

Gifford Community Council

Meeting of Monday, 9th August 2010, held at 7.30 pm in the Todrick Room of the Village Hall.

Minutes

1 Welcome and note of those present; and election of Acting Chair.

It was proposed and accepted unanimously that, in the absence of the Chair, Alistair McClung (AMcC) should chair the meeting.. He welcomed those present: Julian Tennent (JT) Secretary, Andrew Gilmour (AG), Margaret Maslowski (MMas), Margaret McDougall (MMcD), Jane Steven (JS), Shona Thomas (ST); and ELC Cllr Sheena Richardson, and four members of the public.

2. Apologies: -- were noted from Elizabeth Whiteford (EW), John O'Connor(OJOC), and ELC Cllrs Ludovic Broun Lindsay, Tom Trotter; and the Police.

3. Minutes of 14th June, 2010: -- had been circulated. Certain qualifications were noted: (i) JS on Item 9, was doubtful of the mandate given her as shown in the minutes. (ii) On Item 11 the second "MMas" should read "MMcD". Subject to this the Minutes were *approved* as a correct record, (proposed by MMcD and seconded by AG.)

4. Matters arising: -- none.

5. Police Report: P.C. Kelly Paton had emailed apologies, and said the Police had nothing to report. It was *noted* that this was prior to a report by a resident of the Square, Alison Watt, that a local person had punched in one of her windows, before coming to offer to repair the damage!

6. Gifford-on-Line website: nothing new to report.

7. Correspondence: the Secretary reported incoming items as follows:

(i) from Strategic Development Planning Authority, 23rd June, Main issues report and workshop.

(ii) from Scottish Water, 5th August, Public Meeting in Haddington's Maitlandfield Hotel on 22nd September.

(iii) from Association of E. Lothian Community Councils, -- a meeting on Wednesday 11th August at John Muir House, Haddington. (*noted* JS may attend).

(iv) from ELVON -- Signposts for funding pamphlet.

from National Association of Community Councils per Frank Gunning. Meeting in the Howden Centre, Livingston, on Saturday 14th August.

(v) from a firm - a leaflet on items of playground equipment

These items were *noted*.

8. Planning, including housing proposals for Castle Park.

The meeting heard a pre-application presentation from Mr James Wilson, and his planning consultant Mr Neil Sutherland. They expected to consult with the public more formally, possibly on 30th August. There had been a clubhouse with basic and temporary facilities at the Castlepark course for a few years. It was inadequate to cope, for example with senior and junior visitors and members. So the applicants want an improved clubhouse but one which would cover no more than the present area. To pay for this they wished to build and sell up to 10 cottages nearby. Drainage would be by septic tank. Mr James Wilson said he did not want affordable housing within his project.

Local resident Don Ledingham expressed opposition to the housing, and drew attention to the opposition of another resident, Mrs Vernon. He thought the users of the clubhouse should pay for the project through their fees, - as against the use of speculative house-building. It could be that the club itself might fail, -- but the 10 cottages would remain.

The applicants withdrew from the meeting.

Other Planning Applications: AG's report on these was tabled and he spoke to it.

- Forbes Lodge: extra house to the SW. AG reported that he and Ian Arnott had had preliminary discussions with the new architect now involved (Grove-Raines). At present there is no new formally registered application
- House behind the Goblin Ha' Inn (Keith Hare). AG reported that ELC had approved the application, subject only to provision of a report on the **levels** of the various parts. He strongly deprecated this approach as the elements in the plan are poorly thought through.
- SES Plan – Main Issues: AG had already supplied members with a summary. He felt members should actually read this with a view to discussion at the September meeting.

AG's recommendations were *approved*.

9. Reports: JT noted that at the last meeting EW had taken on the task of studying a lengthy ELC report on Licensing with a view to reporting back to the CC. She could perhaps do so in September. *Noted*

10. Potholes and road repairs: Members reported there had been **some** progress but a lot of potholes in our area remain untouched, (eg on the Edinburgh road).

Amongst other specific trouble spots is the set of steps in Walden Place, used by pedestrians coming down to the School or the centre.. They have become displaced and skewed and are awkward especially for prams and buggies.

Agreed that these points be brought to the attention of ELC Transportation.

11. Ongoing items not already covered:

- (i) Village Design Statement: AG reported that this is progressing.
- (ii) Roundabout for Sportsfield play area: AMcC confirmed he is continuing to follow this up.
- (iii) Toilets at Sportsfield and disabled access: ELC have argued that disabled organisations themselves have asked that the disabled cubicle be locked, but members could not see why the disabled cubicle should be more liable to vandalism than the rest of the complex (which is open). If there **has** to be a "Radar" key system, the keeping of the key at Hogg's Newsagents should be looked into.
- (iv) Kirkyard – space issue: it seemed this matter is rather less urgent than once thought, and there may be room for 6 or 7 years of use.
- (v) Tennis court: AMcC had not had a reply from the Golf Club but informally the indications are not good
- (vi) Menotti Centenary: JS had contacted the Wylie's and it seemed lElspeth Wylie might be interested to attend, albeit without official financial support.
- (vii) Affordable Housing: JT had contacted some of the involved workers in ELC to elicit more information about the scope of the problem and had informed members of probes made. However, there have been only oral responses so far. In discussion it seemed likely that affordable **land** was needed (probably only available from the Government, UK or Scottish) – before building could happen

commensurate with need. Arguably, upward pressure on ELC and central Government representatives is needed before the will may exist to bring about results. At present overall housing production, (let alone affordable housing), - in UK is at 1920's levels. Cllr Richardson referred to the problem of "NIMBYism" in this regard.

- (viii) GCC Records: *Noted* that although much material is now located in the Council filing cabinets in the Todrick Room, -- work is needed to put it in order.

12.AOB:

- (i) Planters – at Village entrances: Members felt congratulations were due to those who had maintained these at such a good level.
- (ii) Pop Concert: There were mixed reports. Some neighbours were not bothered by the event. The noise seemed to have been more noticeable in the "Tweeddales" area than in the southern part of the Village.
- (iii) Road Signpost adjacent to the Church; it was noted that this sign, currently an eyesore, had not been painted
- (iv) Speeding in the Village: This is still a problem, although the electronic warning device has some effect
- (v) House in E Saltoun for sale restricted to those with Saltoun connexions; this is outside our area.

- 13. Date of next meeting: Monday, 13th September, 2010.

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REPORT ON PLANNING MATTERS

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Weekly Listings of Registered Applications over the past weeks since the last meeting contained the following applications for work within the GCC area:

	Registered
17.06.10	nil
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24.06.10	nil
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01.07.10	1
10/00473/P	Erection of shed 3 Burnside Cottages, Station Road, Gifford EH41 4QP for Mr Charles Hunter <i>—9' x 6' timber garden shed near the corner of the bowling green;</i> <i>no action recommended</i>
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08.07.10	1
10/00547/P	Alterations and extension to house 3 Tweeddale Crescent, Gifford EH41 4QZ for Mr & Mrs D Hyslop <i>—addition of a garden room, bathroom and WC at new rear</i> <i>entrance;</i> <i>monopitch grey aluminium roofs; no action recommended.</i>
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15.07.10	1
10/00589/P	Changes to window and door materials, other minor changes 7 Tweeddale Crescent, Gifford EH41 4QZ for Mr & Mrs Robert Sykes <i>—this is a further amendment to an earlier planning application,</i> <i>09/00005/FUL,; no action recommended</i>
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29.07.10	1
10/00620/NAF	Prior notification of erection of agricultural building West Hopes, Gifford EH41 4PL for Mr William Wood, Factor <i>—sensitive development using existing stone walls; good</i> <i>supporting</i> <i>statement; no action recommended</i>
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05.08.10	1
10/00616/P	Installation of external boiler and oil tank (retrospective) 10 Tweeddale Crescent, Gifford EH41 4QZ for Mr Richard Armstrong <i>—no action recommended</i>

Andrew Gilmour
7 August 2010