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

**On 11th July at Gifford Bowling Club**

**Participating** Adam White (Chair) Richard Austin Dave Griffiths   
 Jill Hyslop  Rita Buchan Wendy Ferguson

**In Attendance** Councillor Tom Trotter

**Apologies** Eleanor Hulme Councillor Shamin Akhtar Councillor George McGuire Councillor John McMillan

**1 Minutes of Previous Meeting**

  The meeting approved the minutes of the meeting of the 13th June (approved by Richard Austin and Dave Griffiths).

**2. Matters arising**

**2.1 Newlands Wind Energy Hub**

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

* Wednesday 21 September - Gifford Village Hall, 2pm - 8pm
* Thursday 22 September - Garvald Village Hall, 11am - 3pm
* Thursday 22 September - Stenton Village Hall, 4pm - 8pm
* Friday 23 September - Haddington John Gray Centre, 10am - 2pm

As previously reported, the Association of East Lothian Community Councils (AELCC) is considering a suggestion to share community windfarm funds. AELCC members will be meeting again in August to look at this. Richard and Adam agreed to speak to Belltown before the AELCC meeting in August to find out more about the plans for the Newlands community fund.  **ACTION: AW/RA**

**2.2 Dunside Windfarm**

Nothing to report.

**2.3 Duns Road Traffic Survey**

Nothing to report. As previously reported, there will be no progress on this for at least 12 months, while the council completes the process to make permanent the 20mph speed limits.

**2.4 Edinburgh Road Widening Survey**

As previously reported, a survey has been done but Richard has not received any details/timescales yet.

**2.5 Additional Graveyard space**

Nothing to report.  Wendy and Councillor McMillan will catch up after the holidays. **ACTION WF/JM**

**2.6 Wheelie Bins on Main Street**

Councillor Akhtar was not at the meeting to provide an update. The next steps are for the dimensions of the unit to be confirmed, so that a quote for construction can be obtained. A planning application can then be made. **ACTION SA**

**2.7 Defibrillator**

2.7.1 Garage defibrillator. Before the meeting Eleanor circulated a note, detailing a problem with the control unit which controls the temperature in the cabinet. The cost of a new unit is c.£500. Wendy confirmed that we have enough money to replace the cabinet and there were no objections to buying a new one. Wendy will speak to Eleanor about ordering a new cabinet. **ACTION: AW/EH**

2.7.2 Wendy confirmed that the re-conditioned defibrillator for the school had arrived and would be installed shortly.

**2.8 Railings**

The railings at either side of the school steps at the back entrance have been painted. Mrs Mercer has now been appointed as the permanent head at Yester and she will provide a costing for the new shed. It was not known whether the railings in the playground will also be painted and Councillor Akhtar can hopefully confirm this after her holiday. **ACTION: SA**

**2.9 Noticeboard**

The council has sent a map for Wendy to mark up the location of the new noticeboard. The council will assess whether planning is required. It was noted that the switch from a wood cabinet to a metal one might require planning approval. A cost estimate of around £1,000 had been informally obtained.  **ACTION: WF**

**2.10 Bus stop- review of position**

This was held over until the next meeting.

**2.11 Disabled car parking for Gifford Community Woodland**

Gifford Community Woodland would like to be able to provide a disabled parking to make it easier for people with disabilities to access the woodland paths. The space would be on Tweeddale Avenue, next to the single white line. It was noted that the council intends to replace the white line with double yellow lines to enforce the no parking zone close to the junction. Adam will contact Alan Stubbs about the disabled space. **ACTION AW**

**3. External Reports**

**3.1 Police**

Emma Stewart had emailed the Chair email a/c to introduce herself as the new Community Officer for the Haddington area. No Police Report had been received for the meeting. Adam will write to Chief Superintendent Paton to discuss how the community liaison between Haddington Police and Gifford CC will work going forward. **ACTION: AW**

**3.2 East Lothian Council**

There was little for Councillor Trotter report as the council is in recess. He mentioned that he was looking at the possibility of getting local surgeries up and running again.

**3.3 Gifford Community Woodland**

Jill reported that a horse logger was on site this week, removing felled trees from Fawn Wood. Venturing Out are running a couple of outdoor sessions for families with additional support needs.  Liz Doig is running a Forest School ‘Summer Camp’ pilot for 8 children over 3 days.  Yester Church is planning a woodland service, which will form part of a wider community event on 28th August.   The AGM will take place as part of the same event.

**3.4 Yester Estate**

Nothing to report

**4 Internal Reports**

**4.1 Roads and Footpaths**

There has been no confirmation yet about a timescale for repairing the Longyester/Quarry road. Nothing to report on footpaths except overgrown hedges from some properties within the village blocking access causing pedestrians to walk on the roads. Councillor Trotter recommended contacting Bruce Allison at East Lothian Council.  It was noted that hedges should not be cut until late July, due to bird nesting season.  It was agreed that Adam would speak to the council to confirm whether the households have been spoken to, notwithstanding that the hedge cutting might not be able to happen immediately. **ACTION: AW**

**4.2 Lighting**

Nothing to report.

**4.3 Drainage**

Nothing to report.

**4.4 Signs**

Dave pointed out that Yester Estate still need to take down the sign tied to the fence at the 3-way junction beside Gifford Golf Course.

**4.5 Planning**

Please see attached report for planning applications within and outwith GCC Area.  Last month a local resident had asked for further information about a possible development at the Furniture School. Richard reported that the roof of one of the workshops had blown off during Storm Arwen and was being replaced.

**4.6 Finance**

Nothing to report.

**4.7 Website**

Nothing to report.

**4.8 Resilience**

Wendy reported that fish and chips had been delivered on the last Friday of June and had been well-received. An additional resident had been added to the delivery list, after she had been in touch to ask about it. It was noted that Covid numbers were increasing again. Adam reported that there were only 18 at the lunch club.  Although numbers traditionally drop over the summer, it was agreed that it was important to carry on the service as people enjoyed it and benefited greatly from the social interaction.

**4.9 Local business liaison**

As previously reported, Rita has scaled back her visits. Concerns have been raised about the appearance of the shop front. It was agreed that Richard should ask the planning department about enforcing conditions relating to the shop front.  **ACTION: RA**

**5. Correspondence**

Nothing to report.

**6. AOB**

**6.1 NISA shop front**

Covered under Local Business Liaison above.

**6.2 PINGO on-demand travel app**

A Garvald resident had forwarded details about an on-demand service being offered by Borders Buses. It was agreed that this might be a useful service for our local area, but it was not for Community Council to action.

**6.3 Clothes recycling facility at the Bleachfield**

Several bags of rubbish, including garden waste, had been left at the clothing recycling bank. As the company that runs the facility does not take bags that are left beside the bin, Dave contacted the council to try to get the rubbish cleared. People frequently leave bags beside the bank, despite a notice telling them not to. The company are going to assess whether a different style of clothing bank, with a larger opening, might hopefully stop bags being left on the pavement.

**6.4 Keep Scotland Beautiful**

Adam reported that he had submitted a portfolio, with information about Community Council, Gifford Community Woodland, Gifford Horticultural Society and Yester Estate. He had also submitted a submission for a discretionary award for Gifford Community Woodland. The judging takes place at 2pm on Wednesday 3rd August.  Adam will arrange for a village clean on to take place on Saturday 29th July.

**6.5 Damaged walls/masonry**

Dave had been in touch with East Lothian Council about various masonry repairs.

Regarding the bridge onto Station Road, the council has reported that “As it is minor damage only and not causing any risk to the public, repairs will be scheduled when we next have masonry bridge maintenance works ongoing in the general area.” In relation to the damage to the wall at the Bleachfield, the council is looking at the cost of remedial work. There is also damage to the wall in the area adjacent to the garages at Park Crescent and the council is checking ownership.

**6.6 Bowling Club Defibrillator**

Gifford Bowling Club are considering getting a defibrillator. On the basis that a re-conditioned one costs around £1, 400, it was suggested that Community Council could share the cost 50/50. Dave agreed to discuss this with the Bowling Club committee. **ACTION DG**

Date of next meeting: Monday 8th August.

**APPLICATIONS WITHIN GCC AREA**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Date Validated** | **GCC first discussed** | **Comments** | **Status** |
| 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. | Awaiting decision |
| 22/00657/P | Erection of summerhouse and decking | Trebistor 2 Walden Drive Gifford EH41 4QY | 13/06/22 | July 2022 | Flat roof summerhouse, approximately 3m x 2m, in garden. | Awaiting decision |
| 22/00578/P | Change of use from agricultural ground to domestic garden ground, formation of hardstanding, extension to house and erection of garage (part retrospective) | 8 Longyester Cottages Yester Gifford EH41 4PL | 24/05/22 | June 2022 | Single storey, two bedroom extension and separate garage. Application includes retrospective change of use for driveway and garden. | Awaiting decision |
| 22/00549/P | Extension and alterations to house | Mellendean High Street Gifford EH41 4QU | 17/05/22 | June 2022 | Single storey extension to rear, replacing existing smaller lean-to. | Awaiting decision |
| 22/00445/P | Change of use of agricultural land for the installation of solar panels for domestic use | Land North West Of Broadwoodside Station Road Gifford Haddington EH41 4JQ | 22/04/22 | May 2022 | Installation of ground mounted solar panels in a field to the north of Broadwoodside. | 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 |
| 21/01457/P | Erection of 28 holiday lodges, 1 reception/plant room/store building and associated works | Castlepark Golf Club Gifford East Lothian EH41 4PL | 01/03/22 | Jan 2022 | Application has been re-submitted and validated. GCC comments, broadly in support of the development, have been submitted. | 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 |

**APPLICATIONS OUTWITH GCC AREA**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Date Validated** | **GCC first discussed** | **Comments** | **Status** |
| None.  Note: Applications for huts within Bolton Muir Wood will no longer be reported. Recent approved applications have all referenced the site and woodland development plans for the wider wood area. |  |  | . |  |

**OTHER PLANNING MATTERS**

**Newlands Hill Wind Energy Hub (Belltown Power)**

Dates for the second consultation event are:

* Wednesday 21 September - Gifford Village Hall, 2pm - 8pm
* Thursday 22 September - Garvald Village Hall, 11am - 3pm
* Thursday 22 September - Stenton Village Hall, 4pm - 8pm
* Friday 23 September - Haddington John Gray Centre, 10am - 2pm

**Dunside Wind Farm (EDF)**

Planning application is expected early 2023.