports will be published more promptly. **ACTION: RA**

**4.6 Finance**

Wendy reported that the public liability insurance had been renewed and that three donations of £250 had been made to (1) the church to help with the costs of running the Christmas lights; (2) the Village Hall to help with increased energy costs; and (3) the Bowling Club as payment for use of the venue for meetings.

**4.7 Website/Communications**

As noted at 3.4 above, community notices could be added to the website to help people who are not on Facebook.

**4.8 Resilience**

Wendy reported that ‘Soup & Smile’ was being delivered to approximately 24 people weekly and continued to be well-received. The service was due to run until the end of March, but might be extended. Between 40 and 50 people take fish & chips on the last Friday of the month. 30 people had attended the last Lunch Club. There was a short discussion about how best to identify people who might need support and assistance in the community. The importance of confidentiality was noted. If anyone has any suggestions, they should let Wendy know. It was suggested that we should let local GPs and social workers know about the resilience iniatives, so that they could let any service users know what is available. **ACTION: WF**

**5. Correspondence**

There had been a request to use the noticeboard to advertise initiatives, such as the Yester free logs, to help people who are not on Facebook. If there was no space on the noticeboard – or access could not be arranged in time – Hoggs newsagents was suggested as an alternative.

**6. AOB**

No additional business was raised.

Date of next meeting: Monday 13th March.

**APPLICATIONS WITHIN GCC AREA**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Date Validated** | **GCC first discussed** | **Comments** | **Status** |
| 23/00090/P | Extension to house | 3 Castlemains Cottages Gifford East Lothian EH41 4PL | 10/02/23 | Feb 2023 | Extension to rear, new slate roof and cladding. | Awaiting decision |
| 23/00069/P | Replacement windows | Bank House High Street Gifford East Lothian EH41 4QU | 10/02/23 | Feb 2023 | Replacement wooden double glazed windows to existing design. | Awaiting decision |
| 23/00059/P | Change of use of agricultural land to form car park, erection of gates and fencing (Retrospective) | Hopes Estate Yester Gifford Haddington East Lothian EH41 4PL | 09/02/23 | Feb 2023 | Retrospective application for creation of car park. | Awaiting decision |
| 23/00043/P | Alterations, extension to house and formation of hardstanding area | Blinkbonny High Street Gifford East Lothian EH41 4QU | 01/02/23 | Feb 2023 | Single storey extension to rear and internal alterations. | Awaiting decision |
| 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. | Approved |
| 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. | Approved |
| 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 | Conditions applying to consented application 18/01192/P, continue to apply. These include requirement for Construction Method Statement. | Approved |
| 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. | Approved, subject to erection of fence. |
| 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** |
| 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. | Application withdrawn by applicant |

**OTHER PLANNING MATTERS**

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

No further information

**Dunside Wind Farm (EDF)**

No further information.

**Crystal Rig Wind Farm (Fred Olsen Renewables)**

Application for new solar energy project within existing wind farm. Initial consultation event will be held in Garvald Village Hall on 28th February, 10am – 2pm