**Minutes of the Gifford Community Council Meeting
held** **on 17th April 2023 at Gifford Bowling Club**

**Participating** Adam White (Chair), Rita Buchan, Wendy Ferguson, Dave Griffiths, Jill Hyslop

**In Attendance** Councillor John McMillan, Councillor Tom Trotter and 1 local resident

**Apologies** Eleanor Hulme, Richard Austin, Hugh Broad, Neville Kilkenny,

 Councillor George McGuire, Councillor Shamin Akhtar

**1 Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The meeting approved the minutes of 13th March (approved by Dave and Wendy).

**2 Matters arising**

**2.1 Newlands Wind Energy Hub**

On Wednesday 12th April, Richard Austin and Phillip White (Garvald & Morham CC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Belltown Power for the Community Benefit Scheme.  *In the event that the development goes ahead in the form proposed*, Belltown agree to a total community benefit of £5,000 x 112 MW = £560,000 per annum, index linked over the life of the development (perhaps 40 years). Approximately 80% of this will fund an Electricity Discount Scheme (EDS) that would benefit all residents living within 10km of the turbines. The amount of annual reduction in electricity bill would be £800 for each of the households within 3.5km of the development, reducing to £425 per annum for those within 7.5km and £200 for the remaining. The balance of the community benefit would be shared equally between Gifford and Garvald CCs. The amount will depend on the uptake of the EDS and administration costs for running it, but there should be at least £25,000 for each community council to spend on local projects. The signing of the memorandum of understanding not does not indicate support for the development. The document has been signed to ensure that appropriate arrangements have been made if the development goes ahead. The Association of East Lothian Community Councils is working towards using Belltown’s shared ownership offering as the basis of an East Lothian wide renewable fund from which all community councils could benefit. The next update meeting of AELCC is on 3rd May.

**2.2 Dunside Windfarm**

Nothing to report.

**2.3 Crystal Rig Solar Farm**

The plans would see the development of over 55,000 solar PV panels to be installed within the existing Crystal Rig Wind Farm. An initial consultation event was held in Garvald Village Hall on 28th February. The plans can be viewed at www.crystalrigwindfarm.com

**2.4 Additional Graveyard space**

Nothing to report, but Councillor McMillan agreed to try to move this forward. **ACTION: JM**

**2.5 Wheelie Bins on Main Street**

The council is pursuing plans to locate the new bin storage unit in the lane beside the NISA and will seek permission from the landowner. **ACTION: SA**

**2.6 Defibrillator**

2.6.1 School defibrillator.  Richard to clarify whether planning permission is required. **ACTION: RA**

2.6.3 Garage defibrillator. Nev has fitted the new cabinet at the garage. There is the option to set an access code to protect against unwanted interference. However it was agreed at the meeting that this could delay access in an emergency, so a code will not be set. The old cabinet needs to be disposed of. Wendy agreed to look at recycling options. **ACTION: WF**

2.6.4 Bowling club defibrillator.  Nothing to report.

**2.7 New Noticeboard**

Wendy has contacted the Area Partnership to see whether funding might be available to cover some of the cost. Richard will progress the planning application before the next meeting. **ACTION: RA/WF**

**2.8 Bus stop - review of position**

Councillor McMillan confirmed that buses should not be reversing into the Square to turn and he will follow up reports that this is still happening.  **ACTION: JM**

**2.9 Disabled car parking for Gifford Community Woodland**

Councillor Akhtar reported before the meeting that 2 disabled parking spaces will be painted the next time the external contractor comes to East Lothian.

**2.10 Dropped Kerbs**

Councillor McMillan agreed to follow this up. *After the meeting ELC’s Jamie Borthwick confirmed that he had details of the sites in Gifford suggested for dropped kerbs. He reported that the council aren’t carrying out any drops until later in the year. Closer to the time, he will survey the suggested locations and arrange for them to be installed if they are suitable. He was unable to give any accurate dates at the present time.*

**2.11 Lighting Review**

Before the meeting, Councillor Ahktar reported that the priorities for the lights team are reducing energy costs and replacing deteriorating equipment. To make the changes on the lights around The Square and on the Main Street so they are uniform will cost around £25,000 - £30,000. Accordingly it will be necessary to look at external sources of funding.

**2.12 Road Safety Crossing Point**

Councillor McMillan confirmed that this will be discussed at the next Road Safety meeting in 3 weeks. **ACTION: JM**

**3. External Reports**

**3.1** **Police**

The Police Report stated that between 1st – 31st March 2023 there were 11 calls to the area, which resulted in the police recording 1 crime as follows: 1 x Road Safety accident offence. In response to the CAPP priority of parking issues in Gifford, PC Stuart Foster reported that there had been numerous high visibility patrols carried out at busy times.  Several drivers had been given advice but no offences committed. It was noted at the meeting that drivers are still parking inappropriately outside village businesses and on the chevrons at the junction opposite the church.

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

The retrospective planning application for the carpark at the Hopes had been approved on 28th March, but that approval was subject to negotiations on access. As a mutually agreeable outcome had not been reached during negotiations, it was agreed that the matter would go back to a planning committee on 2nd May.

**3.3 Gifford Community Woodland**

The ash dieback felling has been completed. The logs that are being sold in bulk have been removed to the field.  Other logs are being processed by volunteers for sale locally as wood fuel. Volunteer sessions have been scheduled for tidying and tree planting.  Events in May include a foraging event by Galloway Wild Foods and a Moth ID session with Dorothy Lyle.  Friday Forest Schools sessions start again on Friday 28th April.  Path repairs are underway in Fawn Wood and will then start in Speedy Wood. A very successful Easter Decorations event took place in March, which raised £116 and provided a lovely opportunity for people of all ages to make and decorate beautiful wooden Easter decorations.

**3.4 Yester Estate**

No update from Yester Estate. Adam reported that packs of venison sausages and burgers had been donated by Yester Estate for distribution to people on the community council’s resilience list.

**4 Internal Reports**

**4.1 Roads and Footpaths.**

Dave reported that the parking area at the end of Park Road has been resurfaced, and the barrier at the bottom of the footpath/ramp at Park Crescent had been repaired. A footpath at Walden Place was being re-done. Positive feedback had been received about the widening of the bridge on Edinburgh Road. Nothing was known about the schedule for re-surfacing the footpath between Station Road and Tweeddale Crescent. It was reported that contractors are leaving behind sandbags that are used to keep roadwork signs in place. These have been left at various locations throughout the village and the wider county. Councillor McMillan advised that details should be passed to Alan Stubbs.

**4.2 Lighting**

Nothing to report on Lighting.

**4.3 Drainage**

Nothing to report.

**4.4 Signs**

Nothing to report.

**4.5 Planning**

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

**4.6 Finance**

Wendy reported that the year-end accounts will be prepared for the next meeting.

**4.7 Website/Communications**

Nothing to report.

**4.8 Resilience**

Wendy reported that ‘Soup & Smile’ was taking a break over the summer and will resume in autumn. Following a community event in the village, there were some spare plants and Easter decorations left over. These were delivered to elderly people in the village who had been very grateful. 31 people had attended the lunch club.

**5. Correspondence**

In relation to a possible twinning with Sancerre, Councillor McMillan has passed contact details for a local councillor there, Carine Véron. Adam will arrange a Video Call. **ACTION: AW**

**6. AOB**

6.1 Suggestion for new bin at junction with Tweeddale Ave/Station Road. Following a request for help from a resident who is regularly finding poo bags dumped in his garden, it was agreed to look at options for at least one additional bin near to the entrance to the woodland. It was noted that Pencaitland CC has recently funded several new bins. Wendy indicated that community council might be able to fund a bin, but that it would be important to ensure that the council would empty it. Jill agreed to look into this. **ACTION: JH**

6.2 Maintenance/cleaning of benches in the Bleachfield. It was noted that the benches are becoming very muddy as children often use them as a way of exiting the Bleachfield. Adam will speak to the mini rugby coaches about this.

6.3 An issue was raised about a large amount of rubbish being stored in a local resident’s garden. The materials are visible to the public. Councillor Trotter agreed to look into this. **ACTION: TT**

Date of next meeting: Monday 8th May

**APPLICATIONS WITHIN GCC AREA**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Date Validated** | **GCC first discussed** | **Comments** | **Status** |
| 23/00261/P | Alterations to house as changes to the scheme of development the subject of planning consent 20/00785/P | Avenue House High Street Gifford Haddington East Lothian EH41 4QU | 13/3/23 | Apr 2023 | Alterations to the detail of previously consented application for internal alterations and a single storey extension to the rear. | Awaiting decision |
| 23/00191/P | Alterations to garage to provide ancillary accommodation and formation of decked area | The Pirn Duns Road Gifford East Lothian EH41 4QW | 09/03/23 | Apr 2023 | Conversion of existing double garage at rear to form Home Office, Study and Lounge Area. Proposals do not involve WC, kitchen or bathroom and so are unlikely to constitute a separately occupiable property.  | Awaiting decision |
| 23/00172/P | Installation of solar panels and painting of front door | Threagowen 18 Old Mill Lane Gifford East Lothian EH41 4QQ | 02/03/23 | Mar 2023 | Installation of ten solar panels on roof to rear of property. | Awaiting decision |
| 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. | Approved |
| 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. GCC comments relating to operational hours of car park submitted on 07/03/23 | 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. | 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 anticipated Q3 2023. Memorandum of Understanding for Community Benefit has been agreed between Belltown Power and Gifford CC and Garvald & Morham CC.

**Dunside Wind Farm (EDF)**

No further information.

**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