

Minutes of the Gifford Community Council Meeting held

12th June 2017 in Gifford Village Hall

Present	Craig McLachlan (Chair) Jo Allen Alex Renton	Nick Morgan Adam White David Griffiths	Wendy Ferguson Eric Thomson Andrew Hamilton
In Attendance	Councillor Shamin Akhtar PC Lynn Black	Councillor Brian Small Richard Pearson	PC Lorna Bairden 3 members of the public
Apologies	Councillor John McMillan	Councillor Tom Trotter	

1 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of 8th May 2017 were agreed as correct. Proposed Wendy, seconded Jo.

2 Matters Arising

- 2.1 2.2 Councillor Akhtar has spoken to Bill Laird and Peter Forsyth and asked them to make contact with Jo and Craig.
- 2.2 5.3 Andrew and Nick have met with representatives from ELC's Roads department to discuss traffic calming in the village. In principle they would be supportive of some form of traffic calming, but we would need to go through the due process. We will consider speed tables on each of the three main roads in the village. The Community Council can undertake a consultation in the village to gain the views of residents, and if there is a clear demand then the Council will undertake a statutory consultation to ensure that any proposal meets the approval of the emergency services and won't have a negative impact on drainage and road users. Nick and Andrew will take this forward. **ACTION: NM/AH**
- 2.3 Jo has been in touch with ELC about the state of the public toilets. They have no plans to work on the exterior of the building, so Jo has asked Dave Rutherford if the exterior of the toilets can be repainted by the Community Payback Team. He has agreed to do this, if the Community Council will pay for the materials. The estimated cost is no more than £150.

3 External Reports

3.1 Police: Another quiet month in the Gifford area.

- 3.1.1 On 18th May an incident occurred in Walden Terrace where a local male conducted himself in a threatening manner, shouting and swearing and subsequently was charged. A report will be sent to the PF.
- 3.1.2 Road Safety. Four minor calls were received, one of which relates to a possibly untaxed vehicle in Walden Terrace. All vehicles on public roads must be taxed, MOT'd and insured.
- 3.1.3 During the early hours of 26 May a recently sacked member of staff had to be escorted by police from the Goblin Ha when a call was received regarding his behaviour. No crimes were detected.

- 3.1.4 When asked about road markings PC Bairden confirmed that the state, or lack of white lines would be included in any police report for a road accident. It was noted that a number of the white lines at junctions around East Lothian are almost completely worn away. Councillor Akhtar offered to find out more about the routine maintenance of white lines. **ACTION: SA**

3.2 East Lothian Council:

- 3.2.1 Details of the surgeries of Councillors Shamin Akhtar and John McMillan are on ELC's web site. John's surgeries are in the evening and Shamin's are during the day, but both Councillors are contactable via e-mail.
- 3.2.2 Councillor Small's surgeries will be starting in August.

4 Iron Man

- 4.1 Richard Pearson from Iron Man attended the meeting to explain about the event. It is to be run in Edinburgh, Midlothian and East Lothian on 2nd July. The vast majority of the route is in East Lothian. It involves a 1.2 mile swim, a 56 mile bike ride and a 13.1 mile run. Various roads on the west of the county will be closed for approximately five hours during the event. The Edinburgh Road and Duns Road in Gifford will be closed between 7.30am and 12.30pm on 2nd July. It is suggested that if anyone needs to leave the village during that time they should park their car on the Haddington Road.
- 4.2 The organisers claim that the event will have a positive economic impact on the area. There will be 1,800 athletes taking part from 41 countries and some TV coverage. There will be many marshals on the route, both professional and volunteers. There is a clean-up squad following the event and portaloos will be provided. There is a strict code of conduct and any competitors not adhering to it will be immediately disqualified. Information about the road closures and diversions are on their web site and the organisers can be contacted on 03330 111 838.
- 4.3 A number of concerns have been brought to the attention of members of the Community Council. These were relayed to the organisers. The main concern is the enormous impact on the local community of the road closures and the impact on local businesses. There have been a couple of leaflet drops about the event, but no consultation as such. The organisers said that they have contacted many of the local businesses, but there are many who are unaware of the full impact of the event. Customers will not be able to reach many of the local businesses and people staying in the hotels in Gifford will have to leave their cars outside the village if they intend leaving that morning. The church has had to change its service to an evening service.
- 4.4 There has been much criticism of East Lothian Council. There has been no communication or consultation from them. They would appear to be favouring the organisers over the local businesses that pay business rates.
- 4.5 It is unclear whether this event will be held in future years. Craig has been assured that nothing has been agreed, but there has been talk about the event running for 10 to 15 years, and once the route has been sorted for the first year it will be used for subsequent years. Jo had been told that there would be a marshalled crossing at the Humbie crossroads, but there is no mention of this on the leaflet.
- 4.6 Jo has been in touch with ELC about parking on the Haddington Road prior to and during the event. They have said they can put a parking restriction on one side to ensure access for emergency vehicles.
- 4.7 The general consensus was that there has been very poor communication about this event, particularly from East Lothian Council. There are still a number of unanswered questions about parking to allow people to exit the village on the day and which road crossings will be open.

5 Internal Reports

5.1 Roads, Lighting and Signs:

5.1.1 Very little to report. Eck said that there is a pot hole starting on the Main Street. Dave will report this to ELC. **ACTION: DG**

5.1.2 The gully up at the school still hasn't been attended to. It is on the list of work to be done.

5.1.3 The road sign at the end of Tweedale Avenue still hasn't been replaced since it was crashed into in 2016. Dave will contact ELC again, but if he has no luck Craig will suggest that the Area Partnership could do this through their roads budget.

5.2 Planning: Eric hasn't received any planning e-mails in the last month. This may be due to a new system, which the Community Council hasn't been informed about.

5.3 Finance: Andrew circulated the Annual Accounts to 31st March 2017. There is a balance of £8,601 remaining

5.3.1 Jo suggested that Heather Manson is considering starting up piping lessons in the village and the Community Council could donate funds towards this. It was also suggested that this could be a very good project for Area Partnership funding. Andrew may also know someone who may be able to help out with funding. Jo will give Heather's contact details to Andrew.

ACTION: JA

5.4 Area Partnership:

5.4.1 There was an Area Partnership last month. Two funding applications were considered. One was not eligible, but it was agreed to put some funding towards the Haddstock Festival which will be held around various venues in Haddington on 24th June.

5.4.2 A member of the public suggested that Good Companions is reducing in size and she wondered if a senior citizens lunch club would prove popular. If there is demand, an application could be made to the Area Partnership for funding. It was agreed that a questionnaire could be circulated at the same time as the speed table consultation.

5.5 Community Woodland:

5.5.1 There has been a lot of recent activity in the woodland to make it safe for the indemnity insurance. This has meant that a number of trees have had to be taken down. There have been various articles in East Lothian Life and the Courier to publicise the woodland. There is to be a celebration on 13th June. A member of the Community Woodland Group has put Gifford forward for the Village of the Year Award.

6 Correspondence

6.1 We have received the newsletter from Scotways along with the annual subscription renewal. A payment was made to Scotways last year of £200. Nick will contact Scotways to check if the annual subscription is due. **ACTION: NM**

7 AOCB

7.1 Councillor Small was at a Sustrans event earlier in the day and suggests that they may be able to contribute towards the costs of the speed tables. Nick will look into this. **ACTION: NM**

7.2 Andrew reported that there has been another spillage of slurry into the Gifford Water. This has been reported to SEPA.

- 7.3 Jo has been in touch with Alan Cater who looks after the Gifford Village web site. He is going to provide page viewing statistics. Jo and Wendy have been mapping out the existing content. Jo has been keeping the Gifford Community Council facebook page updated. It is being read by a lot of people.
- 7.4 Jo has been in touch with Bill Laird to discuss cycle events. He is happy to come to a future meeting. His new role includes enforcement. We can pull together guidelines for cycle events. If we are having specific or long-running issues with a particular group Bill can bring this up with the Safety Advisory Group and the Chief Constable may withdraw permission for the event to be run. Jo has also contacted Poppy Scotland and now has their marshalling guidelines.
- 7.5 Jo has contacted the school about the dog fouling on the school grass and given them the contact details for the dog warden. She has also put up a post on facebook about this. She contacted ELC to ask about dog fouling bins. Although there are no funds to provide any new bins, they can look at the existing bin locations and assess if a bin could be relocated to somewhere nearer the school.
- 7.6 Wendy reported that the church has recently had a successful Summer Fair. The minister has asked if she can receive the minutes of Gifford Community Council. Wendy will send her e-mail address to Nick. **ACTION: WF**
- 7.7 Sandy Stewart asked if anyone at the meeting knew of any old pictures of the gardens at Yester Estate. He would be keen to show these to the gardener while they are planning the restoration of the gardens. He also said that he had put a rope on the pedestrian gate to make it easier for disabled access, but it had been removed.
- 7.8 Rita has planted up the three planters at the entrances to the village.
- 8 Date of next meeting - 7:30 on July 10th 2017 in the Todrick Room, Gifford Village Hall.**