

**Minutes of the Gifford Community Council meeting
held on 11th March 2024 at Gifford Bowling Club**

Participating Adam White (Chair), Richard Austin, Eleanor Hulme, Wendy Ferguson, Nev Kilkenny, Hugh Broad, Rita Buchan and Jill Hyslop
In Attendance Councillor George McGuire, Councillor Tom Trotter and Paul Hurd
Apologies Dave Griffiths, Councillor John McMillan, Councillor Shamin Akhtar and Mandy Harrington (VCEL)

1 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The meeting approved the minutes of 12th February (approved by Adam and Rita).

2 Items completed since last meeting

2.1 Wheelie bins moved from Main Street pavement

The wheelie bins have been moved from the Main Street pavement to maintain access.

2.2 Bowling Club defibrillator cabinet fitted

The cabinet has now been fitted to the outside of the bowling club (car park side). CC understands that the defibrillator has been delivered. Eleanor is happy to offer any advice to the bowling club.

2.3 Bus stop moved to corner of The Square

The bus stop has been moved to its new location. Yellow lines will be painted on the road.

3 Matters Arising

3.1 Renewable Energy Projects

A public meeting organised by Lammermuir Save our Skyline was held in the village hall to discuss the planning application for Newlands. The meeting was well attended and there has been a significant increase in submissions on the ECU website since it took place.

3.2 Defibrillators

The bowling club defibrillator needs to be added to the cabinet (as discussed at 2.2 above). Outstanding electrical work needs to be completed on the cabinet at the garage. An electrician has assessed the work, but no date has been agreed.

3.3 Nature Corridors and Grass cutting

Nothing to report. Eleanor will ask the council for an update. **ACTION: EH**

3.4 Airfield Memorial Plaque

No update.

3.5 Graveyard extension

No update.

3.6 Gifford Cycle Road Race – Saturday 16th March

The TTRO has been published detailing a parking suspension on the Goblin side of Main Street and on both sides of the Haddington Road out of the village for a distance of c.70m. The Square will be closed to traffic. There will be no road closures. Marshalls have no official powers to stop the traffic, but can give warnings.

3.7 Park Benches

Nev will speak to the council about paint.

4. Projects awaiting update from East Lothian Council

4.1 Resurfacing lane between Station Road/Tweeddale Crescent

No update.

5. External Reports

5.1 Police

Between 1st – 29th February there were 7 calls to the area, which resulted in the police recording 5 crimes: 2 x endangering aircraft, 1 x assault, 1 x threatening/abusive behaviour and 1 x theft. Details

about our new community police officer are expected to be announced shortly. Adam will be attending the next CAPP meeting.

5.2 Yester Estate

The estate has submitted a planning application for a 2-storey log cabin. It is described as ‘ancillary residential accommodation’ to be located adjacent to the equestrian centre within the estate. Adam circulated some technical drawings from the planning application at the meeting.

5.3 Gifford Community Woodland

Nev was pleased to report that, due to a high level of volunteer activity, 1000 trees have been planted and a large number of log orders have been completed. Ash dieback work is nearly finished and then the next management priority will be tree inspection/safety work. Forest school sessions and individual Yester class visits are ongoing. The woodland has been selected as one of the community causes that people can vote for using the Tesco ‘blue tokens’. Customers can vote for the woods in the Haddington store from the 1st week in April until the end of June.

5.4 East Lothian Council

Councillor McGuire updated the meeting on recent council business.

6 Internal Reports

6.1 Roads and Footpaths

The road at Longnewton remains closed. No update was available.

6.2 Lighting, Drains and Signs

Dave reported before the meeting that 8 lights were still out on Park Road. After the meeting Councillor McGuire reported that the lights should be fixed by 20th March.

6.3 Planning

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

6.4 Finance

The bank balance is currently £470, which should cover the 3 remaining weeks of Soup & Smile. The annual grant from East Lothian Council will be paid in May. Going forward, external funding will be sought to cover the cost of Soup & Smile. The Area Partnership application was unsuccessful.

6.5 Resilience

32 people attended this month’s Lunch Club. Weekly deliveries of soup will continue until the end of March. Monthly deliveries of fish & chips will continue throughout the year.

7 Correspondence

The Premier Store has applied for a new alcohol licence, which will be considered by the council in March. The meeting noted that Immigration officials had visited the store. Rita has spoken to staff members, but there has been no official confirmation of what happened. The store was closed for a short period and has been open as normal since. At this point, Rita updated the meeting on her efforts to make sure the cash machine is working. A notice has been put up confirming that the Premier store has no responsibility for the cash machine. Rita emphasised the need for people to complain to Cash Zone directly. Adam thanked Rita for her continued hard work to try to fix this problem.

8 AOB

8.1 BT problems

Councillor Akhtar reported before the meeting that she was following up on the BT issues that were raised last month. She has identified the appropriate person to engage with and will follow up with them. Paul emphasised how difficult it is for local residents to make any progress with either BT or OpenReach. The issue is affecting a large number of residents.

8.2 Haddington Concert Society

Eleanor was pleased to report that the Haddington Concert Society will be moving to St Mary’s Church in Haddington some time in August. The society’s Bösendorfer concert-grand piano will be kept in the church.

Date of next meeting: Monday 15th April.

APPLICATIONS WITHIN GCC AREA

	Date Validated	GCC first discussed	Comments	Status
24/00175/P Erection of log cabin for ancillary residential accommodation Yester House The Avenue Gifford East Lothian EH41 4JF	01/03/24	Mar 2024	Two storey log cabin, comprising lounge, dining room, food prep room, two bedrooms and bathroom. Located adjacent to equestrian centre within Yester Estate.	Awaiting decision
24/00151/P Extension to house Slateford House Gifford East Lothian EH41 4JB	28/02/24	Mar 2024	New conservatory to replace existing. Same footprint and built on existing foundation wall.	Awaiting decision
24/00124/P Installation of air source heat pumps and solar panels 32-37 Walden Place Gifford East Lothian EH41 4RA	21/02/24	Mar 2024	Installation of solar panels to roof and air source heat pumps to rear and side walls.	Awaiting decision
23/01485/P Change of use of woodland area to domestic garden ground and installation of solar panels Sunnyside Cottage Gifford East Lothian EH41 4JF	16/02/24	Mar 2024	Change of use to formally incorporate existing woodland and open space into domestic garden. Felling of dead ash tree and overgrown plum trees to allow siting of ground mounted solar panels. Replanting of fruit trees within walled garden.	Awaiting decision
24/00130/P Alterations to house, installation of air source heat pump and erection of greenhouse Feldon 31A Tweedale Grove Gifford East Lothian EH41 4RB	07/02/24	Feb 2024	Minor alterations to house and garage, installation of solar panels (including on flat garage roof), air source heat pump and greenhouse.	Awaiting decision
24/00053/P Siting of hut for recreational use and formation of hardstanding area Land North Of Newlands Farm Gifford East Lothian	02/02/24	Feb 2024	Siting of a shepherd's hut for owner's use, on hard standing adjacent to an existing grain store.	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.	Approved, subject to 25 conditions

APPLICATIONS OUTWITH GCC AREA

	Date Validated	GCC first discussed	Comments	Status
None.				

OTHER PLANNING MATTERS**Newlands Hill Wind Energy Hub (Belltown Power)**

As indicated in last month's Planning Report and on the posters Belltown Power have now submitted the S36 application to the Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit for the Newlands Hill project. The full application is available on the Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit website www.energyconsents.scot, reference ECU00004603. All of the submission documents can also be accessed on Belltown Power's project website.

If you have any views, either for or against the development, you are urged to visit the Energy Consents Unit website, register and post comments there.

Dunside Wind Farm (EDF)

Proposals were submitted to Scottish Government in July 2023 and are being considered. The full application is available on the Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit website, reference ECU00003436.

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

Plans can be viewed at 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. The full application is available on the Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit website, reference ECU00004774.