**Minutes of the Gifford Community Council Meeting held**

**on 13th September 2021 via Zoom**

**Participating** Adam White (Chair) Wendy Ferguson Mark Hardy

David Griffiths Eleanor Hulme Andrew Hamilton

Richard Austin Hugh Broad

**In Attendance** Councillor Craig Hoy Councillor John McMillan Jill Hyslop

Rita Buchan Garreth Wood Martin Eggington

David Kennedy Susan Pratt

**Apologies** Councillor Shamin Akhtar Councillor Craig Hoy Ishbel Benzie

PC Colin Boyd Liz Stewart

**1 Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The meeting approved the minutes of the meeting of the 9th August (Approved by Mark Hardy and Dave Griffiths).

**2 Matters Arising**

2.1 Road safety and Parking

2.1.1 Adam reported that nothing has happened yet with regard to widening the bridge, but the Council has been to look at it.

2.1.2 The parking spaces outside Lewis and Clarke have been reinstated.

2.2 Additional Graveyard space. Councillor McMillan agreed to set up a meeting with Wendy to discuss funding for the SEPA assessment. **ACTION:JM**

2.3 Traffic Calming

2.3.1 Duns Road. Mark reported that the Stage 3 Safety Audit had been completed. The report found that the sign at 200 metres warning about the speed cushions should be moved to 150 metres. The sign will need to be changed accordingly. The Council has accepted this finding, but the work has not yet been completed.

2.3.2 Edinburgh Road. Richard reported that this would be considered further when a proper survey was completed in relation to the bridge widening (2.1.1 above).

2.4 Wheelie bins on Main Street pavement

Councillor Akhtar has reported that Waste Services will be contacting people on Main Street to discuss issues arising from wheelie bins blocking pavement access.

2.5 Defibrillators. Wendy confirmed that she has received the relevant information from Jo Allen and is now in a position to take this forward with Councillor Akhtar. **ACTION: WF/SA**

#### 2.6. Beautiful Scotland. The judging for this took place on the 2nd August and the results are due on Thursday 23rd September. ACTION: AW

2.7 Adam is still to meet with Andrew Hogarth about the tree at the Witherspoon plaque. **ACTION: AW**

2.8 The wall around the churchyard has now been repaired.

2.9 War Memorial. Wendy asked for feedback about the best timing for putting out the planter on the path beside the War Memorial and agreed to discuss this with Andrew Hogarth.

**ACTION: WF**

2.10 Nothing has as yet happened with the railings at the steps to Yester School. Adam will request an update from Councillor Akhtar about this. **ACTION: AW**

2.11 Litter in the Bleachfield. Alan Laidlaw, Chair of Yester Parent Council, has agreed to bring this up at their next meeting. He will ask the school to discuss it with pupils to raise awareness of the issue.

2.12 Overhanging Trees

2.12.1 Dave reported that the trees that were overhanging Station Road have now been cut back.

2.12.2 Trees covering some speed limit signs have also now been cut back around the village. One of the signs on the Edinburgh Road would benefit from further clearing and Richard agreed to discuss this with the property owners. Dave mentioned that one of the signs on the cricket pitch side of the Haddington Road would also benefit from further clearing. **ACTION: RA**

2.13 Home Energy Scotland. Eleanor provided details of an event on the 2nd of October, 9am - 1pm, under a gazebo on the village green outside Hoggs. This will be a drop-in event, where people can get impartial advice from Home Energy Scotland about becoming greener and saving money on energy costs. They will also be holding a webinar later in October. Home Energy is an independent organisation, with no links to any energy suppliers. The event will be publicised in shops and cafes in the villages, as well as via social media.

2.14 Void Council Houses. Adam confirmed that information had been obtained about a number of specific queries, but he did not think it was appropriate to share this at the meeting. Councillors McMillan and Trotter explained that houses can remain empty pending renovations and that this process is taking longer than usual due to Covid. It was noted that concerns about council houses can be passed to the Housing Department of East Lothian Council for investigation.

2.15 Christmas 2021. Adam confirmed that 3 events are planned: Christmas Post, Christmas Carols and a torchlight procession. These events will be discussed in more detail at the next meeting.

2.16 Elections and format for meetings.

2.16.1. The deadline for nominations is 16th September.

2.16.2 Having asked Council members their preferred format for future meetings, Adam confirmed that they will continue to be held via Zoom to reduce the risk of Covid transmission.

2.17 Local Hero and Lawrence Beveridge Award. There was no update on the Local Hero proposal. Adam confirmed that the Lawrence Beveridge trophy had now been traced, so this can now be moved forward with the trustees. **ACTION: AW**

**3 External Reports**

**3.1 Police**

This report is based on incidents between 07/08/2021 and 12/09/2021. During the period since the last police report there have been very few incidents of note in the Gifford area. There may be more incidents but due to the nature of these or ongoing investigations I cannot give full details.

3.1.1 Regular patrols have been carried out by both police and community wardens in the local area.

3.1.2 On Saturday 11/9/2021 a cycling tour passed through the area, this increased the vehicular and pedestrian footfall. There were no reported incidents

**3.2** **East Lothian Council**

Councillors McMillan and Trotter reported on the following issues and encouraged anyone who would like further information about any of these initiatives to contact the Councillors direct.

3.2.1 Council committee meetings are back up and running.

3.2.2 The council’s new recycling arrangements are being delayed as new kit has been held up at dock.

**3.3 Community Woodland**

The AGM was held on the 30th August in the woods and was extremely well supported with 40 people from the community attending.

**4 Internal Reports**

**4.1 Roads and Footpaths.**

4.1.1 No major potholes have been reported in the community.

4.1.2 The Roads department have completed upgrading work on the B6355 from Townhead over the Rigg to our boundary at Mayshiel cattle grid.

4.1.3 The overhanging growth from trees growing in Forbes Lodge on Station Road between Main Street and the bridge have not been cut back as yet which the property owner has been asked to do by ELC

4.1.4 The surface of the concrete pavement at the yard entrance to the Co-op has been re-laid.

4.1.5 Dave raised the issue of garden hedges not being kept within garden boundaries, which can impede access along pavements. There are particular problems on Tweeddale Avenue. Having discussed enforcement options, Councillor McMillan agreed to forward details to Tom Reid and Eamon John at East Lothian Council. It was noted that many of the hedges are being trimmed each year, but they are not being cut back enough and gradually creep out across the pavement. **ACTION: JM**

4.1.6 Dave raised an issue relating to a section of the core path between Haddington Road and Duns Road, where there is about 20 meters of low hanging hedge that needs to be cut back. Dave has spoken to the core path officer, Nick Morgan, about it.

**4.2 Street lighting.**

4.2.1 A faulty light on the Main street opposite the Goblin Hotel has been fixed. No other faults have been reported.

4.2.2 At the last meeting Dave had reported the removal of 3 old street lamp posts. Apparently only one next to the telephone exchange has actually been removed and there are 2 remaining between the Walden Terrace entrance and the 30 mph sign. This fact has been reported to the street lighting officer. The bottom meter of each lamp post has not been painted black as yet.

4.2.3 Further to the problems of overgrown hedges at 4.1.5, it was noted that some street lamp posts have become surrounded by hedging, making it difficult for them to be repainted.

**4.3 Drainage.**

4.3.1 Nothing to report on drainage except that leaves are coming off the trees on Edinburgh Road and the first section of Station road filling the drainage gullies.

**4.4 Signs.**

4.4.1 Foliage growth around the 30 mph signs leaving the village on the Haddington and Edinburgh roads had been successfully cut back by Community Council members. See additional note at 12.2.2.

**4.5 Planning**

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

**4.6 Finance:**

4.6.1 Wendy reported that the Community Council has funds of just over £15,000. Once they have paid for the Safety Survey, which cost £750 + VAT, that will leave a balance of roughly £14,500.

4.6.2 Adam proposed that Community Council funds should be used to replace the village notice boards and there were no objections to this.  **ACTION: AW/DG**

**4.7 Website**

4.7.1 Nothing to report about the website this month.

**4.8 Covid Vaccination Update**

4.8.1. A report is attached as an appendix.

**4.9 Yester Estate**

4.9.1 Garreth Wood informed the meeting that Yester Estate plans to hold a community fireworks event on the 5th of November. An application has been submitted to East Lothian Council. Garreth said that Yester Estate would be looking for some local volunteers to help.

4.9.2 Garreth introduced David Kennedy and Martin Eggington to speak about the development and implementation of Yester Estate’s 10-year Forestry Plan. Extensive work will be needed as the trees have not been managed for 30 - 40 years. Martin informed the meeting that work has already started at Danskine. David Kennedy is leading a consultation process regarding the full plan. He has been holding informal meetings with Community Council members and has also met with Neville Kilkenny. He is keen to have discussions with members of the wider community and it was suggested that an information/discussion event could be set up.

**5 Resilience Update**

5.1 Wendy proposed that Community Council re-start the monthly delivery of fish and chips to local residents, who either live alone or who are in need of some community support. Hopefully a local supplier can be used. Community Council will no longer fund the operation, but they will continue to administer it and deliver the food. Everyone present supported this proposal. Anyone who is able to help with this should contact Wendy. **ACTION: WF**

**6. AOB**

6.1 Noticeboards (see 4.6.2 above)

6.2 Noise. Following complaints of antisocial behaviour involving people drinking outside the Tweeddale Arms, Councillor McMillan confirmed that details have been passed to the Police and Environmental Health. The problems have mainly being occurring during week-days rather than at weekends. Councillor McMillan said that the matter would also be considered by Licensing Standards and that the Tweeddale Arms’ licence could be at risk if they did not manage the problem effectively.

6.3 Wendy asked if the Co-op had provided any information to the Community Council about changing to a Nisa store. Adam had not received any information.

6.4 In response to a query about late-night harvesting, Hugh talked about the need for farmers to harvest within a tight timescale and to make the most of periods of good weather. This will sometime involve harvesting late at night.

**Date of next meeting -** 7:30pm on 11th October 2021 via Zoom.

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**APPLICATIONS WITHIN GCC AREA**

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|  | **Date Validated** | **GCC first discussed** | **Comments** | **Status** |
| 21/01128/P | Erection of outbuilding for use as ancillary residential accommodation | Curlew Cottage Duns Road Gifford East Lothian EH41 4QW | 06/09/21 | Sept 2021 | Studio in garden behind Coop car park. Comprises living area, bedroom and wetroom shower/WC. Design statement refers to office and studio space for Curlew Cottage residents use – not to be sublet. | Awaiting decision |
| 21/01108/P | Change of use of woodland area for use as a nature kindergarten for nursery children, erection of log cabin, toilet, log store and associated works | Wester Wood Near Gifford East Lothian | 09/09/21 | Sept 2021 | Erection of 6.5m x 2.75m log cabin, compost toilet and log store in Wester Wood. Possible implications for right of access? | Awaiting decision |
| 21/01028/P | Erection of garden shed (Retrospective) | 3 Burnside Cottages Station Road Gifford EH41 4QL | 11/08/21 | Sept 2021 | Retrospective application for 3.75m x 1.9m timber shed. | Awaiting decision |
| 21/00956/P | Erection of fence (retrospective) | 26 Walden Terrace Gifford Haddington EH41 4QP | 21/7/21 | Aug 2021 | Replacement of leylandii hedge with fence. | Awaiting decision |
| 21/00866/P | Extension to house, installation of air source heat pump, rooflights and solar panels, erection of shed and fencing, replacement door and windows and formation of decking | 5 Old Mill Lane Gifford Haddington East Lothian EH41 4QQ | 14/7/21 | Aug 2021 | Extension and decking to rear of property. | Awaiting decision |

**APPLICATIONS OUTWITH GCC AREA**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Date Validated** | **GCC first discussed** | **Comments** | **Status** |
| 21/00563/P | Change of use of woodland area for the erection of domestic garage | Membland Gifford East Lothian EH41 4JH | 21/7/21 | Aug 2021 | Erection of a garage in woodland to the right of the driveway to Membland | Awaiting decision |
| 20/01247/P | Erection of hut and treehouse (Retrospective) | Bolton Muir Wood Gifford East Lothian EH41 4JH | 22/01/21 | Feb 2021 | This is the latest of a number of applications for the erection of huts and other structures in parcels of woodland sold by woodlands.co.uk at Bolton Muir Wood.  As reported at May meeting. | Awaiting decision |

**OTHER PLANNING MATTERS**

None

**Report for 13th September 2021:**

**From national statistics source below as of Friday 6th August:**

<https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/phs.covid.19/viz/COVID-19DailyDashboard_15960160643010/Overview>

**Nationally:**

**Adults 18 and over:** 91% have had their 1st dose, 84.9% both (August: 90% and 74%)

(18-29yrs: August figures: 73% had 1st dose and 26% both)

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**Lothian:** adults 18 + 89.3% have had 1st dose and 81.7% both

(August: 87.4% and 69.4%)

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**EAST LOTHIAN:**

**Adults 18+:** 95.7% have had their 1st dose and 89.1% both

(August: 94.0% 1st dose and 78.7% both)

NB stats do not give separate figures for 18-29 age group now

Eleanor Hulme (Dr Eleanor Kerr, GMC 2344618)