**Minutes of the Gifford Community Council held on   
Monday 9th March 2020 in the Todrick Room, Gifford Village Hall**

**Present:**

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| Jo Allen (chair) | *Present* | Mark Hardy | *Present* | Greig Robertson | *Present* |
| Wendy Ferguson | *Present* | Andrew Hamilton | *Apologies* | Eric Thomson | *Present* |
| David Griffiths | *Present* | Adam White | *Apologies* |  |  |

**In Attendance:** Cllr Aktar, Cllr Trotter and representative from Yester Estate.

**Apologies:** Cllr Hoy, Cllr McMillan, AW and Police.

# Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Meeting on the 10th February cancelled due to bad weather.

The minutes of on the 13th January were approved by David G and seconded by Eric T.

# Matters Arising

2.1 Defibrillator. Planning permission needs to be resubmitted. Ongoing.   
**Action JA & ET**

2.2 Yester Church Graveyard Extension. EL Council have said graveyard cannot be extended. Wendy has been looking at report on graveyard planning. Cllr McMillan involved. Ongoing. **Action WF**

2.3 Walls Opposite COOP and in Pound. There are ring fenced funds remaining in GCC account from restoration of cemetery. A quote for wall maintenance and repairs to be prepared by Stonemason Danny O’Brien, a second quote required. **Action AH.**

2.4 Broken Danskine Finger Post. Post has been replaced. Jo getting name of guy who does repairs so signs can be repaired before becoming unfixable.

# External Reports

## 3.1 **Police**

### 3.1.1 Anti-Social Behaviour

No Incidents reported.

### 3.1.2 Substance Misuse

No Incidents reported.

### 3.1.3 Road Safety

A couple of vehicle accidents were reported as having occurred in the area. These were minor of nature and no serious injuries were sustained by those involved.

### 3.1.4 Housebreaking

No Incidents reported.

### 3.1.5 Other Incidents

No Incidents reported.

### 3.1.6 CAPP Priorities This Month

### Parking in the areas around the Haddington primary schools during the prohibition times.

### Youth issues within Neilson Park.

### Anti-Social Behaviour in and around Ross’s Close, Haddington

## 3.2 **East Lothian Council**

Council budget has been passed. EL is the 2nd fastest growing council in Scotland. Highest level of Council Tax increase. £34 million in efficiencies have been made. Savings of £12 million needed. Extra money has been put into wellbeing of children, school extensions and revenue costs.

There was discussion of Section 75 contributions for new houses and that there were no starter homes being built locally. Cllr Trotter pointed out one bed properties being built (location not recorded)

Cllr Aktar - surgery to be held at Lunch Club at Tweeddale. Cllr reported Housing Revenue Account - will have a 5% increase in rent which is to be invested in Council housing and renovations. Knox Academy - Parent Council - faculty improvement plan - Sue Cook is turning the school around.

20% increase in roads budget.

Cllr Trotter reported a Gifford resident attended surgery to complain that they were given a ticket for parking in long stay at Tesco’s.

## 3.3 **Community Woodlands Association**

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## 3.4 **Lunch Club**

Letter was to be sent to Tweeddale thanking them for job done at Xmas lunch.

## 3.5 **Parent Council.**

No report.

# Internal Reports

## 4.1 **Roads, Lighting & Paths**

### 4.1.1 Roads

Hopes Road. In poor condition. Cllr Hoy reports will hopefully be in next years Council budget.

Co-op Junction is to be fixed.

### 4.1.2 Paths

Nothing to report.

### 4.1.3 Lighting

Duns Rd Lampost. Issue with underground BT cable slowing down job. Hopefully completed early March.

### 4.1.4 Signs

Nothing to report.

## 4.2 **Planning**

Tweeddale House fencing.

Longnewton steading conversion to 4/5 bedroom executive housing to local review as previously for smaller houses. No comment from GCC.

## 4.3 **Finance**

Playmap and Insurance cheques have been sent. Picnic tables for the park have been purchased. A request has been made to install memorial bench at the park.

## 4.4 **Area Partnership**

Funding has been approved for the ramp at the park, with non slip base and timber handrails.

The Connected Communities review have a named contact.

Keith Dingwall Service Manager for Planning, to do a workshop on planning issues, improvements by developers.

## 4.5 **Traffic Calming**

## 4.5.1 MH confirmed £3,100 funding from Area Partnership for the Duns Rd cushions.

## 4.5.2 There has been a request from Schoolhouse for a noise audit.

## 4.6 **Flooding**

### 4.6.1 Duns Road

AW suggested that storage be found for plastic sandbags. Grants are available for orange/white barriers. Ongoing. **Action AW**

GCC to contact Feuars regarding management of Gifford Commons. Awaiting response. **Action JA**

JA attended meeting 15th February with Council, Huge Broad and Logan Weddel. Farmers won’t pay for fixing drains. Drains are connected but blocked. Feuars and Council do not have money for repair.

### 4.6.2 Station Road

Level survey. Ongoing

## 4.7 **GCC Website**

A new person needs to be found to administer the website. Ongoing **Action JA**

## 4.8 **Gifford Spring Clean**

Planned for after school holiday at the end of April - little path, Park Cres. & Hight St. Food from Greggs.

# Correspondence

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# AOB

6.1 Ramp at Park. Area partnership funding has been approved for ramp.

6.2 Laura Kierney of Dialabus attended meeting to raise awareness of the charities work. Organisation provides transport for people with limited mobility, providing a door to door service. There is a Dial-a-bus and a Dial-a-ride (more like a taxi) service. The bus can take folk to the shops in Haddington/Jewel etc, for £2/journey.

The service is for all ages. The Dial-a-ride service is £4.75 for the first mile then 50p/mile as the crow flies.

GCC undertook to promote service, through Gifford Grapvine and Church.

6.3 Tweeddale have asked if an advertising board can be set outside. Advised to speak to planning for consent.

6.4 The Gifford Road Race the coming Saturday. TTRO in place.

6.5 The Community Council are incredibly grateful for the support of Nick Morgan over the years. He will be missed by the CC and the village.

6.5 Yester Estate. Planning easter egg hunt on 11th of April. They have secured a felling license for Nursery Wood at the end of the park. Historic Scotland and the Estate are concerned about people pulling stones out of the wall at the Goblin Hall.

# Date of Next Meeting

Monday 20th April 2020 in the Todrick Room, Gifford Village Hall.