

GIFFORD COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING
Monday 11 August 2008, held in the Gifford Village Hall
Minutes

1. Present	Liz Stewart (LS – acting Chair), Elizabeth Whiteford (EW – Treasurer), Jane Steven (JS), Margaret MacDougall (MMcD), Margaret Maslowski (MM), Ian Johnston (IJ), David Betts (DB), Andrew Gilmour (AG), Julian Tennent (JT), Cllr. Paul McLennan, (PM) Cllr. Sheena Richardson, (SR) Cllr. Tom Trotter, (TT) MP Anne Moffat (AM), and 80 members of the public	Action
2. Apologies	John O’Connor (Chairman)	
3. Post Office closure	<p>LS welcomed MP Anne Moffat, councillors and members of the public attending the meeting. She was pleased to note the large attendance of the public for this open meeting on the Post Office (PO) closure and other Community Council matters. JT gave a summary of the PO closure to date and stated that a decision is to be made on the 19 August. MP AM addressed the meeting which she felt to be premature given that the decision would be made public only on 19 August. Once the decision is announced there will be a consultation process for those POs to be closed. AM commented that at present the PO network is not viable and is being subsidised by the government. In addition some postmasters/mistresses wanted to be released from their positions. A select committee made up of all parties had decided on the present closure route. AM explained that transactions at the PO currently cost 80p per transaction compared to 1p at banks. Some POs will be closed, some will be part of an outreach package to rural communities. Currently, the aim is to have POs not more than 4 miles away and for there to be transport to them. In response to a question AM said that she did not know how viable the Gifford PO is as it is a private concern and this information is not publicly available. If the Gifford PO is a viable concern then this will be a good point to put forward in the consultation should the PO be recommended for closure. Comments from the floor indicated that the PO should be a government service and subsidised.. Cllr. PM had met with the POs to discuss accessibility and travel distance between them and will be part of the submission process if necessary. He felt that that the 6-week consultation process is not long enough. AM agreed that she would support Gifford Community Council in preparing its case during the consultation process should the Gifford PO close. AM stated that the government has to allow competition in the PO because of EU legislation and the process has been going on for two years. However the POs will still receive some level of subsidy. Once a decision on closure has been made then Gifford will be able to gather information and put forward a case for it to remain open as it has many points in its favour. A further meeting will be held at this</p>	

	<p>point with the MP, Cllrs and interested members of the public. Many passionate statements were made by members of the public reflecting a lack of confidence in the whole procedure and the Government's general approach.</p> <p>MP AM and Cllrs SR and PM left the meeting with most members of the public.</p>	
4. Anti-Social behaviour matters	<p>Anti-social behaviour from the pubs was reported as becoming more of a problem; bar doors left open, cigarette litter, noise pollution, people drinking outside, fights etc. Cllr TT noted that this had been reported to him at his clinic and he had already raised the matter with the publicans. If this had still not been attended to then it should be taken to the licensing board and a complaint made. There was general agreement that a ban on drinking in public places should be proposed, and curtailment of licensing hours considered. DB asked AG to collaborate with him in drafting a response to Derek Edmonds on the achievement of the five licensing objectives.</p>	DB AG
5. Minutes of June Meeting	No amendments. Proposed by MM and seconded by EW .	
6. Matters arising	Item 5 – Appointment of a Secretary . Edna Elliot-McColl had been appointed minute secretary. DB volunteered for the post of volunteer secretary on the council.	
	Item 12 – War Memorial . Agreed to leave until JO'C returns	JO'C
	Item 8 – Field Drainage . AG still looking into this	AG
	Item 17 – GCC Constitution EGM to revise to be held at the end of this meeting	
7. Young People		
7.1 Youth Club	EW reported that this was progressing	EW
7.2 Bench	A member of the public reported that the bench at Walden Play area was still not back.	
7.3 Play Area	LS is looking into possible grants to refurbish the Bleachfield Play Area and had made additional positive approaches to Viridor and Leader. LS requested support from other GCC members. DB agreed to assist.	LS, DB
8. Finances		
8.1 Community Environment Fund	Money had been granted by the East Lothian Council's Community Environment Fund for repair work to the Bleachfield access point and for bulb planting on the Village Green. These works are to be progressed by JT and LS in due course.	JT LS
9. Projects	These items had been covered elsewhere in the meeting.	

10. Planning	.	
10.1 Report	AG gave a report on planning applications during the previous month. No further action was required	
10.2 Noticeboard	The new notice board was up and EW reported that both notice boards had been painted. No further action was required.	
10.3 Sewage	EW updated the meeting on sewage issues in the village and said that problems can only be reported to SEPA when actually causing a nuisance. Problems were reported at Bablin's Wynd and Walden Terrace where sewage was coming up through the pavement. EW to look into this	EW
11. Correspondence	LS has a copy of the ELC submission regarding the PO and also consultation documents on the ELC coastal car parks should anyone want to see these. LS distributed these to several members for completion.	
12. Training	Several people had been on training sessions run by the ELC and reported back that they had been worthwhile.	
13. Reports	None	
13.1 Notices on Noticeboard	It was agreed that political notices on the notice board should be restricted to contact details and surgery times of local Councillors, but not separate notices from each party.	
13.2 Minutes and Correspondance	JT noted that these used to be in a ringbinder and should be kept. It was agreed that the collation of GCC records, including emails, was an involved subject and should be put forward to the next meeting	JO'C
13.3 Dates for 2009	Agreed that dates for the 2009 meeting should be put on the noticeboard but that this should be finalised at the next meeting.	
13.4 Parking	Agreed to discuss at the next meeting	
13.5 Paths	Agreed to discuss at the next meeting	
13.6 Village Statement	Agreed to discuss at the next meeting	
13.7 Data Protection	AG noted that the implications of the Data Protection Act for GCC needs to be discussed. DB commented that although relatively little of this Act would apply to GCC he offered to present a précis of this at the next meeting.	DB
14. Any Another Business	JT mentioned the Heritage Buildings project and the possible involvement of the Gifford Society and architectural heritage. To leave to the next meeting.	
	A member of the public complained that the ELC had blocked off a stepped access point to the parking area at 12-16 Walden Place by erecting a metal fence.. JT has emailed Stewart Pryde about this and will report back. The member of the public also reported that the bench at the Waldens Play Area had not been replaced. LS agreed to follow this up with Maree Johnstone.	JT LS
15. Date of Next Meeting	Monday 8 September	