

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

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 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
	R Ainslie (RA)	Gullane
	I Malcolm (IM) (part)	Aberlady
	A McCallum (AMc)	Aberlady
	D McDonald (DMcD)	Dirleton
	S Morris (SM)	Drem
	V Sked (VS)	Gullane
	CLlr J Goodfellow	East Lothian Councillor
	T A Lonie (TAL)	Secretary

Item	Title	Action By
1	<b>APOLOGIES</b> Apologies were received from: Fiona Boswell, George Fraser and PC Duncan,	
2	<b>MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING</b> The minutes of the previous meeting, as circulated by the Secretary, were confirmed as a true reflection of the meeting with one revision to be noted under the 'Local Priorities' section, regarding the whereabouts of documentation on Local Priorities and the former Chairman being a possible source of information.	TAL
3	<b>MATTERS ARISING – REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENCE</b> * IM raised continuing concerns regarding the negative changes being made to the local bus services involving terminating and starting services in Musselburgh. This may be a convenient connection but for passengers travelling from our villages, it adds to their journey time taking up to one hour and 25 minutes to get to Edinburgh with a wait time of approximately 20 minutes in Musselburgh for the connecting service. It also has a cost impact as two separate tickets are required for this journey now. IM encouraged the CC to raise a petition as a volume of opinion is required in order to pressure for change/improvements in the bus services. * The Chair updated the group that he had agreed with Harry Barker (HB), who is the RELBUS Representative on the new East Lothian Community Rail Partnership (ELCRP), to attend the meeting in February to discuss the impending changes to the X24 bus service. <b>Action:</b> Chair to confirm HB's attendance at the next meeting. * IM informed the CC that this would be his last meeting as he had informed the Chair of his resignation with immediate effect. The Chair thanked him for all his contributions to Aberlady village and it was agreed that AMc would stay in touch with IM regarding Aberlady village matters. IM also offered to continue his work on the bus service initiative as a co-opted member of the CC – refer to AOCB – section 11. * The Chair informed the group that he had held a meeting at his house w/b 26/01/15 regarding the Drem Core Path with some positive outcomes. It was noted that Drem residents are still objecting to option 3 (path running behind 10 houses) but that they would support this if the path could detour by crossing over to the other side of the road to avoid running past the said houses. Nick Morgan (ELC representative at that meeting) had supported this amendment and it had been agreed that Jim Wilkie should talk to the landowner to address this issue in order that plans could be moved forward.	Chair
4	<b>POLICE REPORT</b> The Chair informed the group that our new Community Constable, PC Charlie Duncan, was	

	<p>unable to attend this meeting but plans to attend the next meeting in February. He had provided a police report by e-mail on 28/01/15 and this had been distributed to all CC members in advance of the meeting by TAL. The Chair gave a synopsis of the report with the four priorities stated as:</p> <p><b>road safety, anti-social behaviour, substance misuse and theft.</b></p> <p>* AMc confirmed that this was a fair record of what had been discussed at the recent CAPP meeting he had attended and noted that he had received notification of no policing/anti-social issues in the villages from any CC members by e-mail prior to the meeting.</p> <p>* RA informed the group that she had answered the door to a man claiming to buy/sell gold and who was distributing printed leaflets but did not have a licence. She immediately phoned the police and had taken the car registration number of said person. The police have confirmed that they have since found the man and urged anyone who is approached by people door to door selling without a licence, to report them so that action will be taken.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> Place an alert on the website.</p>	VS
5	<p><b>LOCAL PRIORITIES</b></p> <p><b>Application for information board in Aberlady</b> – the Treasurer for Aberlady Church had been invited to the meeting to put forward her case for the funding of a new information board outside the Church. She requested a contribution of up to £1,000 with the total cost estimated to be £2,000. She informed the group that there was an announcement due regarding receiving funding from the Heritage Lottery but emphasised that this was for the restoration of the Church only. She pointed out that the parishioners had been working very hard to fundraise and that she had been encouraged to apply to GACC for some support through the Local Priorities Fund. A discussion ensued and a vote taken on the Chairs proposal to award £500 to the Church to go towards the new information board. Six voting members were present at the meeting and five voted in favour of the award with one member against.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> £500 to be awarded to Aberlady Church for the installation of a new information board. It was noted that the funds would be sent directly to the Church from East Lothian Council (ELC).</p> <p><b>Application for small building project for Gullane Playgroup (GP)</b> – Fiona Ferguson (FF) had been invited to the meeting to represent GP and apply for funding to re-develop the toilet block in the building that provides premises for pre school play group, toddler group and the after school club. The toilets are dilapidated and not fit for purpose and the Care Inspectorate have recently criticised the lack of mixer taps as being a hygiene issue. The GP have received two estimates from local tradesmen, the lowest of which being £2,700, to complete the works. FF stated that GP are keen to gain the support of GACC and pointed out that they are a charitable organisation, who fundraise significantly but are still in deficit. CllrG questioned if the premises are owned by ELC and if they were duty bound as a responsible landlord to upgrade the toilet block especially in light of the comments by the Care Inspectorate. He requested time to look into the matter and get back to the Chair.</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> FF to e-mail photo evidence of toilet block to support application to Chair/CllrG and application to be considered at next sub-group meeting with a decision to be made asap.</p> <p><b>Application for 10 tables for Aberlady Kirk Hall (AKH)</b> – Hilary Wilkingham, Bookings Secretary for AKH, requested funding for the replacement of 10 tables used for various activities in AKH including Girl Guides and community lunches. She asked for the sum of £720, which is 50% of the total cost of the tables.</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> Application to be considered at next LPF sub-group committee meeting. It was noted that a replacement would need to be found for IM in light of his resignation from the CC.</p>	Chair/RA
6	<p><b>PLANNING MATTERS</b></p> <p>TD stated that there were only minor applications in the weekly planning list and nothing controversial to speak of. He noted that the East Lothian Courier had featured an article regarding the increase of proposed new housing in Wallyford from 1,000 to 1,450 houses and that there were consultation events planned in the Miners Social Club there and in Tranent on the 10<sup>th</sup> February.</p> <p><b>Application for housing on Ware Road, Dirleton Update</b> – this had been delegated and refused.</p> <p><b>MIR Update</b> – refer to section eight. CllrG confirmed that the ‘preferred sites’ stated in the MIR were likely to go ahead with no justification for the ‘alternative sites’ if enough provision for</p>	

	<p>housing had been created.</p> <p><b>Ferrygate</b> – TD informed the group that he had received a phone call from a Planner representing Miller Homes who wish to develop at Ferrygate. He had confirmed to TD that they would be lodging an appeal against the refusal of planning permission in the near future.</p>	
7	<p><b>WEBSITE</b></p> <p>* AMc confirmed his plans to set-up a facebook page for the CC that would link to the current website and provide up-to-date information to the community. He planned to attend the Digital Engagement Workshop at Edinburgh Napier University on 30<sup>th</sup> January.</p> <p>*It was noted that VS will update the GACC website page now that she has internet access back in her home.</p> <p>*RA requested approval for the website hosting charge of £6:18 per month to be paid by direct debit in future. The group agreed and RA will action.</p>	<p>AMc</p> <p>VS</p> <p>RA</p>
8	<p><b>ELC MAIN ISSUES REPORT (MIR)</b></p> <p>TD referred to the draft MIR response he has now compiled and had sent out by e-mail to all CC members (refer to MIR – CC response document e-mailed on 27/01/15 by TD) for discussion and comments. TD was happy to receive comments by e-mail asap in order that he can submit CC’s response to ELC by the deadline of 8<sup>th</sup> February. CllrG suggested that TD submit the response using the hub on ELC’s website and that the separate document could also be e-mailed to himself, CllrB &amp; CllrD.</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> TD to circulate amended draft to CC members before submitting final MIR CC response to ELC. The Chair stated he was happy with the response and on behalf of the CC commended TD on his work on the MIR.</p> <p>Questions were then taken from members of the public who attended the meeting with the following concerns:</p> <p>* Saltcoats – Roger &amp; Jo Green, who are developing Saltcoats Steading, raised concerns over the proposed development at Saltcoats. TD confirmed the CC’s position that this site should not be developed for numerous reasons including road access issues, bio-diversity issues, pressures on primary school and taking away ‘green space’ around the school even though Saltcoats has been designated as a ‘preferred site’ in the MIR. TD also suggested that, as ELC are under pressure from the Scottish government to provide the required number of housing sites in the local authority area, some provision for development in our area is inevitable.</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> TD to e-mail documents to R&amp;J Green.</p> <p>* Pressure on infrastructure - the inadequacy of infrastructure was noted and the lack of facilities available in our villages. The Chair &amp; RA had attended the recent Local Area Partnership Meeting (LAPM) where pressures on transport were noted with potentially more people commuting from the area. The Planner had also suggested that the re-opening of the train station at East Linton might not happen although CllrG stated that Railtrack and the rail companies have committed to this project so it should go ahead and would relieve some of the pressure on the train service to Edinburgh.</p> <p>* Countryside Around Towns – the importance of protecting the countryside was again raised and TD referred to P.5 of the MIR draft response where this has been covered.</p> <p>* Affordable Housing – clarification was requested on the proposed development at Fenton Gait South. CllrG confirmed that they would have to meet the requirement of 25% affordable housing on new developments.</p> <p>* What happens next? – CllrG confirmed that once the MIR consultation had been completed, the draft of the new Local Development Plan (LDP) would be published, showing sites designated for housing, education and employment. The draft LDP would then go back out for consultation with a further opportunity to comment. Councillors get fully involved at this stage and CllrG re-iterated the importance of having the views of the community.</p>	<p>TD</p> <p>TD</p>
9	<p><b>VILLAGE REPORTS</b></p> <p><b>Aberlady</b></p> <p>* AMc informed the group of the continuing issues with the flooding at ‘Sea Wynd’ in the village and that he planned to discuss with Cllr Tim Day.</p>	

	<p><b>Dirleton</b> * DMcD referred to the ongoing issue with broadband speed in the villages – refer to AOCB</p> <p><b>Drem</b> * SM confirmed there were no points for the minutes.</p> <p><b>Gullane</b> * VS referred to the current parking issue on Goose Green area by the play park (off Sandy Loan) and that the grass verge was being damaged as a result. CllrG suggested that the CC approach ELC for grass scree to be placed in area to solve this problem. <b>ACTION:</b> Chair to write to transportation department at ELC.</p> <p>* VS referred to a fridge/freezer that had been left outside a property at the exit of Muirfield Park for a considerable time. CllrG suggested contacting ELC for removal free of charge. <b>ACTION:</b> VS to contact ‘special lifts’ department on behalf of CC to have item removed.</p>	<p>Chair</p> <p>VS</p>
10	<p><b>ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS</b></p> <p>* <b>Broadband (Improving Broadband Connectivity Survey (IBCS))</b> – DMcD distributed a leaflet encouraging the community to take part in an online survey (IBCS) in order to prove there is demand in this area for a faster broadband service especially in the more rural and remote areas. A discussion ensued and it was agreed that the CC should take steps to ensure this initiative is promoted to encourage a positive response from the public with an urgency required as the deadline for submission is 20/02/15. <b>ACTION:</b> DMcD to request leaflets from ELC and pass onto respective village councillors for distribution to their designated areas. Leaflets also to be placed on noticeboards, in libraries and schools and placed on website.</p> <p>* <b>East Lothian Courier</b> – the newspaper had requested from the Chair that they be added to the circulation list for GACC’s agenda and minutes. The Chair is reluctant to do this and it was agreed that a press release could be issued by GACC for submission to the newspaper when deemed necessary. <b>ACTION:</b> Chair to respond to East Lothian Courier.</p> <p>* <b>Road Banners in Gullane</b> – a member of the public in attendance commented on the state of the banners on the road approaching and leaving Gullane and how they don’t reflect well on the area with some of the banners in disrepair. The Chair has been in touch with Susan Smith (SS) at ELC who is aware that they are not structurally sound and is looking at the design and assessing the problems. TD also commented that the banners are ineffective as you can’t read them whilst driving along the road and that this causes a dangerous distraction. <b>ACTION:</b> Chair to chase SS at ELC and report back at next meeting.</p> <p>* <b>Licensing remit for mini-market in Gullane</b> – a member of the public in attendance at the meeting requested clarification on the licensing remit at the new mini-market on Stanley Road in Gullane. CllrG confirmed that only the licence holders, (the two owners), are permitted to deliver alcohol and they must check who they are delivering to in regard to age restrictions on alcohol purchase.</p> <p>* <b>Committee members</b> – RA proposed that the CC take up IM’s offer to stay on the CC as a co-opted member with the remit of the RELBUS/local rural bus services that he has worked on throughout his time with the CC. This was agreed. It was also noted that Sophie Shorthouse was no longer a member of the CC and that Karen Chapman (KC) had been invited to the meeting to be put forward as the new member representing Gullane. KC introduced herself to the group and is keen to be involved and already an active member of the village community. The Chair was happy to recommend her and VS seconded this with the agreement to appoint KC with immediate effect. <b>ACTION:</b> Chair to send formal response by e-mail to KC.</p>	<p>All</p> <p>Chair</p> <p>Chair</p> <p>Chair</p>
11	<p><b>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</b> The next meeting will take place on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2015 at 7:00pm in Dirleton Kirk Hall.</p>	