

# GIFFORD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## Minutes

of the meeting of Monday, 14<sup>th</sup> March 2011, held in the Todrick Room of the Village Hall at 7.30 pm.

1. Welcome: John O'Connor (JOC) Chair, welcomed those present: Julian Tennent (JT) Secretary, Elizabeth Whiteford (EW) Treasurer, Alastair McClung (AMcC), Andrew Gilmour (AG), Margaret McDougall (MMcD), Margaret Maslowski (MMas), Shona Thomas (ST), John Wrinn (JW), - ELC Councillors Tom Trotter and Sheena Richardson (both part-time), WPC Lynn Black and WPC Deborah Gray, and several members of the public. The Chair welcomed John Wrinn to his first attendance as a Gifford Community Council Councillor.

2. Apologies: None.

3. Minutes of the meeting of 14<sup>th</sup> February 2011 Draft 1: acceptance of the minutes was proposed by MMcD, seconded by MMas, and *agreed*.

4. Matters arising: none.

5. Police: WPC Gray outlined three incidents:

-- Speeding on the Duns Rd approach. The Police plan to do a check with hand-held radar

-- An incident involving the unauthorised moving of a car.

-- An incident involving bicycles in the Walden Terrace/ Walden Place area.

The Police gave notice of some operations, including a weekend check on licensed premises; an anti-drugs and alcohol abuse operation between 7<sup>th</sup> March and 21st May.

The Chair thanked the Police for their rapid attendance at the incident on 4 February 2011, when one of the Avenue Limes had to be felled, because it was causing danger to the public. The WPCs then left.

6. Gifford-on-line website: JOC expressed his gratitude to Mike Gower, who had fully updated the website as requested. All the Minutes for 2007, 2008, 2009, and 2010 could now be accessed there on

[www.giffordonline.co.uk](http://www.giffordonline.co.uk) by clicking on the "Village page" link above a nice photograph of Gifford Main Street. It also there shows our Mission Statement, our Constitution, and our meetings dates list for 2011. Other improvements are expected to follow

7. Correspondence:

(a) Cycle Racing: the success of this event was noted, although some noted some disruption to normal movement.

(b) The Secretary noted items of incoming mail:

- Meeting of the Association of EL Community Councils (23 March)
  - An ELC circular, which speaks of their policy regarding small wind turbines.
  - An ELC circular about the “Civic Pride” Fund – applications by 31<sup>st</sup> March.
  - Notice of a meeting of the Association of Scottish Community Councils (26<sup>th</sup> March).
  - ELC meeting on community planning on 24<sup>th</sup> March.

(c) Re-cycling bins in the Avenue: these were felt to need cleaning and painting. *Agreed* AMcC would inspect these a give an opinion on whether it was worth painting them.

(d) Play area in the Sportsfield:  
Information on fund-raising for the project was given out. The Longyester Quarry concern are offering £1500. £3500 out of a target total of £10000 has been raised so far. The children are being canvassed about their wishes for various play equipment.

- (e) Sportsfield WC block: ELC Cllr Tom Trotter stated his expectation of a large sum for a rebuild including changing rooms and showers. Costs of £150,000 have been approved. He stated regarding the ongoing problems with the toilets, that they must remain “fit for purpose”, and that if recourse to officials does not bring this about in a reasonable time, then our 3 ELC Councillors should be informed.
- (f) Lime tree Avenue: a copy of a letter from ELC’s Archie Martin to Mr Menotti was tabled. It appears simply to encourage the owner to have a survey done with a view to safety.
- (g) Menotti Centenary: ELC Cllr Sheena Richardson is to attend, and will represent the district in general, including Gifford. AMcC and some other members queried why either the ELC or GCC were involved, and indeed why public money should be spent for this purpose.
- (h) Yester Woodland Sale: A sub committee had been set up, chaired by JW. He pointed out that “Community right to buy” was not involved here, as the sale process has already been advertised. Historic Scotland have been approached very informally to see, if they might help with community acquisition, with a more formal approach to follow. It was noted that Historic Scotland had previously made an offer of a 100% grant to Mr Menotti for the repair of the Castle (including the historic Goblin Ha’ mentioned in Walter Scott’s Marmion), but this offer had been turned down by Mr. Menotti. JOC had written to the agents asking if the closing date for the sale could be extended. *Agreed:* the sub-committee’s work to go on.

8. Planning: (See the report, which appears at the end of these Minutes). AG tabled his report on applications for planning permission in the last period. He noted, that in the (earlier) case of Beechwood, in the High St, he had written to the ELC, on behalf of GCC, saying the house was distinguished and the proposal out of keeping. AG's recommendations were *agreed*. AG's comments on the ELC decision on Forbes Lodge were the subject of long discussion.( ELC Cllr Sheena Richardson joined the meeting and took part). JW suggested that the GCC has to decide whether to take the matter further or simply to deplore the decision. The strange behaviour of the Planning Committee on 2<sup>nd</sup> March was *noted*, the apparent inattention of members to the issues during the session, and the inconsistency with their decision on an earlier application at Forbes Lodge (over which the problems hardly seemed to have been overcome). The order of business had been altered at the start of the meeting, as a result one of Gifford's ELC Cllrs (Broun-Lindsay) had not been present for the discussion and decision, or represented the views of the GCC. JOC noted that, in the planner's report on the application the new site was very misleadingly described as "slightly" higher than Forbes Lodge, when in fact the difference was some 3.3 metres.

JOC raised the issue of whether at the Planning Committee he had "impugned the integrity" of ELC Cllr Richardson, as might be taken from a report in the "Courier". Cllr Richardson agreed he had not. JOC was to take this further with the Courier. Ian Arnott, ( representing HADAS) said that the ELC decision had now set a precedent for infill in a conservation area.

Andrew Hamilton, Forbes Lodge applicant, gave notice of his wish to address the GCC at the next meeting, and a 5 minute address was agreed.

9. Reports: regarding the historic herds' horn and bell, that had now been passed by Yester School to the GCC, it was proposed that they be displayed in the main hall of the Village Hall. But this, it was *agreed* should be visited further at the next GCC meeting.

10. (Not discussed)

11. Christmas Tree: *Noted* Hugh Broad had been thanked.

12. ( Not discussed).

13. AOB:

It was reported that Alison Mill-Irving, Secretary of the Community Company, had let GCC know that the registered "Right-to-buy" would shortly expire unless renewed. She herself would not be able to be involved in a renewed process. This was *noted*. JOC has the renewal papers.

14. Date of next meeting: Monday, 11<sup>th</sup> April, 2011 at 7.30 pm in the Todrick Room of Gifford Village Hall.

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It also shows all our Minutes for 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, February 2011, our Mission Statement, our Constitution, and the **dates of our meetings** in 2011.

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**Gifford Community Council Meeting 14.03.11**  
**REPORT ON PLANNING MATTERS**

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

	<b>Registered</b>
17.02.11	1
<b>11/00084/P</b>	<b>Alterations to conservatory</b> <b>Larchwood, Edinburgh Road, Gifford EH4 4JE</b> <b>for Dr Alexander Buchan</b> <i>—not controversial; upgrading, with new lantern, lower glazed panels</i> <i>replaced with harled insulated panel</i>
24.02.11	nil
03.03.11	nil
10.03.11	nil

**10/00854/P, Erection of house at Forbes Lodge, Gifford**

The main planning event this month was the Planning Committee meeting on 1 March, when the Forbes Lodge application was permitted, the committee voting 10 votes to 1 in favour. We were not supported by any of our local Councillors, Sheena Richardson abstaining, and Ludovic Broun-Lindsay leaving when the agenda reached this item. Both had attended the Site Visit, when the size and extent of the house surprised everyone present. Tom Trotter was absent from both the Site Visit and the Planning Committee meeting. We have learned that the Minutes of the meeting will not be available until May! Most villagers will have seen the report in the Courier of 11 March, with its photograph confirming that the proposed house will dominate Forbes Lodge itself.

Andrew Gilmour  
12 March 2011