

Gifford Community Council

Minutes

of the meeting of Monday, 12th September 2011,
held in the Todrick Room of the Village Hall at 7.30pm.

1. Welcome: John Wrinn (JW) Chair welcomed those present, Alastair McClung (AMcC), Elizabeth Whiteford (EW) Treasurer, Andrew Gilmour (AG), Margaret McDougall (MMcD), Pam Wilson, Tom Trotter p/t, Sheena Richardson p/t, two other members of the public, and PC Deborah Gray. Pam Wilson (PW) was welcomed, and appointed as a Gifford Community Councillor.
2. Apologies: John O'Connor, Margaret Maslowski,
3. Minutes of the meeting of 8th August were approved with amendments to item 3.
Proposed by AG and seconded by AMcC.
4. Matters arising:
Bus timetable changes.
There is a rumour that the bus timetable may change again. Tom Trotter to investigate.
It was agreed that the Council and First bus failed the local community as regards the poor communication of the new timetable.
The CC did question how much the subsidy paid to first bus actually is, and questioned, if this would be better spent on a more demand driven 'dial a bus' service. AG felt that First Bus did not do themselves any favours to encourage bus use, as they produce very poor route maps, and their publicity of the revised timetable has been very poor.
It is believed that First Bus have the contract for the 123 for a 3 year period.
5. Police: WPC Deborah Gray, reported on
 - (i) a recent act of vandalism to Mill House (broken window).
 - (ii) An attack by a dog on another dog, but they were unable to trace the owner so the investigation was stopped
 - (iii) Operation Erase, which will run from 5th Sept to 6th Nov. Which will be an operation in partnership with the Council to address antisocial behaviour, particularly to play park, school playground.
 - (iv) The Cycle race postponed from 10th Sept, will now take place on 17th Sept.Other items discussed:
 - (v) Damage to the handrail at Walden terrace. This seems to have been originally damaged by a snow plough, but had been used as a cycle ramp. Tom Trotter to report.WPC Gray was thanked for the Police attendance.
6. Planning: See also the report, which appears at the end of these Minutes.

11/00376/P This application is retrospective, to construct a gabion wall in place of a stone wall on the bank of Gifford Water. This is a confusing application. The drawings and photographs do not reflect the work carried out. GCC agreed to insist that the wall be finished in stone and trees and shrubs be replaced on the banking.

11/00702/P A revised application to 1 Park Crescent. *Agreed* No action.

11/00716/P Extension to house, St Andrews, Duns Road *Agreed* No Action.

11/00734/P Application for two 39m turbines to Townhead farm. A majority decision to reject, as this is not in keeping with character of the farm and would be a substantial blot on the skyline. *Agreed to reject.*

It would be advantageous if ELC could draw up a strategy to try to manage the increasing number of turbines now being proposed by developers and landowners. Tom Trotter confirmed that there are a number of other applications of this type in the pipeline. He is not aware of any of these applications (for 1 or 2 large turbines) being successful. The Community Council agreed, that wind power does have a place, but it is the size and locations, that causes the concern.

7. Correspondence

- (i) 'Dumping' in Gifford. The Council refute the suggestion that Gifford is used as a dumping ground for problem families.
- (ii) Disappearance of the Litter Bin outside the church. The Council maintain it was hardly used, so it has been removed. It was noted that the Main street has 2 litter bins, and there is no desire to move either from their current locations.
- (iii) LEAP, No action
- (iv) Green Belt questionnaire. To be discussed at the October meeting.
- (v) East Lothian Draft Housing strategy. To be discussed at the October Meeting.
- (vi) Severe Weather review. It was agreed that this opportunity should be taken. We should apply for the tools on offer and request a container to keep them in. Suggestions for storage in the Garage, or in the morthouse in the churchyard. PW noted, that if there were tools available, then the locals should be encouraged in self help.

8. Pot-holes

- (i) Pot holes on Yester Avenue
- (ii) On station Road near no. 17, the surround to the manhole is breaking up.
- (iii) In Bablins Wynd, the footpath has recently been re surfaced, however the crew failed to remove old/ rotten sandbags, and there is now an island of old footpath in the resurfaced section.
- (iv) Duns Road, The granolithic pavement is breaking up in various locations
- (v) Outside the village, large pot holes near the entrance to Yester Dairy and at the bottom of the avenue of trees near Yester Dairy.
- (vi) On the road between Yester Mains and Castle Mains, there are a number of road repairs required.

9. Giffordonline: nothing to report

10. Christmas Tree 2011: EW to progress and is hoping to be able to have the same as last year. AMcC suggested we purchase a tree in a container or plant one to save having to acquire a tree and have the work involved in sourcing, erecting etc. This option can be pursued for 2012.
11. Right to Buy the Avenue and the Nursery. JW reported that the petition has been successful although the public meeting was not well attended. JW and EW to have a meeting with Francis Menotti, as he felt not informed or consulted at the time of the original submission. AMcC wondered if it would be possible for GCC to see round Yester House.
12. AOB:
 - (i) Wall around the Pound. Some coping stones have fallen off. AMcC will replace.
 - (ii) Menotti Centenary. SR gave a brief report, it appears to have been a 'damp squib' and was not supported by the family.
 - (iii) Armistice Wreath has been acquired. JW to lay the GCC wreath.
 - (iv) Planter on the 3 approaches to the village. MMcD, MMas and Mary Todd have done this for some time and are keen to pass the batons to others. PW will put a notice in the cafe seeking volunteers to take this on. Plants are replaced twice each year. The three ladies were thanked for their hard work and have promised to do it one more time (this autumn).
 - (v) Finance. AMcC wondered if it would be possible for any local organization to apply for financial assistance from GCC. Although it was agreed at a previous meeting, that no donations would be simply handed out, as any available cash would be assigned to the Bleachfield play area, it was stressed, that applications for financial help would still be considered, on receipt of a written request.
 - (vi) AG noted that a new secretary for GCC is urgently required, as currently GCC mail is still being sent to Julian Tennant.
 - (vii) All new GCC Councillors are to be given a copy of the constitution.
13. Date of next meeting: Monday, 10th October 2011 at 7.30 pm in the Todrick Room of Gifford Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm with a vote of thanks to the chair.

Website www.giffordonline.co.uk is expected to show these Minutes, those of 13 June 2011, 8 August 2011, and future Minutes. Click on the "Village page" link above a nice photograph of Gifford Main Street. It also shows all our other Minutes since 2007, our Mission Statement, our Constitution, and the **dates of our regular meetings** in 2011.

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

	Registered	
11.08.11	2	
11/00376/P		Application to replace length of retaining wall with gabion baskets Land behind The Goblin Ha', Main Street Gifford EH41 4QH for Mr Keith Hare <i>this application is retrospective, though it has not been registered as such! Formal consultation with case officer Daryth Irving held on 16 August; the form says that provision for suitable drainage has been made but drawings only state "land drains (if any)"; Colin Calvert confirms that there were; drawings are self contradictory and do not conform with work carried out; the form says that no trees are affected but photographs show this is not true; Calvert (Yester Cottage) was required to restore stone walling; photographs submitted are of a completely different stretch of retaining wall!</i> <i>—recommended action: insist upon stone walling in this Conservation Area; wall is visible from Station Road bridge.</i>
11/00702/P		Application to extend house, form vehicular & pedestrian access, etc 1 Park Crescent, Gifford EH41 4QR for Mr & Mrs Thomas <i>—this is a re-submission of an application of 7.7.2011; no apparent change! discuss</i>
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18.08.11	1	
11/00716/P flat		Application to extend house to create large dining kitchen and granny flat St Andrews, Duns Road, Gifford EH41 4QW for Mr Rory Forteach <i>—carefully re-worked garage wing with small rear extension; no action recommended</i>
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25.08.11	nil	
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01.09.11	2	
11/00734/P		Erection of 2 wind turbines, etc Townhead, Gifford EH41 4PG for Townhead (McDowall) Ltd <i>—a previous successful application for three much smaller (15m) turbines has actually resulted in only one being erected; this application is for two 39m masts, 49m to blade tip. Formal consultation held 7.9.11 with case officer Daryth Irving, registering serious concern; discuss</i>
12/00774/P		Repainting of window frames Co-op building, Duns Road, Gifford EH41 4QW for The Co-operative Group <i>—not controversial</i>
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08.09.11	nil	