

## Gifford Community Council

Minutes of the meeting of Monday, 12<sup>th</sup> April 2010, held at 7.30pm in the Todrick Room of the Village Hall.

Present: Alastair McClung (AM), Andrew Gilmour (AG), Elizabeth Whiteford (EW), Jane Steven (JS), Julian Tennent (JT), Margaret McDougall (MMcD), Margaret Maslowski (MMas), Shona Thomas (ST), and ELC Cllr L.Broun-Lindsay

1. Appointment of Chair and Welcome. It was proposed and agreed that AM chair the meeting in the absence of John O'Connor (JOC).
2. Apologies: -- were noted from JOC and ELC Cllr Sheena Richardson
3. Minutes of the meeting of 8<sup>th</sup> March,10: the minutes were approved on the proposal of EW, seconded by MMcD.
4. Matters Arising:- None.
5. Police: - there was no Police representative present. It was *noted* there would be a "roadshow" of Police and Fire Service on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> April in Gifford.
6. Gifford on Line: ST pointed out that, as of 9<sup>th</sup> April, there had still been no updating of the website, although OJOC had provided minutes for the purpose. *Agreed:* to make OJOC aware of this.
7. Correspondence: JT tabled one item of correspondence which was a letter from "Orange" Mobile acknowledging the letter of complaint sent in March by GCC about poor reception in Gifford. JS reported that in the last weeks reception had greatly improved. *Noted.*
8. Planning: - AG's report on applications registered since the March meeting was attached to the agenda, and he spoke to it. He recommended no action be taken in respect to the two applications, neither of which raised significant planning issues. This was *agreed.*  
Regarding the ongoing issue of the quarry at Longyester: nearby resident and objector Gary Calder had raised the issue of possible Radon hazard. JOC had enquired with ELC and HSE. Gary Calder had been referred to the appropriate division of HSE in Cardiff.  
Reinstatement of land affected by the quarry: it was *agreed* that ELC be asked to provide a copy of the bond which is said to be in force to bind the company to perform the reinstatement if eg the company changes hands. AG would request this.
9. East Lothian PublicTransport Review: this item had recurred on the Agenda  
. owing to a belief that the Association of ELCommunity Councils was intending to hold a meeting on the matter, but this seems not to be happening. Cllr Broun-Lindsay noted that the transport arrangements in the county were a mish-mash. He thought any necessary review would be carried out by the Transportation Division of ELC. JS noted she was on the Public Transport Users' Committee. S.Baxter of the AELCC's would be a good source of information. *Agreed:* JS to inquire into this.
10. Reports including Yester Estate: Excess growth at base of Lime Trees: EW had approached Mr Menotti, who said he had no objection if tidying up work were to be done, but he had no money to pay for it. EW has applied to Landscape and Countryside ( Maree Johnston ) for £600 for the purpose. AM thought this £600 quoted by ELC was high for the work in question. The issue of whose responsibility it was in this area arose, and whether Health and Safety

came into it. A member of the public thought it was part of a bigger issue of untidiness of the Village.

*Agreed:* that JT contact Archie Martin of ELC, and/or Stuart Pryde to try to resolve the matter.

Buildings within Yester Estate: JT reported that Ian Arnott, of HADAS, who is working on the VDS, has been in contact with a Mr Martindale of Historic Scotland about the state of the buildings, and more may come of this.

- 11 Potholes and Road Repairs: It had been noted earlier that potholes in the Avenue had been attended to.

Generally, there was concern that there was loose grit in many locations throughout the village.

A drain in the road beside the Church was identified as giving chronic trouble. Members thought there ought to be a “pinch-points” team in ELC.

*Agreed:* JT to contact ELC’s Peter Forsyth about these problems.

- 12 Village Design Statement etc: AG reported there was good progress with the VDS. On the Lime Avenue there was some discussion on the status of the Limes. Some feared the trees were towards the end of their life-cycle, raising the question what could be done with them if the right to buy took effect. Others pointed to the varying ages of the limes, some having been planted later and at intervals. AG had examined the possibility of an authoritative report on

the trees even while still owned by Mr Menotti. However, such a report, which might cost £5000, would not be feasible before the Avenue was acquired.

Roundabout in Bleachfield Playground: AM had a report on the Playground. He felt many items were in good order, and need not be replaced as part of a totally new playground. He planned therefore to approach various agencies (eg Viridor) for help over individual items such as the roundabout and see-saw.

*Agreed:* AM to be asked to go ahead on this basis.

Records: this is ongoing. Most of GCC records are now in the Todrick Room but much needs to be done to place them in good order.

General: it was *agreed* that several matters could be removed from this omnibus item in coming agendas.

- 13 Any other business:

(i) Bleachfield Toilets: a flooding problem caused by mischievous persons.

*Agreed:* automatic taps are needed: JOC progressing.

(ii) The Kirkyard and shortage of burial space for the future, -- item ongoing.

(iii) Empty social housing: none appear to be abandoned at present.

(iv) Street Lighting: JS reported that residents in Tweeddale Avenue had had prompt response when they told ELC about faults.

(v) Tennis Courts for the Village: AM is in discussion with the Golf Club.

A diagram showing how courts might be sited in unused ground was tabled.

(vi) Menotti Centenary celebration in Italy: *Agreed:* that this might be an occasion for someone from the musical world locally to attend. It would not be policy to commit GCC funds to send a representative “officially”.

(vii) Telephone Exchange – hedge of the premises: MMcD reported the hedge was overgrowing neighbouring public space. It appears to be a BT responsibility)

*Agreed:* JT to contact the owner.

(viii) Traffic direction signpost beside the Church: MMcD noted that this needed to be painted. *Agreed:* ( ELC to be contacted – again )

(ix) Uncontrolled dog: MMcD noted that a dog had been wandering

“ownerless”. Also a “postie’s” dog had been lacerated by loose barbed wire near the Bleachfield.

(x) EW reported that the Local Priorities budget allocated to GCC was only down a little for the new financial year. She had applied for money both for the Lime Tree bases. JS noted that if public GCC money is spent on these privately owned items, it should be made clear, that it is on a “one-off” basis.

(xi) JT noted the matter of lack of affordable housing in Gifford, and consequent inability of young people to get housed (even if they have close family connexions with Gifford). It had been noted in several meetings that the small number of affordable houses in Gifford tended to be all taken by people with special needs, -- often people from outwith the local area, many of whom might actually have preferred an urban setting for transport and other reasons. He saw this as part over an overall imbalance between supply and need in the county. He proposed that, within the election period, a letter be sent to parliamentary candidates asking if they would be willing to take necessary steps to alleviate the need. *Agreed: JT to write in these terms.*

14. Date of next meeting: Monday, 10<sup>th</sup> May, 2010.

**Gifford Community Council Meeting 12.04.10**  
**REPORT ON PLANNING MATTERS**

page 1 of 1

Weekly Listings of Registered Applications over the past weeks since the last meeting contained the following applications for work within the GCC area: PLEASE NOTE that new procedures for dealing with applications were introduced in August 2009, and we no longer receive notification of withdrawn applications, or of decisions made about registered applications. This is regrettable.

**Registered**

11.03.10	1
<b>10/00156/P</b>	<b>Siting of air source heat pump 7 Tweeddale Crescent, Gifford EH1 4QZ for Mr &amp; Mrs Robert Sykes</b> <i>—this is a small amendment to an earlier planning application, 09/00005/FUL, adding a heat pump discreetly sited beneath a raised deck; no action recommended</i>
18.03.10	1
<b>10/00108/P</b>	<b>Erection of Conservatory, steps and handrails Corrie, 4 Tweeddale Crescent, Gifford EH41 4QZ for Mr &amp; Mrs George Tait</b> <i>—a small square conservatory on the rear (north east) side of the house;</i> <i>no action recommended</i>
25.03.10	nil
01.04.10	nil
08.04.10	nil

Andrew Gilmour  
8 April 2010