

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

Present	Craig McLachlan (Chair) David Griffiths Mark Hardy	Nick Morgan Adam White	Wendy Ferguson Eric Thomson
In Attendance	Councillor Brian Small	Councillor John McMillan	1 member of the public
Apologies	Jo Allen Councillor Tom Trotter	Andrew Hamilton PC Lorna Bairden	Councillor Shamin Akhtar

1 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of 13th November 2017 were agreed as correct. Proposed Adam, seconded Eric.

2 Matters Arising

- 2.1 2.2 Jo will take forward defibrillator training. **ACTION: JA**
- 2.2 2.6 Jo has met Keith Scott and he hopes to paint a disabled space outside the Coop and install a dropped kerb. He will send plans to the Community Council before any work starts.
- 2.3 2.7 Nick has been in touch with Simon McCreery about the blocked path between Yester Mains and Redshill. He has cut back the hedge to allow passage.
- 2.4 3.2.2 and 3.2.3 Councillor Akhtar has forwarded links to Nick for the external auditor's report and the Scottish Government's Empowering Schools consultation and the draft Childcare Implementation Plan, which Nick will forward to members of the Community Council.
- 2.5 6.5 Nick has responded to Savilles to say that it is not appropriate to advertise property for rent on the Gifford Village website.

3 External Reports

3.1 Police: PC Bairden had sent a report of incidents between 11 November and 6 December 2017.

- 3.1.1 There have been a couple of reports of low grade anti-social behaviour by youths within the grounds of the school. These consist of a stolen wheelie bin, stones being thrown and a small fire. If anyone sees any local youths behaving in such a manner please report it to the police.
- 3.1.2 On 11 November, on the north side of Gifford a vehicle crashed near to Coulston South Lodge. The female driver was found to be over the legal drink drive limit, she was charged and bailed to appear at court in Edinburgh.
- 3.1.3 There have been some calls from the area regarding hare coursing. Due to wrong registration numbers being given the police have not been able to trace those responsible. Anyone seeing anything suspicious, try to take the correct registration number and report it to the police.

3.2 East Lothian Council:

- 3.2.1 Councillor Small is keen for as many people as possible to respond to the Council's consultation on next year's budget.

- 3.2.2 The Council's budget will be put to Cabinet on 16th January and to full Council on 13th February.
- 3.2.3 The draft Transport and Parking Strategies will be discussed at next Tuesday's Council meeting.
- 3.2.4 Councillor McMillan informed the meeting that 2018 will be 700 years since the Bruce Charter was signed. Many events are planned during the year to celebrate this under the Haddington 700 banner.
- 3.2.5 Broadband - the UK Government has taken over funding and so far there has been no direct acknowledgement from the Scottish Government. A statement is due soon. There will be a new scheme for small businesses, called BBUK, but no announcement has been made yet.

4 Internal Reports

4.1 Roads, Lighting and Signs:

- 4.1.1 Dave had been in touch with Neil Murray about the road works on Haddington Road. These had been there for some time, with apparently nothing going on. The road has since been reinstated.
- 4.1.2 Many potholes have been repaired, but there are more appearing as a result of the weather. Councillor McMillan recommended contacting Alan Stubbs in the future.
- 4.1.3 Some gullies have been cleared, but others have been left. It was noted that the roads don't appear to be being swept as often as they were, which may be why the gullies are all filling up.
- 4.1.4 Dave has reported the damaged surface to the pavement outside the Coop. Nothing has happened, so he will chase this up. **ACTION: DG**
- 4.1.5 There was some discussion about HGV's going over the bridge on Station Road. We have been told that the bridge has been strengthened and can take heavy vehicles, but the size of the vehicles can be an issue. ELC are going to install a bollard to prevent vehicles hitting the bridge. It was suggested that a sign could be put up saying "Unsuitable for Heavy Vehicles". Dave will contact the Council to ask what can be done. **ACTION: DG**

4.2 Planning: There were three applications this month:

- 4.2.1 New refrigeration units around the back of the Coop. No concerns.
- 4.2.2 Holiday lodge at Newlands Farm. No concerns.
- 4.2.3 Pyatshaw - change of use to holiday let. Concerns were raised that the drawings do not resemble what exists on site. Councillors McMillan and Small will arrange a meeting. Eric will look into this further and ask Planners for more time for the Community Council to consider the application. **ACTION: ET**

4.3 Finance: Andrew had sent an e-mail stating that the balance is £8,558.

4.4 Area Partnership:

- 4.4.1 Craig reported that the lunch club have just applied to the Area Partnership for funding.
- 4.4.2 An application has been made for a contribution of funding towards Haddington 700.
- 4.4.3 Support from the Start has received Area Partnership funding for their loose play project.
- 4.4.4 The new local area plan is about to be published.
- 4.4.5 Nick reported that the benches have arrived for the park and path network, and they will soon be installed.

4.5 Lunch Club:

- 4.5.1 Another successful lunch had been held that day. 50 people had attended, with six members of the Good Companions.

4.6 Community Woodland:

- 4.6.1 There have been a number of volunteer days, cutting back rhododendron to form the routes for paths. This has included two paid volunteer groups - TCV and LCV.
- 4.6.2 There will be a surgery in the Coffee Shop on 28th December between 5pm and 6pm to let people know what is going on.
- 4.6.3 Councillor McMillan suggested that Adam contacts the Edinburgh and Lothian Greenspace Trust, who may be able to help with the project. Councillor McMillan will send Adam the contact details. **ACTION: JM**
- 4.6.4 Wendy said that each class at the school had been to events up at the woods and the kids enjoyed it very much.

5 Traffic Calming

- 5.1 Nick has phoned and e-mailed Marshall Greenshields to ask him if he could have a look on site and confirm if the Council would be supportive of the ideas put forward at last month's meeting. There has been no response to date. Councillor Small offered to contact Marshall if Nick forwards him his e-mail. **ACTION: NM/BS**
- 5.2 It was agreed that we must consult with the public once we have approval from the Council. Adam suggested a drop-in surgery in the Coffee Shop and it was agreed we would probably have to do a mail drop to publicise it.
- 5.3 Councillor McMillan suggested contacting Steph Kerr at ELC who will be able to advise on the best way to consult the community.

6. Correspondence

- 6.1 Craig has received a Christmas card from Martin Whitfield MP to the Community Council.

7 AOCB

- 7.1 Councillor McMillan said that Haddington Rotary Club now holds a monthly meeting in Gifford. He will forward more details. **ACTION: JM**
- 7.2 Eric reported a hedge in the lane below Park Road, which is growing out across the lane making it difficult for lorries to access the houses beyond. Nick and Dave will have a look and take appropriate action. **ACTION: DG/NM**
- 7.3 Interviews have been held for the Head Teacher post at Yester Primary, but no one has been appointed. The post will be re-advertised in the new year.
- 7.4 Dave reported that the post office in East Linton has been bought by a new owner who isn't interested in continuing to maintain the post office. This could have an impact on the post office in Gifford.
- 7.5 Dave also reported that the cash machine at the Coop is continuing to issue receipts, which most people don't want. This is resulting in litter along Duns Road. Dave will try phoning again and Nick can write if there is a postal address on the machine. **ACTION: DG/NM**

- 7.6 Adam was pleased with how well the Christmas lights switching on event went. All of the local businesses were busy. He asked for suggestions for improvements for next year.
- 7.7 Jo had sent a note to Nick to say that Rita hadn't received payment for the plants she bought for the planters at the entrances to the village. If she hasn't done so already, she should send a note to Jo with the details and we will arrange payment. **ACTION: JA**
- 8 Date of next meeting - 7:30 on January 8th 2018 in the Todrick Room, Gifford Village Hall.**