

**Minutes of the Gifford Community Council Meeting held  
on 10th July 2017 in the Todrick Room, Gifford Village Hall**

<b>Present</b>	Jo Allen (Chair) Eric Thomson	Nick Morgan David Griffiths	Adam White
<b>In Attendance</b>	Councillor Shamin Akhtar	4 members of the public	
<b>Apologies</b>	Craig McLachlan Andrew Hamilton Councillor Brian Small	Wendy Ferguson Councillor John McMillan PC Lynn Black	Alex Renton Councillor Tom Trotter

**1 Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting of 12th June 2017 were agreed as correct. Proposed Adam, seconded Eric.

**2 Matters Arising**

- 2.1 2.2 Nick has met with Marshall Greenshields to talk about the public consultation about traffic calming in the village and sent an e-mail to members of the Community Council about it. Andrew has produced a draft questionnaire.
- 2.2 2.3 Jo has been in touch with Davie Rutherford and said that the Community Council are happy to pay for materials to paint the public toilets. Davie will be in touch when they are about to start work.
- 2.3 3.1.4 Councillor Akhtar has been in touch with Keith Scott. White lining continues on the roads on a rotational basis. If there are any particular places where the white lining needs to be addressed let Keith know and he will prioritise those locations.
- 2.4 5.1.1 The pot hole on Main Street still hasn't been filled in despite Dave informing the Council.
- 2.5 5.1.2 The gully up at the school still hasn't been cleaned out. There has been heavy rain over the previous two weeks and the water has been flowing over the gully and into a neighbouring garden. Dave will contact the Council again about this. It was suggested that John McMartin is probably the best person to contact. **ACTION: DG**
- 2.6 5.1.3 Dave has been in touch with Keith Scott again about the missing sign on Tweedale Avenue. It was suggested that this should remain on the minutes until some action is taken.
- 2.7 5.3.1 Jo has put Heather Manson in touch with Andrew about funding for a pipe band.
- 2.8 6.1 Nick has been in touch with Scotways. The £200 payment made last year was a contribution towards the "Walking in the Lammermuirs" leaflet. The annual subscription will still be due at the end of July.
- 2.9 7.1 Nick has been in touch with Sustrans to ask if they would be able to put some funding towards any traffic calming measures in the village. He is still waiting for a response.
- 2.10 7.6 Wendy has still to send the e-mail address of the church minister to Nick. **ACTION: WF**

### **3 Iron Man**

- 3.1 The event appeared to go reasonably smoothly. There has been very little feedback, which may be a good sign.
- 3.2 Jo had been in contact with the organisers and local Councillors twice by e-mail prior to the event, but hadn't received any responses. Councillor Akhtar apologised and said that events were moving quickly and there hadn't been an appropriate time to respond.
- 3.3 Jo had arranged for a private road (Lilliesleaf Lane) to be open for traffic during the event, which allowed people to exit from much of the village, via a marshalled crossing. This had reduced the need for people to park on the Haddington Road and was a big help for guests staying at the two hotels. Jo was thanked for the work that she had put in to reduce the impact of the event on the village.
- 3.4 It was noted that generally the event had been well organised on the day, although there were some marshals who didn't appear to have been well briefed and a bit of an issue of litter on the Edinburgh Road beyond the golf club junction.
- 3.5 Councillor Akhtar said that any feedback or suggestions for improvements should be sent to Bill Laird. The organiser has offered to come to a future meeting to discuss how the event went. It is not clear at this time if the event will run again. Councillors Akhtar and McMillan are going to contact the organisers to suggest that a contribution should be made to the Community Councils on the route of the event as a gesture of good will.
- 3.6 It was suggested that the Community Council could canvass local businesses to see what impact the event had had on them. It was noted that events such as the Tour de France bring in a significant income for local businesses.
- 3.7 It was suggested that if the event had only gone one way through Gifford it would have had less of an impact on the village. Jo will contact Bill Laird with feedback about the event.

**ACTION: JA**

### **4 External Reports**

#### **4.1 Police:** Another quiet month in the Gifford area.

- 4.1.1 On 25 June two teenage youths ran off after smashing a window in Walden Terrace. Why they did this is unknown. If anyone knows the identity of either of the youths please contact the police.
- 4.1.2 On the night of 29 June the police received several calls regarding fallen trees on roads. The Council was contacted on each occasion to deal with the situation.
- 4.1.3 Between 15 and 19 June a fountain in the rear garden of a house on Main Street was damaged. No one was seen or heard.
- 4.1.4 On 21 June on the B6355 East Saltoun to Gifford Road there was an angry exchange of words between a dog walker and a group of cyclists after allegedly the dogs ran across the road towards the cyclists.

#### **4.2 East Lothian Council:**

- 4.2.1 Councillor Akhtar reported that Councillor McMillan is on the licensing sub-committee that is looking at tightening up regulations for public events. There is currently a consultation about this on the East Lothian Consultation Hub.
- 4.2.2 There has also been a consultation on East Lothian Council's Draft Play Policy. Over 600 people contributed and a Draft Summary Report has been produced. It can be viewed on-line at <https://eastlothianconsultations.co.uk/education/play-strategy-draft/>

## **5 Internal Reports**

### **5.1 Roads, Lighting and Signs:**

- 5.1.1 There are a number of small potholes on the Edinburgh Road, highlighted by the markings from the Ironman event. Dave will report these to ELC. **ACTION: DG**
- 5.1.2 The potholes on Walden Terrace and the Yester Mains road have been repaired.
- 5.1.3 The trees on the Edinburgh Road are still obscuring the street lights.
- 5.1.4 The road sign at the end of Tweedale Avenue still hasn't been replaced since it was crashed into in 2016. Dave has been in touch with ELC again, but has received no response. It was suggested that he should contact George Cunningham at ELC. **ACTION: DG**
- 5.1.5 It was noted that the road surface on The Avenue is in a poor state. It has had numerous repairs over the years, but should really be resurfaced. It is the suggested safe route to school. Councillor Akhtar will contact Callum Redpath about this. **ACTION: SA**
- 5.2 Planning:** Eric reported that there were no new applications in the Gifford area this month.
- 5.3 Finance:** No report this meeting.
- 5.4 Area Partnership:** The next meeting will be on 20th July.
- 5.5 Community Woodland:**
- 5.5.1 The celebration event was well attended.
- 5.5.2 Plans are continuing to make the paths more accessible.
- 5.5.3 There will be a Fungal Foray in the woods soon and various school groups are planned.

## **6 Consultation**

- 6.1 Various other topics were suggested that could be included on the questionnaire by members of the public, but it was decided to keep it to the three subjects.
- 6.2 Nick suggested that there needed to be more information for the traffic calming question, as per his e-mail after his meeting with Marshall Greenshields. There were also a number of other changes suggested to the covering letter. Nick and Jo will look at it in more detail and contact Andrew. **ACTION: NM/JA**
- 6.3 Jo suggested that the Councils Print Unit would be able to print the questionnaire at a favourable rate.
- 6.4 It was suggested that the date for returns should be extended particularly as many people will be away on holiday this month.
- 6.5 The ward can be divided up between volunteers to ensure it is distributed widely.

## **7. Correspondence**

- 7.1 A letter was handed to the Community Council from Mr Cook asking about the ramp into the Bleachfield and the disappearance of benches and picnic tables. Nick will contact Bruce Allison to ask if the entrance to the park near the recycling point can be made more attractive. Dave will contact Bruce Allison to ask what the plans are for the picnic benches and seats. It was suggested that possibly Community Payback could help with this work. Nick will also ask about the concrete path at the other entrance to the park. **ACTION: NM/DG**

**8 AOCB**

- 8.1 A member of the public asked why a section of hedge had been taken out on the Edinburgh Road. It was suggested that this could be for a path. Nick will look into this. **ACTION: NM**
- 8.2 A member of the public complained that the entrance to the core path at Danskine was too narrow. Nick will have a look at this, too. **ACTION: NM**
- 8.3 A complaint had been received about Amenity Services cutting the churchyard during heavy rain, which looked messy. Dave will discuss this with Amenity Services. **ACTION: DG**
- 8.4 Adam asked what was happening about the issues that had previously been reported to the Community Council about various cycling events going through the village. Nick sent a summary of concerns to Bill Laird but has had nothing back. Bill Laird has been invited to attend a meeting, but a suitable date hasn't been found yet. Jo met with him and Bill has suggested that the Community Council could draft some guidelines. Jo has contacted Poppy Scotland and has a copy of their guidelines. She will try to put something together and run it past Colin Baird. The Chief Inspector is on the advisory group and is in a position to withdraw permission from groups if they don't adhere to the guidelines. **ACTION: JA**
- 8.5 A member of the public reported that dog fouling in the Pound was bad. Jo will get hold of some posters produced by the P5 kids. People are reminded that they should report anyone they see not picking up after their dog to the Dog Warden.

**9 Date of next meeting - 7:30 on August 14th 2017 in the Todrick Room, Gifford Village Hall.**