

**Minutes of the Gifford Community Council Meeting held  
on 11th September 2017 in the Todrick Room, Gifford Village Hall**

<b>Present</b>	Craig McLachlan (Chair) Alex Renton Adam White	Jo Allen Wendy Ferguson Eric Thomson	Nick Morgan David Griffiths
<b>In Attendance</b>	Councillor Shamin Akhtar	Councillor John McMillan	5 members of the public
<b>Apologies</b>	Andrew Hamilton	Councillor Brian Small	PC Lynn Black

**1 Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting of 14th August 2017 were agreed as correct. Proposed Eck, seconded Jo.

**2 Matters Arising**

- 2.1 2.1 Councillor Akhtar has spoken to Jim Martin. The gully by the school will be cleaned in the next tranche of work. Councillor Akhtar asked to keep this in the minutes. **ACTION: SA**
- 2.2 2.1 Wendy has sent the e-mail address of the church minister to Nick.
- 2.3 2.5 A new sign has gone up at the end of Tweedale Avenue.
- 2.4 2.6 Councillor Akhtar has been in touch with Callum Redpath about the surface of The Avenue. He has put it on the programme of roads to check. Craig added that the Area Partnership has asked for a price to resurface the pavement along the Avenue. It may be more than the £50K Roads budget allocated to the Area Partnership, but it may be possible to add other funding to get this done.
- 2.5 2.8 Jo has applied for funding from the Coop for new benches in the park. As the criteria have changed this is now being done in partnership with the Feuars of Gifford. She has applied for £3,000 but doesn't expect to receive that amount. The funding won't be available until next October. Nick added that he is going to suggest at the next Area Partnership meeting that various benches and picnic tables in the village and on the surrounding paths can be funded partly by the Area Partnership and partly with Smarter Choices Smarter Places funding.
- 2.6 2.12 Inviting a representative from ELC to a future meeting to discuss cycle events is currently on hold. The Poppy Scotland cycle event will be on 24th September.
- 2.7 4.1.2 The trees are still obstructing the street lights on the Edinburgh Road. It was agreed that Dave should ask the advice of the Council about these. **ACTION: AH/DG**
- 2.8 4.1.3 Nick had seen men from Amenity Services spraying the weeds on the pavements.
- 2.9 6.3 Craig has met with Jane and discussed Area Partnership funding for her lunch club proposal. She has put an application in.
- 2.10 7.1 Jo has been in touch with Mark about the defibrillator. There is no need to hard-wire it in. She will try to organise training and report back at the next meeting. **ACTION: JA**
- 2.11 8.1 Nick is continuing to work with Yester Estate to put in a new pedestrian entrance from the Edinburgh Road. He will submit a planning application in the next week. **ACTION: NM**

- 2.12 8.2 Nick is producing a new paths leaflet for the Gifford area.
- 2.13 8.3 Yester Estate consider that the trees across the river are not currently causing a problem to the flow and it is a low priority to deal with them. There is a more recently fallen tree which has come over from the Council's side. Nick will report this to Mike Foy. **ACTION: NM**

### **3 External Reports**

#### **3.1 Police:** A report had been sent prior to the meeting with the following incidents:

- 3.1.1 On 27 August the police received a call regarding 1 adult male and 2 youths riding motorbikes in the park. The males had left prior to police attendance.
- 3.1.2 The police received more information regarding speeding motorists through the village again and they will sporadically be doing speed checks. If drivers are found to be breaking the law they can expect to be issued with a speeding ticket. Please don't take matters into your own hands, this can be very dangerous. The sun is getting lower in the sky and the chance of glare off wet roads increases as the weather worsens.
- 3.1.3 Between 20th and 22nd August there were 2 separate incidents of padlocks being removed in Park Road. The first incident had the padlocks removed from the garage and the shed. Nothing appears stolen. The second incident had another padlock removed from the garage. A letter drop was done and so was door to door. To date, no one has been identified as responsible.
- 3.1.4 Between 28th of July and the 14th of August a large quantity of heating oil was stolen from Coulston Mains. May I take this opportunity to remind everyone to keep gates locked and tanks well-lit to decrease the likelihood of suffering a similar fate. We expect to see an increase in this type of crime over the coming months and we should all be vigilante, looking after our own and our neighbour's properties.
- 3.1.5 During the last 2 weeks, 2 antique chairs have been stolen from Yester Parish Church. The church is left open daily. If anyone saw or heard anything suspicious please contact the police.

#### **3.2 East Lothian Council:**

- 3.2.1 Councillor Akhtar reported that the results of the 2017 Residents Survey will be discussed the following day at a Council Cabinet meeting. There were over 1,500 responses. Overall, the perception of Council services and community spirit are positive. Health is an area where more work will be needed. The report is available on line.
- 3.2.2 Councillor Akhtar reported that the Scottish Government ran a consultation about its Education Governance Review. Yester responded and East Lothian Council is putting together a response, considering the implications of the wholesale changes. Comments can be sent to the Council by 22nd September.
- 3.2.3 Councillor McMillan informed the meeting of the successes of many communities in the Keep Scotland Beautiful awards. He suggested that Gifford could enter the best small village category.
- 3.2.4 Councillor McMillan suggested that the Community Woodland Group should make contact with the Edinburgh & Lothians Greenspace Trust who may be able to offer advice or funding.

### **4 Internal Reports**

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

- 4.1.1 Dave reported that, other than the items mentioned under Matters Arising, there was nothing more to report about roads, lighting and signs.

**4.2 Planning:** There is one application this month:

4.2.1 Application for approved matters specified in conditions for the houses and chalets at Castlepark Golf Club. No concerns.

**4.3 Finance:** No report.

**4.4 Area Partnership:** There is a meeting on 12 September to discuss the Annual Public Meeting. Craig is keen for members of Gifford Community Council to attend the APM which is in November.

**4.5 Community Woodland:**

4.5.1 The AGM was on 28th August. John Wrinn stepped down as Chairman and was replaced by Adam White.

4.5.2 On 2nd September 10 volunteers helped to clear rhododendron.

4.5.3 Nev ran a Fungal Foray on 9th September, which raised £500.

4.5.4 Ironman paid the Group £500 for manning the feed station. They had been anticipating £620.

4.5.5 Next volunteer day is 16th September - ditch clearing.

4.5.6 There will be a silent auction on 6th October. The Cubs will be distributing a flyer.

**5 Traffic Calming**

5.1 Wendy summarised the meeting that the sub-group had held the week before. Having received considerable support from the community, it was felt that various options should be considered, run past the Community Council and then approach ELC for their views.

5.2 Concern was raised that the minutes of the meeting appeared to show that speed tables had already been decided on. However, the intention is to talk to staff at ELC's Roads department and take their advice.

5.3 There was much discussion about poor parking in the village, which makes visibility difficult. Although this probably reduces the speed of vehicles in the village the sub-group can consider parking along with speeding.

5.4 Mark Hardy had sent a letter to the Community Council raising some concerns about the proposed traffic calming measures. Councillor Akhtar suggested that he could join the sub-group. Colin Baird also offered to join the sub-group. This was agreed.

5.5 It was agreed that the sub-group should now meet with Marshall Greenshields or Peter Forsyth to ask their advice. The sub-group will continue to keep the rest of the Community Council up-to-date with advice received and seek approval for any proposals. It is considered that once any proposals are agreed, we would have to consult with the community again.

**6. Correspondence**

6.1 Other than the letter from Mark Hardy, the Community Council had received an e-mail from a lady asking if the Community Council would ask ELC if a disabled space (or two) could be provided outside the Coop. Jo had been in touch with the Coop and they had suggested that people could use the car park at the side of the Coop. Jo will also contact the Council to ask about painting a disabled space on the street outside the Coop. **ACTION: JA**

**7 AOCB**

- 7.1 Rita was keen to point out that she wasn't the only person who had been looking after the planters at the entrances to the village. Any future minutes should mention the rest of the team.
- 7.2 Jo has received a number of reports that the EE mobile signal has become very poor in the village. She will write to EE on behalf of the Community Council and ask if there are any plans to upgrade the mast. **ACTION: JA**
- 7.3 A member of the public asked why there was still a sign on the green for the contractors working at Yester House. It was agreed that it was better to have the sign to prevent contractors having to reverse or turn on The Avenue, which is a safer route to school. It will only be there until the work on the house is complete.
- 7.4 A member of the public said that the fence around the Bleachfield was in a poor state. Jo suggested that this could be a future job for the Community Payback Scheme.
- 7.5 A member of the public said that there is an empty Council House on Park Road, which has been unoccupied since February. There are another two or three empty Council houses in the village. Councillor Akhtar will look into this. **ACTION: SA**
- 7.6 Jo reported that the Community Payback team have started work to repaint the toilets.
- 7.7 Jo reported that the consultation on the draft East Lothian Plan has been extended until 27th September. Jo will compile a response and circulate it for other members of the Community Council to comment. **ACTION: JA**
- 7.8 Eck said that he will be resigning from the Community Council after the October meeting. Craig thanked him for his time on the Community Council.
- 7.9 Dave reported that the grounds of the telephone exchange are in a poor state again. He will phone them and ask if the hedge and grass can be cut. **ACTION: DG**
- 7.10 Wendy reported that the head teacher at Yester Primary, Dorothy Hilsley, will be retiring at Christmas.
- 7.11 Wendy has been in touch with Lillian Pryde and now has the name of the supplier for Christmas lights. She will follow this up. **ACTION: WF**
- 7.12 Sandy Stewart reported that there will be roadworks on The Avenue while Yester House is connected in to the water mains and internet. He hopes that this will cause minimal disruption.

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