**Minutes of the Gifford Community Council meeting  
held** **on 10th June 2024 at Gifford Bowling Club**

**Participating** Adam White (Chair), Eleanor Hulme, Wendy Ferguson, Richard Austin, Nev Kilkenny, Dave Griffiths and Jill Hyslop

**In Attendance** Cllr John McMillan, Cllr Tom Trotter, Cllr George McGuire & Cllr Shamin Akhtar

**Apologies** Rita Buchan, Hugh Broad, Mandy Harrington & Paul McLennan MSP

**1** The meeting approved the minutes of 15th April (approved by Wendy and Dave).

**2 Items completed since last meeting**

**2.1** The garage defibrillator was used in the successful roadside resuscitation of a cyclist who collapsed just outside the village. CPR was administered and the defibrillator was brought to the scene. The meeting was delighted to hear that the cyclist had been discharged from hospital. Eleanor collected the defibrillator from the ambulance depot and has ordered new pads and a new Accessory kit. The incident underlined the benefit of defibrillator/CPR training. Sam from the Scottish Ambulance Service is happy to do another course. Priority will be given to the Committee and regular users at the Bowling Club. Eleanor will email Eleanor Bissett to discuss possible numbers. Eleanor would like another volunteer to come forward to help arrange the training.

The Bowling Club defibrillator has now been registered on the Circuit. Eleanor has arranged some extra defibrillator posters and has also spoken to the Lanterne Rouge about displaying some general cautionary health advice for cyclists. A Longnewton resident has suggested housing a defibrillator in the phone box there. It was suggested that an application could be made to Fallago Rig Wind Farm.

Dave has spoken to the electrician about the outstanding work on the garage defibrillator cabinet, but a date still needs to be agreed.

**2.2** Graveyard grasscutting and general maintenance have been carried out.

**3 Matters Arising**

**3.1 Renewable Energy Projects**

**Newlands Hill** - the s36 application is under consideration by the Energy Consents Unit. The full application is available on the Scottish Government’s Energy Consents Unit website [www.energyconsents.scot](http://www.energyconsents.scot), reference ECU00004603. The submission documents can also be accessed on Belltown Power’s project website. Belltown are preparing a supplemental environmental information pack following discussions with NatureScot and other bodies. This will be submitted within the next few weeks; GCC will be notified and it will be announced in the East Lothian Courier. The earliest Belltown expect a decision from ECU is mid 2025 and this may slip depending on the outcome of the East Lothian Planning Committee. (No date has yet been set for the application to be discussed by the Planning Committee, but this is likely to be within the coming months.) **As previously advised, GCC have been told by the ECU that public representations, either for or against the development, will be considered right up until the point at which a decision is made.**

**3.2 Airfield Memorial Plaque**

No update.

**3.3 Graveyard extension**

No update.

**3.4 Nature Networks**

Eleanor reported that the Village Hall Consultation Event on 6th June had been well attended. 36 people came along to view the visuals and complete questionnaires to details their preferences. The council will analyse the responses and report back. The Chair thanked Eleanor for her work.

**3.5 Beautiful Scotland 2025**

This has been added to the Agenda to help plan for next year’s entry. No current actions.

**3.6 Drainage**

The centre of the village is flooding whenever there is heavy rain. Councillor McMillan will discuss this with Ian Lennock. **ACTION: JM**

**3.7 Road markings/parking outside the Goblin Ha’**

The new leaseholder had contacted the council to discuss options to prevent beer deliveries interfering with the operation of the new bus stop. The council intends to proceed with the yellow lines that were agreed as part of the bus stop relocation. This will stop cars blocking access to the bus stop and will make it easier to cross the road. It has been agreed that no further action is needed.

**4. Projects awaiting update from East Lothian Council**

**4.1 Resurfacing lane between Station Road/Tweeddale Crescent**

A photo has been forwarded to the council to show the poor state of the lane, especially at the steps.

**4.2** **Repainting park benches.** Jill to email Councillor Akhtar with details of the Bleachfield benches that are to be painted by the Community Payback Team. CC also agreed to ask the Community Payback Team to repaint the benches in front of the church. **ACTION: JH**

**5. External Reports**

**5.1 Police**

Between 1st – 31st May 2024 there were 25 calls to the area, which resulted in the police recording 3 crimes: 1 x Breach of ASBO, 1 x Communications and 1 x THB (Business). The community engagement van was in Gifford on 14th May. One male was charged with not wearing a seatbelt and driving at speed. The police have been in contact with a local resident in Gifford regarding a speeding motorcyclist. The bike is believed to travel back and forth from Haddington to Gifford most days. If anyone has any further information about this, they should contact PC Kiera Edmonds or call 101.

**5.2 Yester Estate**

The estate has started work to remove the fallen lime tree. CC understand that the estate is discussing the maintenance of the remaining lime trees with the council.

**5.3 Gifford Community Woodland**

Volunteers have been helping with logs and weeding. Unfortunately the paths have suffered significant damage following the recent heavy rain. The lottery-funded Administrator role finishes on 21st June.

**5.4 East Lothian Council**

The councillors updated the meeting on recent business. Ian Lennock is retiring and will be replaced by Ian King. There has been a better than planned take up of brown bin permits (19,000 permits against a target of 16,000). For people who still need a permit, a 2nd sign up window will start on 26th August. Anyone struggling with the new 3-weekly green bin cycle can contact Waste Services. Residents are encouraged to use the weekly recycling as much as possible to minimise the content of their green bin. The council will be carrying some maintenance to the stonework at the back of the school steps. Councillor Trotter will ask for an updated schedule for drainage work at Longnewton. CC asked whether any action had been taken in relation to the ASB difficulties reported at the May meeting. Councillor McMillan reported that action was being taken at a senior level. The Premier Store is thought to be making a further application for an alcohol licence.

**6 Internal Reports**

**6.1 Roads and Footpaths**

Dave highlighted that the road surface at the bridge leading onto Station Road is becoming very rough. This will be reported to the Roads Dept.

**6.2 Lighting, Drains and Signs**

Nothing to report in Gifford. Dave passed on details about a sign needing repaired on the road to Haddington.

**6.3 Planning**

Please see attached report for planning applications within and outwith GCC Area.

**6.4 Finance**

Wendy reported that there is £2,200 in the bank.

**6.5 Resilience**

Wendy was delighted to report that Soup & Smile has obtained a grant of £2,500 from the Crystal Rig Wind Farm. The village choir is kindly donating 50% of the proceeds from their forthcoming concert to Soup & Smile. CC should manage to cover the outstanding costs to run the service for another year from its own reserves. Belltown Power had offered money to pay for Soup & Smile, but Adam declined the offer to protect CC’s impartiality regarding the Newlands wind farm planning application.

Fish and chips were delivered on the last Friday of May, and 29 people attended the lunch club.

**7 Correspondence**

**7.1 AELCC Update**

The next AELCC meeting is on 19th June in the Fraser Centre, Tranent with guest speakers Cheyne Hamm, ELC Sustainability and Climate Change Officer, and Chief Inspector Ben Leathes of Police Scotland.

**7.2 Dropped Kerbs**

CC had previously given ELC a list of possible locations for dropped kerbs in the village, as part of an Area Partnership funded initiative. The AP funding is no longer available, but the council will be working on dropped kerbs in July/August. Jamie Borthwick agreed to look at the Gifford suggestions.

**7.3 Pavement Parking**

ELC has circulated a briefing note about the new pavement parking restrictions. The council has drawn up a list of exemptions for East Lothian. To qualify for an exemption, the carriageway needs to be less than 5.5m from kerb to kerb and it also needs to be shown that pavement parking will still allow 1.5m width for pedestrian passage. Dave is to forward details of the section of Park Road at the junction with The Wynd, which meets the criteria for an exemption.

Councillor McMillan will also ask Ian Lennock to assess Station Road to check that access requirements for emergency services are being met.

**8 AOB**

**8.1 Date of July meeting**

It was agreed that CC will not meet in July due to the number of people on holiday.

**8.2 Resignation of CC member**

Hugh Broad has resigned from Community Council. The Chair thanked Hugh for his service. It was agreed CC that will try to appoint a new member informally. Anyone interested should contact a CC member. The next formal election process for all East Lothian CCs is October 2025.

**8.2 Clothing bin**

Dave reported that the bin was full again. He will contact the company.

**8.3 Cherry Trees outside the Tweeddale**

One of the trees has died and the other two have suffered damage caused by drought and a lack of mulching. As the trees were planted to commemorate those who died during Covid, CC hopes to arrange replacement trees, but plans for after-care will need to be arranged.

**8.4 Bleachfield/Gifford Water tidy**

It was reported that local resident, Richard Philips, had arranged for a group of youngsters to do a tidy up of the Bleachfield and Gifford Water. CC thanked the group for their excellent work.

**Date of next meeting: Monday 12th August.**

**APPLICATIONS WITHIN GCC AREA**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Date Validated** | **GCC first discussed** | **Comments** | **Status** |
| 24/00541/P | Erection of fencing and gates | 2 Walden Terrace Gifford East Lothian EH41 4QP | 30/05/24 | June 2024 | In addition to replacement of fence and gates, the application includes removal of an oil storage tank, erection of a greenhouse, installation of ASHP and replacement of windows with visually similar double glazed units. | Awaiting decision |
| 24/00508/P | Installation of solar panels and air source heat pumps | 58-65 Walden Terrace Gifford Haddington EH41 4QP | 28/05/24 | June 2024 | Installation of ten solar panels to roof and air source heat pumps to rear at two semi-detached properties and six flats in Walden Terrace | Awaiting decision |
| 24/00407/P | Change of use of rough ground to domestic garden ground, erection of garage and associated works | Woodbine Cottage The Avenue Gifford Haddington East Lothian EH41 4JF | 03/06/24 | June 2024 | Change of use, erection of double garage and paving of existing vehicle turning bay. Site is in woodland adjacent to a site recently approved for change of use and erection of solar panels under 23/01485/P. | Awaiting decision |
| 24/00362/P | Change of use of agricultural land for the installation of solar panels and associated works for domestic use | Land North Of 3 Castlemains Cottages Yester Gifford Haddington EH41 4PL | 15/04/24 | Apr 2024 | Seven ground mounted solar panels and GRP cabinet on agricultural land. | Awaiting decision |
| 24/00235/P | Installation of solar panels | 70-75 Walden Terrace Gifford East Lothian EH41 4QP | 14/03/24 | Apr 2024 | Installation of ten solar panels to roof and air source heat pumps to rear at six semi-detached properties in Walden Terrace | Approved |
| 24/00175/P | Erection of log cabin for ancillary residential accommodation | Yester House The Avenue Gifford East Lothian EH41 4JF | 01/03/24 | Mar 2024 | Two storey log cabin, comprising lounge, dining room, food prep room, two bedrooms and bathroom. Located adjacent to equestrian centre within Yester Estate. | Awaiting decision |

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 23/01485/P | Change of use of woodland area to domestic garden ground and installation of solar panels | Sunnyside Cottage Gifford East Lothian EH41 4JF | 16/02/24 | Mar 2024 | Change of use to formally incorporate existing woodland and open space into domestic garden. Felling of dead ash tree and overgrown plum trees to allow siting of ground mounted solar panels. Replanting of fruit trees within walled garden. | Approved |

**APPLICATIONS OUTWITH GCC AREA**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Date Validated** | **GCC first discussed** | **Comments** | **Status** |
| 23/01388/P | Erection of furniture making studio (Class 4) and associated works | Bolton Muir Wood Gifford East Lothian | 21/11/23 | Jan 2024 | Following an appeal by the applicant, the decision to refuse planning permission was overturned by the review panel. | Approved after review. |

**OTHER PLANNING MATTERS**

**Newlands Hill Wind Energy Hub (Belltown Power)**The S36 application for the Newlands Hill project is under consideration by the Energy Consents Unit. The full application is available on the Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit website [www.energyconsents.scot](http://www.energyconsents.scot), reference ECU00004603. All of the submission documents can also be accessed on Belltown Power’s project website. Belltown are currently preparing a supplemental environmental information pack following discussions with NatureScot and other bodies. This will be submitted within the next few weeks; GCC will be notified and it will be announced in the East Lothian Courier. The earliest Belltown expect a decision from ECU is mid 2025 and this may slip depending on the outcome of the East Lothian Planning Committee. (No date has yet been set for the application to be discussed by the Planning Committee, but this is likely to be within the coming months.) As previously advised, GCC have been told by the CCU that public representations, either for or against the development, will be considered right up until the point at which a decision is made.

**Dunside Wind Farm (EDF)**

Proposals were submitted to Scottish Government in July 2023 and are being considered. The full application is available on the Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit website, reference ECU00003436. EDF are currently compiling supplementary environmental information based upon feedback from consultees and once design changes have been made and submitted Community Councils will be notified and a further consultation period will follow.

**Solar panels at Crystal Rig Wind Farm (Fred Olsen Renewables)**

Plans can be viewed at [www.crystalrigwindfarm.com](http://www.crystalrigwindfarm.com)

**Longcroft Wind Farm (Renewable Energy Systems)**

This proposed development of 24 turbines would be approximately 9km north of Lauder in the Scottish Borders, lying to the south west of the existing Fallago Rig Wind Farm and to the west of the proposed Dunside Wind Farm. The northern edge of the development is some 15km south of Gifford. Project website is [www.longcroft-windfarm.co.uk](http://www.longcroft-windfarm.co.uk). The full application is available on the Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit website, reference ECU00004774.