

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

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2015

Held in Aberlady Kirk Stables

Minutes are subject to adoption at the next meeting

Present:	J Findlay (JF) Chair	Gullane
	T Drysdale (TD)	Dirleton
	R Ainslie (RA)	Gullane
	V Sked (VS)	Gullane
	Malcolm Duck (MD)	Aberlady
	A McCallum (AMc)	Aberlady
	D McDonald (DMcD)	Dirleton
	Fiona Boswell (FB)	West Fenton
	Sian Morris (SM)	Drem
	Cllr J Goodfellow (CllrG)	East Lothian Councillor
	T A Lonie (TAL)	Secretary

Item	Title	Action By
1	<b>APOLOGIES</b> Apologies were received from: Karen Chapman, George Fraser, PC Duncan and Cllr Day.	
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.	
3	<p><b>MATTERS ARISING – REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENCE</b> There were no matters arising.</p> <p>The Chair welcomed Harry Barker (HB), who is the RELBUS Representative on the new East Lothian Community Rail Partnership (ELCRP), and Ian Malcolm (IM), co-opted CC member, to update those present at the meeting on the impending changes to the X24 bus service. HB attended a meeting with First Group in their offices in Edinburgh and stated that they are unique in that they are a company run by Accountants and starved in investment. Every depot and every route are measured on their financial performance and they cannot get money to invest in the buses used in East Lothian. HB suggested that the way forward would be gather evidence of the unreliability of the buses including breakdowns, cancellations etc. If there is enough evidence gathered from bus users then the Traffic Commissioner can revoke the company's licence and take them off the roads. It was noted that the complaints procedure can be troublesome and HB suggested writing to the registered office of First Group in Glasgow in the first instance. MD pointed out that with the new regulations on driving and alcohol, public transport will become increasingly important and that a national solution to inadequate, poor quality services would need to be found.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> CC to co-ordinate community response with the assistance of IM. IM to talk to shops in Aberlady regarding a form for bus users to fill-in in order to gather evidence of their experience on First Buses, (note that their bus ticket would need to be left in a box in the shop). Chair to talk to shops in Gullane. Promote campaign through website, Gullane and Aberlady News Facebook pages, local newspapers, posters and liaise with NBCC and local area partnerships. Response from local shops to be fed back to CC at next meeting.</p>	IM/Chair
4	<b>POLICE REPORT</b> PC Duncan had e-mailed his police report covering the period 27/02/2015 to 26/03/2015 to the Chair. The Chair presented the report on PC Duncan's behalf. There were 40 calls to the Police	

	<p>during this time with the four priorities being:</p> <p><b>Road Safety</b> –Road checks were carried out on the A198 at Aberlady on the 4<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> March with a total of 10 drivers being stopped and issued with fixed penalty tickets for speeding. Two vehicle accidents (VA) were also reported in the Dirleton and Drem area with no injuries reported.</p> <p><b>Anti-social Behaviour</b> – two reports of hare coursing in the Dirleton area.</p> <p><b>Substance Misuse</b> - no recorded incidents in the last month.</p> <p><b>Theft</b> – a report of suspicious males in The Village, Archerfield, Dirleton but no persons traced by Officers. Two reports of burglaries had also been reported on Gullane News Facebook page but were not included in the Police Report.</p> <p>AMc had attended the recent CAPP meeting with three highlighted areas of concern for the coastal area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Former Co-Op store on Dunbar Road, North Berwick, appears to be attracting youths and motorcycles giving cause for concern of anti-social behaviour issues.</li> <li>* Vehicles driving in an anti-social manner within Yellowcraigs car park including motorcycles using trails in a dangerous manner.</li> <li>* Location of speeding signs in Dirleton and Gullane – do they serve any purpose? The sign in Dirleton is on the wrong side of the road and the new position in Gullane is close to the shops when drivers have already slowed down coming into the village.</li> </ul> <p><b>ACTION:</b> AMc to take up issue of location of the speeding signs with Colin Baird at ELC.</p> <p>AMc also informed CC members that Police Scotland was planning a campaign against doorstep crime and to increase awareness of this in the community.</p> <p>Dog fouling was also discussed as an ongoing issue with waste bags being left in the bushes rather than being placed in dog waste bins. AMc pointed out that ELC will service more bins but will not provide nor pay for them and that the LPF could consider this as a future priority.</p> <p>VS raised the question of where the bins should be placed in the villages.</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> Location of bins to be considered for next meeting.</p> <p><b>NB:</b> the next CAPP meeting will be held on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> April at 7:30pm at the Council Chambers in North Berwick. Any policing/anti-social issues to be e-mailed to AMc by 28<sup>th</sup> April.</p>	<p>AMc</p> <p>All CC</p>
5	<p><b>LOCAL PRIORITIES</b></p> <p><b>Outstanding Application for upgrading of heating installation for Gullane Village Hall (GVH) from Gullane Community Association (GCA)</b> – the LPF sub-group committee had requested more information from Catherine Montgomery (CM) from the GCA regarding their application for funding. CM has now revised the application and has applied for funding for the cavity filling and loft insulation of the GVH. The amount requested for the cavity filling is £2265.75 plus VAT and £1380 plus VAT for the loft insulation. Considering the budget for the LPF, the sub-group committee has recommended funding the costs of the cavity filling only at this time. The GCA could then apply for the loft insulation as a standalone application under next year’s budget. RA noted that the GCA do not charge for the hire of the GVH for the Youth Club and are positively giving back to the community and recommended this application be approved by the CC. All present agreed.</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> Chair to instruct transfer of funds to GCA and inform Catherine Montgomery of decision.</p> <p><b>Application from Dirleton School Partnership (DSP)</b> – DMcD had submitted their application to the Chair at the meeting.</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> LPF sub-group to consider at next committee meeting.</p>	<p>Chair</p> <p>LPF sub-group</p>
6	<p><b>END OF FINANCIAL YEAR REPORT</b></p> <p>The Chair distributed a handout on the CC Local Priority Scheme outlining the spend for the budget 2014/2015 as well as looking at next year’s budget for 2015/2016. Total uncommitted for the 2014/2015 budget is £3,328.45 with the approval of the application for the GCA of £2265.75 coming out of this. The Gullane Village Hall community sign was the only outstanding item carried over to the 2015/2016 budget. A general discussion ensued on whether this application was a priority and it was agreed that the application be withdrawn and that the</p>	

	<p>GCA re-apply for funding once planning permission has been received for a new sign to be installed on the Smiddy Wall in Gullane. Cllr G suggested that the CC apply for planning permission to reduce costs by half and it was agreed that this should be considered if the CC are able to apply for planning permission on behalf of the GCA.</p> <p>The Chair noted that the budget for 2015/16 had been set at £6,350, slightly less than last year, and that the total budget now available is £7,459.10. He encouraged all villages to consider applications for the LPF. Currently two applications are being considered by the sub-group committee – one from Dirleton and the other from Aberlady.</p>	
7	<p><b>PLANNING MATTERS</b></p> <p>TD reported that there had been a steady flow of small planning applications since the last meeting and that most of these were in Gullane. He also reported on the following planning matters:</p> <p><b>Ferrygate</b> – TD confirmed that an application for judicial review of the first Ferrygate review had been allowed by the Court of Session. The matter had been referred back to the Scottish Government’s reporting unit to make a further decision relating to the interpretation of loss of prime agricultural land. Miller Homes have also appealed the refusal of planning permission for the Ferrygate application and this is now with the Scottish Government with no final outcome as yet.</p> <p><b>Prora Farm</b> – an application to install 200 solar panels at ground level has been submitted by Prora Farm, situated between Drem and Congalton. TD saw no cause for concern as the development would be almost invisible but noted that this type of application should be monitored as an application from the same company had been submitted last year.</p> <p><b>Hopetoun Terrace appeal</b> – The Chair had received a letter from the Scottish Government confirming that the appeal to change open space on Hopetoun Terrace to car parking with bollards had again been refused.</p>	
8	<p><b>WEBSITE</b></p> <p>*AMc had no update for the meeting.</p> <p>* VS confirmed that the most recent approved minutes were on the GACC website and she suggested that Gullane News Facebook (GNF) page could be used to inform the community of the CC meetings as this now has over 1,000 members. This was agreed by all present.</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> VS to promote CC meetings on GNF</p> <p>A discussion ensued on getting CC information out to the community quicker as currently minutes are approved one month after the meeting is held and cannot be put on the website until they are approved. It was also noted that it would be useful to include speakers attending the meetings. It was agreed that to improve the speed of communication, draft minutes should be e-mailed to all members of the CC who could then send any amendments to the Chair. Once approved, the minutes would then be sent out to a wider audience and posted on the website.</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> TAL to send draft minutes of March’s meeting to all CC members for approval with amendments being e-mailed to the Chair. Approved minutes then to be published on website by VS before next meeting.</p>	<p>VS</p> <p>TAL/VS</p>
9	<p><b>VILLAGE REPORTS</b></p> <p><b>Aberlady</b> – nothing to report</p> <p><b>Dirleton</b> – DMc reported on the increased parking on Dirleton Green as an indirect result of ponies being put on The Law. Dog walkers (including professional dog walkers) are coming into Dirleton and walking through the Archerfield estate to Yellowcraigs Beach. This is also causing an increase in dog fouling in the area. Cllr G suggested that the professional dog walkers need a licence from ELC and that this could be revoked if they were breaking the code of conduct. DMcD was also pleased to report that Dirleton residents would like to set-up their own facebook page and that research was being carried out currently in the village.</p> <p><b>Drem</b> – SM reported on the ongoing issue of cars parking on private roads in Drem when the train station car park is full and that heated discussions had occurred between residents and car owners. A ‘Private Road’ sign is to be put up as emergency vehicles could have a problem</p>	

	<p>with access. The Chair commented on the problem at Longniddry train station car park also and that the Police had become involved.</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> Chair to e-mail SM with further details on his communication <del>with</del> with Police Scotland.</p> <p><b>Gullane</b> – A Gullane resident attended the meeting to request the CC consider the increasing issues occurring with the number of Roe deer currently in the village. She stated that residents were fed-up of the deer decimating their gardens, eating their plants and concerned of the potential dangers of the deer being so close to roads and pavements as well as potential health issues with ticks and Lyme disease. A discussion ensued on what measures could be taken to manage and control the deer population in villages with a sensitive approach.</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> MD to talk to land owners including Archerfield and Renaissance Club. Chair to talk to Muirfield. No ELC action at this time.</p> <p>* Road resurfacing – VS noted the unhappiness of residents on The Pines in Gullane where a road had only been partially resurfaced by ELC due to a dispute of land ownership. Cllr G confirmed that he had already visited the area twice and hoped that the surface would wear like tarmac and the appearance improve within a month when a review would take place. The Chair also commented on the stretch of road between Goose Green and the main road in Gullane, which needs attention (lots of potholes) before the Scottish Open in July as the buses will use the road.</p> <p>* Car Parking Charges – continued concern was raised about the introduction of charging at beach car parks in the area. CllrD confirmed that an annual permit was available to anyone at the cost of £40. CllrD also confirmed that ‘pay and display’ machines are to be installed and that the Police would be responsible for enforcing the parking fees.</p>	<p>Chair</p> <p>MD/Chair</p>
10	<p><b>ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS</b></p> <p>* <b>North Berwick Coastal Area Partnership (NBCAP)</b> – the Chair, RA &amp; DMcD had attended the recent meeting to discuss the budget of £200,000 awarded to NBCAP to use in the 2015/16 financial year. Priorities were discussed and it is planned that the group meet four times a year. RA raised concern that there were only 16 community representatives at present with space for a total of 30 members. DMcD questioned the bidding process at such an early stage, which appeared to be North Berwick bias with bids already being made by the youth network and the day centre in NB. AMc requested a list of organisations involved and TD questioned the budget allocation from ELC and how the funds would be allocated.</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> Chair to acquire list of organisations involved and attend next meeting.</p> <p>* <b>End of Year Accounts</b> – RA reported on the end of year accounts with a bank balance of £3,910 with an outstanding £149 in cheques to be issued at the meeting. The grant for the CC stands at £729, which is the same as last year with recurring costs of £726 per year. Costs include the website rent of £72 per year and the wreaths for Remembrance Sunday at £94. RA noted that ELC had taken over the £129 payment for insurance and that committed funds included the next print-run of the walks leaflet from the balance of the grant given by ELC. RA also informed the group that the signatories on the accounts will change – Chair will now act as signatory.</p> <p>* <b>Gullane Clock (at Falkos)</b> – RA noted that the clock is not showing the right time but that this would be rectified with the hour change for Spring on 28<sup>th</sup> March. RA confirmed that she pays £60 annually to Mr Falko for the electricity costs, which she then claims back from ELC.</p> <p>* <b>Scottish Open – July 2015</b> – MD updated the CC on the plans for this summer’s Scottish Open. He confirmed that the road through Gullane would not be closed and that spectators would travel by bus from Muirfield. 40-60,000 visitors are expected over the week and it is hoped that visitors will be encouraged to stay in the county with local businesses benefitting from increased business.</p>	
11	<p><b>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</b></p> <p>The next meeting will take place on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2015 at 7:00pm in Gullane Village Hall.</p>	

