**Minutes of the Gifford Community Council Meeting
held** **on 12th June 2023 at Gifford Bowling Club**

**Participating** Adam White (Chair), Hugh Broad, Rita Buchan, Neville Kilkenny, Wendy Ferguson, Dave Griffiths and Jill Hyslop

**In Attendance** Councillor Tom Trotter, Councillor George McGuire, Andrew Hamilton and Paul Hurd

**Apologies** Richard Austin, Eleanor Hulme, Councillor John McMillan and Councillor Shamin Akhtar

**1 Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The meeting approved the minutes of 15th May (approved by Wendy and Hugh).

**2 Items completed since last meeting**

**2.1 Park benches repainted**

The meeting thanked the Gifford mini rugby coaches for repainting the park benches and noted their efforts to ensure the benches remained clean.

**2.2 Additional bin in community woodland**

A new bin is now in place and is being used. The council is looking at further opportunities for additional bins.

**3. Matters Arising**

**3.1 Renewable Energy Projects**

For all renewable energy projects, CC will encourage residents to look at the plans and make their views known to the organisations.

3.1.1 Dunside Windfarm

EDF expect to submit a planning application to the Scottish Government in June. A further public exhibition will take place in Gifford Village Hall on Wednesday 21st June.

3.1.2 Newlands

Belltown will be attending the Haddington Show on 1st July.

There were no updates about the proposed Crystal Rig Solar Farm or the Longcroft Wind Farm.

**3.2 Defibrillators**

3.2.1 School defibrillator.  No update on the planning application. The council has confirmed that there will be no fee for the application **ACTION: RA**

3.2.2 Garage defibrillator. Wendy will speak to an electrician about completing the installation of the new cabinet at the garage. Recycling options for the old garage cabinet still to be confirmed. Jill to arrange a sticker confirming that no pin code is required. **ACTION: WF/JH**

3.2.3 Bowling club defibrillator.  No update.

**3.3 New Noticeboard**

Wendy was pleased to report that the Gifford Horti has offered to make a donation towards the cost. Wendy will speak to the Area Partnership about funding. **ACTION: WF**

**3.4 ELC’s Woodland Strategy and Nature Corridors**

The council has published a draft Woodland Strategy document and is inviting comments via an online consultation process. There are also drop in events where residents can speak to members of the team. Nev gave the meeting a summary of the document and he will prepare a detailed response on behalf of Community Council and the Gifford Community Woodland. Local residents will also be encouraged to submit their own feedback. **ACTION: NK**

In relation to Nature Corridors, Adam had met with Bruce Allison to discuss grasscutting in the Pound. ELC is exploring opportunities for nature networks which involves leaving areas of grassland partially uncut. There was a discussion about the benefits of uncut grassland versus competing views of some local residents about maintaining the appearance of the centre of the village. Consensus was reached that Adam will ask Bruce for the grass in the Pound to be cut, but Community Council will engage with ELC’s emerging plans and will consider areas where grass could be left uncut. **ACTION: AW**

**4. Councillors’ Update on ELC actions**

**4.1 Additional Graveyard space**

No update. Councillor Trotter offered to ask for an update from the council.

**4.2 Wheelie Bins on Main Street**

Councillor Akhtar reported before the meeting that she had informed Planning Advisor, Paul Zochowski, that the local resident is happy for the bins to be kept in the Lane. Councillor Akhtar has asked for the next steps for this process. **ACTION SA**

**4.3 NISA Signage**

Councillor Akhtar reported before the meeting that the NISA shop now has a dedicated person following up on the signage on their behalf. Doreen is following the issue up with the planning department. She has received some feedback asking for some changes to be made before the plans are accepted.

**4.4 Bus stop - review of position**

Community Council will ask ELC to attend a site visit in Gifford to look at alternative bus stop positions. **ACTION: JH**

**4.5 Lighting Review**

The council has suggested that Area Partnership funding could be used to improve lighting in The Square.

**4.6 Road Safety Crossing Point**

The next step is for an assessment of vehicular and pedestrian movements to see if the request meets the criteria. A local resident has submitted several photos highlighting how difficult it is to cross the road between the Square and Hoggs newsagents. These will be sent to Ian Lennock. **ACTION: JH**

**4.7 Resurfacing of lane between Tweeddale Crescent/Station Road.**

Timescale still to be determined.

**5. External Reports**

**5.1** **Police**

The Police Report stated that between 1st – 31st May 2023 there were 21 calls to the area, which resulted in 2 crimes of Vandalism being recorded. Following the CAPP meeting on 30th May, Parking has been identified as a local priority for Gifford.

**5.2** **East Lothian Council**

Councillor Trotter and Councillor McGuire updated the meeting on recent council business.

**5.3 Gifford Community Woodland**

Nev updated the meeting on recent activity in the woods, including a P7 visit to whittle sticks, regular Forest School sessions and several volunteer days.

**5.4 Yester Estate**

No update from Yester Estate. Before the meeting Councillor Akhtar reported that there had been a site visit with a group of local residents from Park Road and members of the Yester Estate team. The purpose of the meeting was to ask the estate to cut back some of the trees that were hanging over the residents’ gardens. Martin from Yester Estate has confirmed what the estate can do to help.

**6 Internal Reports**

**6.1 Roads and Footpaths**

The meeting noted that Duns Road might be resurfaced at some point in the future, but no definite plans are known.

**6.2 Lighting , Drains and Signs**

Nothing to report.

**6.3 Planning**

Richard was not at the meeting, but a planning report was due to be circulated as soon as possible. Before the meeting Richard had reported that the Scottish Government has issued a consultation document on the possibility of extending permitted development rights within conservation areas to include amongst other things solar panels.

**6.4 Finance**

Nothing to report.

**6.5 Resilience**

‘Soup & Smile’ remains on hold over summer and will resume in autumn. 34 people had attended the lunch club and 39 people had taken fish and chips at the end of May. Wendy emphasised how important these initiatives are to the people that receive them.

**7. Correspondence**

Local Resident Andrew Hamilton had written to Adam with a suggestion to reduce speeding on the Edinburgh Road, and he came to the meeting to discuss his proposal. He would like the council to consider introducing a series of countdown markers to alert drivers that they are about to enter a 30/20mph speed limit. Adam has passed Andrew’s suggestion to Alan Stubbs. Mr Hamilton also informed the meeting about his objection to the Newlands Wind Farm.

**8. AOB**

8.1 Rubbish on the Edinburgh Road

Rita expressed concern at the amount of rubbish regularly being dropped on the Edinburgh Road. Wendy will give Rita the contact who can arrange for sandbags/road signs to be collected.

8.2 Church Fete

The Yester Church Fete is on Saturday 17th June 2pm – 4.30pm in the Manse Garden.

8.3 Repair of benches

Dave reported that the council will not repair certain benches in the Bleachfield, so CC will try to arrange for these to be repaired, to save entirely new ones needing to be bought. Nev will advise on the cost of the repairs.

8.4 Village Planters

The meeting thanked Rita, James and Charlotte for arranging the summer bedding in the planters at the entrances to the village.

Date of next meeting: Monday 10th July

**APPLICATIONS WITHIN GCC AREA**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Date Validated** | **GCC first discussed** | **Comments** | **Status** |
| 23/00601/P | Erection of buildings, dust extraction plants and associated works (Retrospective) | Myreside Grange Gifford East Lothian EH41 4JA | 05/06/23 | June 2023 | Retrospective application for new workshops at Chippendale Furniture School. | Awaiting decision |
| 23/00595/P | Formation of hardstanding area, steps, wall and handrail, erection of gates and installation of lighting (part retrospective) | Yester House The Avenue Gifford Haddington EH41 4JF | 02/06/23 | June 2023 | Partly retrospective application for terracing, landscaping, gardens and lighting immediately to the south of Yester House. | 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. | 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 is anticipated to be during August / September 2023. A Memorandum of Understanding for Community Benefit has been agreed between Belltown Power and Gifford CC and Garvald & Morham CC. Belltown Power are a sponsor at Haddington Show and will be attending the show on 1 July 2023.

**Dunside Wind Farm (EDF)**

Prior to submitting their proposals to Scottish Government, EDF are holding a further public exhibition at Gifford Village Hall on Wednesday 21 June 2023, between 3pm and 7pm.

**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](http://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