

**Minutes of the Gifford Community Council Meeting held
on 10th October at Gifford Bowling Club**

Participating Adam White (Chair) Richard Austin Dave Griffiths
Jill Hyslop Wendy Ferguson Eleanor Hulme

In Attendance Councillor George Maguire Councillor Shamin Akhtar Alison Brown

Apologies Rita Buchan Hugh Broad Councillor John McMillan
Councillor Tom Trotter

1 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The meeting approved the minutes of 8th August (approved by Richard Austin and Dave Griffiths). The September meeting was cancelled as a mark of respect during the period of National Mourning following the death of HM Queen Elizabeth II.

2. Introduction to the Volunteer Centre East Lothian by Alison Brown

The Volunteer Centre East Lothian (VCEL) is based in Tranent and its coverage includes Haddington & Lammermuir and North Berwick Coastal. It works alongside groups and charities, offering support in relation to funding and finding volunteers. It has a Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund, to which Community Councils can apply. VCEL's remit also includes tackling social isolation, which can involve food and fuel poverty. A CC member asked if VCEL can support nationwide charities, who cover East Lothian. Alison agreed to investigate this. Adam and Wendy gave Alison some background information about resilience initiatives in the village, including the Lunch Club, the Good Companions and monthly delivery of fish and chips. Alison's work also includes working with people who have recently been discharged from hospital and connecting them with community initiatives.

3. Matters arising

3.1 Newlands Wind Energy Hub

The developers have confirmed the dates for the 2nd round of public exhibitions as follows:

- Wednesday 9 November, 2pm - 8pm in Gifford Village Hall
- Thursday 10 November, 11am - 3pm in Garvald Village Hall
- Thursday 10 November, 4pm - 8pm in Stenton Village Hall,
- Friday 11 November, 10am - 2pm in Haddington John Gray Centre

Community Council will publicise the dates. Richard reported that he and Adam had met with Belltown and representatives from Garvald CC to discuss the operation of any future community fund. One option would be to use 50% of the fund to reduce electricity bills. Those within 5km could see a reduction of c£400 per year and those within 10km could see a reduction of c.£200 per year. The remaining 50% could be further divided with one portion allocated to Gifford for local causes and the remainder available as a county-wide fund to which groups could apply. There is also the possibility that the community could acquire up to 5% equity in the project. Richard and Adam will be meeting Local Energy Scotland, an organisation who help communities set up and manage community funds, on 9th November. Adam emphasised that the Newlands project is subject to planning approval and may not go ahead. However it is useful to look at how the fund could operate with a view to maximising the benefit for local residents. It was noted that the developers have made a number of changes to the proposals, including reducing the number of turbines from 23 down to 17, reducing the height down to 200m and moving the position of some turbines. **ACTION: AW/RA**

3.2 Dunside Windfarm

The next public exhibition will take place on Wednesday 26th October. Community Council will help to advertise the date. **ACTION: JH**

3.3 Edinburgh Road Widening Survey

No progress to report. Richard intends to ask the council to look at the feasibility of creating a one-way system which would assist with the bridge widening, as well as helping with speeding.

ACTION: RA.

3.4 Additional Graveyard space

No progress to report. Funding still needs to be found to cover the cost of the SEPA survey.

ACTION: JM

3.5 Wheelie Bins on Main Street

Councillor Akhtar has obtained a quote of £800 for a wooden storage unit. To make the planning process easier, the details have been passed onto the person who deals with conservations areas to get pre-application advice. Adam suggested that the unit should take 3 large bins, as opposed to 7 standard ones. It will need to be determined whether dropped kerbs are required. **ACTION: SA**

3.6 Defibrillator

3.6.1 School defibrillator. Wendy reported that the school plans to arrange staff training for the in-service day at the end of October. As soon as the training is completed, the defibrillator will be installed in the cabinet and will be ready to use. The Head Teacher plans to invite Sam (of the Scottish Ambulance Service) to a Parent Council meeting to look at parent training. It was noted that training videos are available on YouTube and it was suggested that Sam could be asked whether any of these are suitable to recommend to local residents. **ACTION: WF**

3.6.2 Garage defibrillator. Eleanor reminded the meeting that the garage cabinet is not working and will need to be replaced. Wendy will be pass on details of the school cabinet for consideration.

ACTION: EH/WF

3.6.3 Bowling club defibrillator. The Bowling Club Committee don't want to commit funds at the present time. If community council part-funded a defibrillator for the bowling club in the future, it would need to be kept outside so that it was accessible to nearby residents. Alison (from VCEL) informed Dave that there are funds that sports clubs can apply to for defibrillators and agreed to pass the details on.

3.7 Railings and School Shed

The school railings have now all been painted, so this item can be removed from the agenda. Councillor Akhtar will ask the community payback team to look at the brickwork at the bottom of the back steps at the school. They will also look at the railings on the steps that lead from the side entrance of the school onto Bablins Wynd and look at re-painting the lampposts on the Duns Road. Regarding the school shed, once Mrs Mercer has supplied a costing for the new shed, Community Council can arrange the funding. **ACTION: SA**

3.8 Noticeboard

Wendy reported that she has sent a marked up map, showing the location of the new noticeboard to the council. Dave asked Wendy to check whether the new noticeboard can be made of aluminium (or similar) or whether it needs to be wooden. **ACTION: WF**

3.9 Bus stop - review of position

This was held over as Councillor McMillan was absent. As the new bus stop will need a dropped kerb, Jill will add this to the list compiled for the Area Partnership Funding (see 7.3 below).

ACTION: JH

3.10 Disabled car parking for Gifford Community Woodland (to be positioned on Tweeddale Avenue)

Adam reported that the proposal for double yellow lines at the Tweeddale Avenue/Station Road junction was progressing through planning. It was hoped that the disabled parking space and the overgrown hedge would be dealt with at the same time.

4. External Reports

4.1 Police

Adam will attend the next CAPP meeting on 7th November and will ask for the monthly police reports to be reinstated. Only 1 report has been received since Colin Boyd left. Councillor Akhtar emphasised the importance of making issues known at the CAPP meetings as they determine the local policing priorities. Councillor Akhtar also stressed that people can contact the Antisocial Behaviour team at any time. In relation to a complex antisocial behaviour situation involving an unnamed local resident, Councillors Akhtar and Maguire gave assurances that everything possible was being done by the relevant authorities.

4.2 East Lothian Council

Councillor Maguire reported that the roadworks by Lennoxlove hadn't yet been completed as the problem was more serious than previously thought, as the undercarriage had collapsed. The signposting was however now more visible. He reported that a local resident had successfully challenged their council tax banding. The property had been revalued and backdated to 1993. Council Tax bands can be checked on the Scottish Assessors Association Website (<https://www.saa.gov.uk/>). Councillor Maguire is not planning any in-person surgeries, but is available to discuss matters on the phone or by email.

Councillor Akhtar reported on the council's income maximisation campaign to ensure that people are receiving the full value of benefits they are entitled to. Anyone who is unsure about their benefit entitlement can speak to the Citizens Advice Bureau or the council's financial inclusion team. Councillor Akhtar also reported that the NISA shop front signage was now progressing through planning, but it was not appearing on the portal yet. The council has re-started work to try to source an afterschool care provider for Yester Primary School.

4.3 Gifford Community Woodland

Adam reported that the woodlands had celebrated their 5-year anniversary with a very successful community event. Activities included a Forest Church service, Forest School activities, charcoal art, foraging walks and volunteering. The woodlands were now working on plans to deal with ash dieback disease. This will involve clear-felling 2 areas where ash trees are concentrated. These areas will then be replanted with native trees. A section of the path will be closed for approximately 4 weeks from the end of October. A newsletter detailing the plans is being printed and distributed to all village residents.

4.4 Yester Estate

In relation to 2 recent firework displays at the estate, it was noted that although they had been advertised on Facebook, not all residents had access to this. It was suggested that dates for fireworks should, where possible, be posted on the village noticeboard for the benefit of people not on Facebook. **ACTION: DG/JH**

5 Internal Reports

5.1 Roads and Footpaths

Dave reported that work on the Longyester Quarry road will hopefully be starting in October/November. There is no TRO yet. No progress known about resurfacing the lane between Tweeddale Crescent and Station Road. As discussed at 4.2 above, the roadworks at Lennoxlove have still to be completed.

5.2 Lighting

The streetlight at Lillies Lane (between Main Street and the Wynd, by the NISA) are out. They have been reported, but not fixed yet.

5.3 Drainage

Dave reported that a BT line had been accidentally cut during roadworks just past Danskine. This resulted in residents at Snawden and the fisheries being without a phone line for 5 weeks. BT are now thought to be working on the repair.

5.4 Signs

Nothing to report.

5.5 Planning

Richard could not present the planning report at the meeting, as the portal was down due to planned maintenance. However the report is now attached detailing planning applications within and outwith GCC Area. Richard reported that a query had been passed to planning regarding a change in colour of a door and window frames. He will also request confirmation of the planning status of recent building work at the Furniture School. **ACTION: RA**

5.6 Finance

Wendy reported that CC finances remain very healthy. There are two known payments pending: one for the replacement shed at Yester Primary and one for the bin storage unit for Main Street. A further request had recently been made to cover the printing costs of The Grapevine, a local newsletter/directory which details all the local community clubs and organisation. The payment was approved. It was noted that it would be useful to circulate a PDF copy of the Grapevine, and it could also be added to the website. The bank balance is approximately £11k. Councillor Akhtar reported that Haddington & Lammermuir CC were processing applications for emergency food and clothing payments.

5.7 Website

Nothing to report.

5.8 Resilience

Adam reported that fish and chips had been delivered on the last Friday of September to 40 people and had been very well-received. 24 people had attended the lunch club. Wendy and Adam proposed re-starting the weekly 'Soup and Smile' service which involves delivering hot soup to local residents. They will look at the previous list and try to include new people as well. The service is principally aimed at people living on their own or elderly couples. It helps with isolation and allows the community to keep an eye on some of its more vulnerable residents. The service is expected to cover approximately 30 people at a cost of £150 per week. It was agreed that Community Council would cover the full cost. Jill reported that Jon Fleetwood had been in touch to ask CCs to review their resilience plans and provide a copy to the council. **ACTION: AW/WF**

5.9 Local business liaison

Trading Standards had spoken to staff to ensure that customers are charged the price displayed. Sometimes updated prices were not being displayed on products promptly, with customers being charged more at the till than the price displayed. It was noted that the NISA were hoping to employ an additional permanent member of staff for 20 hours per week.

6. Correspondence

Nothing to report.

7. AOB

7.1 Speeding

Dave reported a number of vehicles speeding in the village at around noon on Friday. It was thought this might be connected to the school pick up. Speeding should where possible be reported via 101.

7.2 AP Funding for On-Street EV Charging Point at The Square

The Area Partnership has asked for feedback about a proposal to install a 7KW On-Street EV Charging Point at the Square. Community Council members were in favour of having another charging point, but agreed to feed back the following points. A higher powered charging point (22kW or 50kW) would be preferred if possible. Concern was expressed that there would not be a designated parking bay. This might stop people accessing the charging point when they need it. Community Council will suggest that the charging point should be positioned away from the houses to the right of the Mercat Cross. **ACTION: JH**

7.3 AP Funding for dropped kerbs

Jill reported that she had forwarded a request for 6 dropped kerbs and had offered to walk round the village with the relevant people to assess the suggested locations. Adam reported that a wheelchair user in the village had offered to help identify problem sites and this offer will be passed to the council team. As discussed at 3.9 above, a dropped kerb will also be requested for the new bus stop location. **ACTION: JH**

7.4 Beautiful Scotland

Adam reported that the results of the Beautiful Scotland judging are to be presented on 19th October.

7.5 CC TV Camera

Community Council agreed to look at options for a CC TV Camera beside the noticeboard to deter further acts of vandalism. **ACTION: AW/DG**

7.6 Village Christmas Events

Wendy reported that the Christmas tree has been ordered. The Christmas Lights Switch On will be on Friday 9th December. The Christmas Post will run from Saturday 10th – Saturday 17th December and the Carols Around the Tree will be on Friday 23rd December. Wendy will arrange a flyer.

Date of next meeting: Monday 14th November.

APPLICATIONS WITHIN GCC AREA

	Date Validated	GCC first discussed	Comments	Status
22/01013/P Alterations, extension to house, erection of flue and formation of hardstanding areas 4 Old Mill Lane Gifford East Lothian EH41 4QQ	13/09/22	Oct 2022	Alterations to internal layout and windows to rear within same footprint. Extension to entrance lobby to front.	Awaiting decision
22/00811/NAF Prior notification of - Erection of agricultural building Yester Mains Farm Yester Gifford Haddington East Lothian EH41 4JG	18/09/22	Oct 2022	27.4m x 15.2m building, 4.3m high to eaves.	Approved
22/00798/P Repainting of house and doors (Part retrospective) Lomond Tweeddale Avenue Gifford East Lothian EH41 4QN	12/09/22	Oct 2022	Repainting of white external walls in dark grey.	Awaiting decision
22/00714/P Alterations to house Wolfelee Tweeddale Crescent Gifford East Lothian EH41 4QZ	23/06/22	July 2022	Replacement windows, new roof lights, garage conversion to form games room, new sliding doors to rear.	Approved
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	This is a separate application to that for the holiday lodges (21/01457/P, below) and involves a six bedroomed house attached to the west of the clubhouse, for occupation by the owner/manager.	Awaiting decision

APPLICATIONS OUTWITH GCC AREA

	Date Validated	GCC first discussed	Comments	Status
None.			.	

OTHER PLANNING MATTERS

Newlands Hill Wind Energy Hub (Belltown Power)

The second consultation event, scheduled for 21st to 23rd September was postponed due to the royal funeral and has been reorganized for:

- Wednesday 9 November - Gifford Village Hall, 2pm - 8pm
- Thursday 10 November - Garvald Village Hall, 11am - 3pm
- Thursday 10 November - Stenton Village Hall, 4pm - 8pm
- Friday 11 November - Haddington John Gray Centre, 10am - 2pm

Dunside Wind Farm (EDF)

A second consultation event will be held in Gifford Village Hall on 26th October.