

GULLANE AREA COMMUNITY COUNCIL
 (Representing Aberlady, Dirleton, Drem and Gullane)
 www.gaddabout.org.uk

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 30TH APRIL 2015

Held in Gullane Village Hall

Minutes are subject to adoption at the next meeting

Present:	J Findlay (JF) Chair	Gullane
	T Drysdale (TD)	Dirleton
	V Sked (VS)	Gullane
	M Duck (MD)	Aberlady
	G Fraser	Dirleton
	A McCallum (AMc)	Aberlady
	D McDonald (DMcD)	Dirleton
	Cllr D Berry (CllrB)	East Lothian Councillor
	Cllr T Day (CllrD)	East Lothian Councillor
	Cllr J Goodfellow (CllrG)	East Lothian Councillor
	T A Lonie (TAL)	Secretary

Item	Title	Action By
1.	<p>APOLOGIES</p> <p>Apologies were received from: Rosanne Ainslie, Karen Chapman, PC Duncan and Sian Morris.</p>	
2.	<p>MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING</p> <p>The minutes of the previous meeting, as circulated by the Secretary, were confirmed as a true reflection of the meeting. TAL had sent draft minutes of March's meeting to all CC members for approval with amendments being e-mailed to the Chair. The approved minutes had then been published on the website by VS before this meeting in order to improve the speed of communication to the community.</p>	
3.	<p>MATTERS ARISING – REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENCE</p> <p>There were no matters arising.</p>	
4.	<p>POLICE REPORT</p> <p>PC Duncan had e-mailed his police report covering the period 27/03/15 to 29/04/15 to the Chair. The Chair presented the report on PC Duncan's behalf. There were 61 calls to the Police during this time with the four priorities being:</p> <p>Road Safety – a number of road checks were carried out on in the area over the last month resulting in fixed penalty tickets given for speeding and for using mobile phones whilst driving. There were also several minor road traffic collisions, the most serious being a two-car collision near Gullane resulting in minor injury to both drivers. Complaints have been received regarding parking problems and as a result, a number of tickets have been issued in Gullane.</p> <p>Anti-social Behaviour – several calls had been received relating to 'boy racers' at various car parks in the area including Dirleton and Gullane. Three drivers were traced and spoken to regarding their conduct and given suitable advice. On 5th April at Goose Green, Police were made aware of youths engaged in underage drinking and anti-social behaviour. Officers attended and traced a group of youths, however no alcohol was found and they were advised about their conduct. Finally, on 8th April, a vehicle was damaged by having paint thrown on it in the Gullane area – no suspects have been found.</p>	

	<p>Substance Misuse - on 28th March in the Aberlady coastal area, a male was found to have a controlled substance on his person (small quantity) and was subsequently cautioned and charged.</p> <p>Theft – during the night of 8th April, two properties in the Gullane area were the subject of housebreaking attempts, with one property being successfully entered. Enquiries are ongoing.</p> <p>There was also a report of physical confrontation regarding ownership of a pet in the Aberlady area and enquiries are ongoing to establish the full circumstances.</p> <p>Hi-visibility patrols have been carried out to provide visible deterrent and reassurances including:</p> <p>Operation Envelope - ongoing police planning and response to the Scottish Open at Gullane Golf Club between 8-12th July.</p> <p>Operation Monarda 3 – a campaign was carried out between 23-29th March focusing on doorstep crime within our local communities.</p> <p>Operation Andromeda – this is a test purchase operation for the sale of alcohol to underage drinkers. All premises in the GACC area tested over the last month passed.</p> <p>AMc had attended the recent CAPP meeting with two highlighted areas of concern for the coastal area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Parking issues in both North Berwick and Gullane High Street. * Anti-social behaviour patrols in and around Law View area of North Berwick <p>There remained one priority to be determined for the Gullane Area, which was again agreed to be parking in the Main Street, although this had improved. This was particularly important in the context of the Scottish Open week (see below).</p> <p>The location of speeding signs in Dirleton and Gullane had been raised at the last meeting – AMc had taken up the issue of their location with Colin Baird at ELC. It was agreed that nothing can be done about the location of the Dirleton sign as it is a line of sight issue but that the sign in Gullane could be moved as it is solar-powered. It was agreed that the CC were happy for discussion on re-positioning the sign at Gullane to take place.</p> <p>NB: the next CAPP meeting will be held on Wednesday 27th May at 7:30pm at the Council Chambers in North Berwick. Any policing/anti-social issues to be e-mailed to AMc by 25th May.</p> <p>CLrB pointed out that businesses on the Main Street in Gullane and Fenton Barns had suffered at the British Open due to the no parking enforcements and that this should be addressed for the Scottish Open this summer. JF confirmed that bollards would only be placed at busy times.</p>	
5.	<p>LOCAL PRIORITIES</p> <p>The Chair stated that the local priorities sub-group committee had not met since the last meeting and there were two outstanding applications with the plan to meet before the next meeting in May to consider. However, DMcD pointed out that the application from the Dirleton School Partnership (DSP) was now urgent as they need a total of £5,000 for the purchase of portable staging for use in Dirleton Primary School for concerts and annual events including community use such as the Dirleton Fete and Games held in the summer. The hope was to have the staging purchased and in place for the P7 Leaving Play in June. DMcD confirmed that the Dirleton Fete and Games committee have promised £1,000 and the DVA are likely also to donate a similar amount. The Chair confirmed that there was £6,000 in the bank account at present and suggested a grant of £1,500 to the DSP, which TD commented was generous. All</p>	

	<p>those at the meeting agreed to this amount and the Chair confirmed he would inform the DSP of their successful application and award of £1,500. It was also noted that if ELC purchase the staging on behalf of DSP then VAT would not be charged.</p> <p>ACTION: Chair to instruct transfer of funds to DSP and inform them of decision.</p>	Chair
6.	<p>PLANNING MATTERS</p> <p>TD reported that there had been a steady flow of minor planning applications since the last meeting and that most of these were house alterations. He also reported on the following planning matters:</p> <p>MIR – TD attended the ELC meeting last week, when Iain McFarlane, Service Manager, Planning, who is the head planning official, presented a report on the MIR responses, (copy of report sent to CC members by e-mail by TD on 27/04/15). TD referred to comments on question 16, at paragraph 3.24, relating to the North Berwick cluster but also suggested it is worth reading the whole report. As anticipated, the report contained no substantive discussion about the future pattern of development but it provided useful information about the progress of the MIR consultation.</p> <p>Fuller comments on the responses are posted on the ELC website with a separate section for each element of the MIR report, including one for each cluster.</p> <p>TD stressed that it is important to remember that the MIR and consultation on it are only the first part of the process for determining the new local development plan (the LDP). The draft LDP is expected to be presented to the Council by the end of October. There will then be another round of consultation on it, in which he understands we will be invited to participate.</p> <p>Fire School Development in Gullane – GF stated that it would be useful to know what’s happening with the former Fire Service College in Gullane. TD confirmed that there had been overall support for mixed use development at this site. The Chair stated that he had attended the closing ceremony and had spoken to Iain Gray, MSP and had received a letter from Paul Wheelhouse, Scottish Government Minister for Community Safety and Legal Affairs, regarding the future development of the former Fire College. Chair requested CC’s approval to set-up a meeting for GACC to discuss. All agreed with this approach.</p> <p>Pressure for development in our community – AMc raised concerns with developers bypassing the democratic process and going straight to the Scottish Government to gain planning permission for developments with a lack of consideration for the community, council and processes like the MIR. This has happened with the Ferrygate application where the planning application was rejected by the ELC and has now been appealed by the Developer with a second independent reporter now considering the case. AMc suggested that the CC’s voice should be heard and asked the ELC councillors present how to go about this. CllrD stated that once the draft LDP was published in October, ELC would be in a better position to defend its position and that it was worthwhile for GACC to comment on individual applications and express their concerns. CllrB also stressed that input is important but to be reasonable and attempt to steer development in the right direction with good relations with landowners and developers. CllrG stated that all the individual comments were now up on the council’s website and that they had received over 1,000 comments. MD pointed out that there had been a 28% increase in property prices in East Lothian as reported on the radio station Five Live, which shows how appealing East Lothian must be to property developers.</p>	
7.	<p>WEBSITE</p> <p>*AMc had no update for the meeting.</p> <p>* VS confirmed that the minutes from the March meeting were on the GACC website and two</p>	

	comments had been posted.	
8.	<p>VILLAGE REPORTS</p> <p>Aberlady – AMc raised concern at the proposal of yellow lines being painted by ELC at the top of Sea Wynd into Haddington Road in Aberlady. Villagers are unaware of this intention and don't want them as cars should be able to park in the village in order to access the businesses there. Cllr B suggested AMc write to Peter Forsyth (PF) regarding concerns. ACTION: AMc to compile letter to PF and forward to Chair.</p> <p>Dirleton – nothing to report.</p> <p>Drem – nothing to report (Councillor not present).</p> <p>Gullane – Car Parking Charges – continued concern was raised about the introduction of charging at beach car parks in the area and how the Police were going to monitor and control the parking in particular in Gullane and the potential parking problems on the roads close to the beach such as Goose Green. Cllr Day confirmed that ELC were in discussions with Police Scotland and Police will issue parking tickets if necessary.</p>	AMc
9.	<p>ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS</p> <p>* Train Station Car Parking – TD stated that this was now a serious problem at Drem with no spaces in the station car park available nor in close proximity to the point that people are resorting to driving into Edinburgh instead of getting the train. GACC should put pressure on the train operator to try and get a resolution to this matter. CllrD suggested writing a letter to Scotrail – the train operator as well as ELC and noted that the proposed East Linton rail link should help relieve some of the parking problems. The Chair reported similar issues at Longniddry train station which he has reported to the Police and now has a number to call to report illegal parking.</p> <p>ACTION: TD to draft a letter to Scotrail and cc: transportation department at ELC and pass to Chair for signature.</p> <p>* Scottish Open Update – the Chair reported on his liaison with the European Tour regarding plans for the Scottish Open and informed the group of the meeting planned for 13th May in the new Gullane Clubhouse at 6pm. He confirmed that the bus drop off for visitors being transported from the car parks will be on Sandy Loan in the village and that traffic will be routed around Longniddry/Drem to avoid the A198. Bollards will be lifted during the day (10am-4pm) so that people can park for shopping in Gullane village and a white picket fence will be placed around the war memorial grass.</p> <p>* Deer Sign Relocation – CllrG reported of a near accident of a deer running out into the road near Archerfield and suggested that the warning sign for deer in the area be relocated to a more prominent position nearer the bus stop. The CC agreed that CllrG go ahead and request such a change.</p> <p>* Changes to 120/121 Bus Service - Cllr Berry informed the CC that the bus timetables for the 120/101 services to Haddington were changing and that the bus route in the town centre was also being changed.</p>	TD
10.	<p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</p> <p>The next meeting will take place on Thursday 28th May 2015 at 7:30pm in Dirleton Kirk Hall.</p>	