

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

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 31st January 2013
Held in Aberlady Kirk Stables

Minutes are subject to adoption at the next meeting

Present:	A McIntosh (Chairperson)	Gullane
	J Findlay (Vice Chairperson)	Gullane
	T Drysdale	Dirleton
	G Fraser	Gullane
	J McCallum	Aberlady
	D McDonald	Dirleton
	Ian Malcolm	Aberlady
	S Morris	Drem
	S Shorthouse	Gullane
	Cllr Berry	East Lothian Councillor
	Cllr Day	East Lothian Councillor
	L Ogilvie	Secretary
In Attendance:	L Pryde	East Lothian Council

Item	Title	Action By
	The Chairman thanked everyone for attending a very full meeting meeting. Historic Scotland will address the meeting regarding the wind turbine at Dirleton (Andrew Martindale, Head of Heritage Management and Rory Macdonald, Senior Heritage Management Officer). Veronica Campanile (Policy Officer) and Paul Edie (Local Community Planning and Engagement Officer) will address the meeting on Local Community Planning. There will be an opportunity to put questions to the speakers.	
1	APOLOGIES Apologies were received from the following: RA, VS, FB and PC Banks.	
2	MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as a true reflection of the meeting.	
3	MATTERS ARISING – REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENCE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • West Fenton – FB is not in attendance to update the meeting. The matter was discussed at the CAPP meeting and it was agreed to look into having a 40mph limit along the West Fenton road – ELC will be asked to progress this limit. • Speed signs – There is currently one sign in Aberlady, Gullane and Kingston. • Cheque signatories – The agreed changes have now been made. 	
	Historic Scotland (HS) Andrew Martindale gave a short summary on the work of HS who are part of the Scottish Government tasked with looking at the historic environment. A handout was made available to the meeting and copies passed round. AM explained the importance of community engagement and how this had worked with Gullane Old Church. HS are an external agency of the Scottish government who offer guidance to local authorities mindful of the local policies and guidance. Applications are vetted and issues dealt with on a national level. Standards are very high and consistent. HS are mindful of precedent and look at each application on its own merit. HS gives advice to the local authority – the planning decision will not always agree with HS. Why did HS not object to the turbines at Dirleton? Cllr B tried to call the application from the list. SHEP specify advice on how HS deals with designated sites in line with policies of Setting October 2010. What is setting? Location of the site, how much change will there be to the historic asset, what is the	

	<p>impact of the development. Would the application change the national characteristic of the site – would there be any visual impact. There are a list of characteristics for each site.</p> <p>Wind turbines are a highly emotive subject and the impact on the castle was taken into consideration.</p> <p>Cllr B felt that a number of people were presented with a disturbed view including visitors approaching the monument and those travelling on the A198. This could impact on tourism in the area. The local farm buildings were set well down into the landscape and did not impact on the view from the castle.</p> <p>It was very strongly suggested that ELC ought to have a conservation officer who would research such issues prior to passing the detail to HS. It was confirmed that ELC do have officers with such expertise and HS confirmed that they worked with very skilled people in the local authority. ELC also consult with various bodies on such issues.</p> <p>The general feeling was disappointment that HS had not objected to the proposal. HS advised that they offer advice and guidance and can raise concerns but the final decision is not theirs. Concerns had been raised but they did not object. The Planning Authorities consult widely. HS cannot stop an application for a turbine on its own.</p> <p>JF - huge weight of local opinion and objection which should have been taken into account. HS had sent ELC a letter voicing their concerns – this was read out in part to the meeting. It was suggested that concerns had not been made clear enough in the letter but implied only. ELC have carried out their own survey on small wind turbines in this area and HS were asked whether they had taken this into consideration? Cllr B advised that this is the responsibility of ELC. There would appear to be a loophole in that if a farmer can prove that such a turbine is for the benefit of the farm this may be approved.</p> <p>The farmer whose land the turbines are on reported he had received a great deal of support for the turbines. He has in the past had restrictions placed on the size of his buildings which is why his buildings lie low giving good sight lines from the castle. He is however trying to run a business whilst trying to reduce the carbon footprint.</p> <p>A suggestion was made as to the painting of the turbines to blend in better – AM advised that if another colour there would be issues with birds.</p> <p>The Chairman thanked both gentlemen for attending this evening and explaining how the system works. Copies of the handout are available if required and AM is happy to be contacted by email or telephone by anyone who wished to ask further questions. With regards to the National Policy Review he would hope to hear further from the CC. It was accepted that there is a fait accompli.</p> <p>IM suggested that the CC take this a little further as guidelines and policy require to be changed. The review takes place within the next six months. Cllr B – HS Policy is clear that there is a loophole. He confirmed that he did not get the application off the list quickly enough and he takes responsibility for this. The initial application used a turbine which was too loud, the second application substituted another and was then put through the application system because this was the only reason the application had been previously refused. The DVA did lodge an objection to this application but were unable to follow this through. TD had agreed it would be pulled off the list and spoke with Cllr B – three calls had been made. The information had not reached the Planners via the internal mail system in time.</p>	
	<p>Local Community Planning</p> <p>AMCl felt there was a lack of understanding in the past as to the exact area and remit of the Forum.</p> <p>VC advised that Community Planning means getting everyone involved from various interested agencies. Outcomes or groups work together to find the best way forward for the whole of East Lothian. Each group has worked independently in the past. The remit is to improve life in east Lothian - health, housing, employment. There is a single outcome agreement with 14 outcomes agreed for 2011 – 2013. The groups are trying to achieve these outcomes together but this is work in progress. Local groups will have an idea of what is needed and how it can be achieved in each area. The initial project began in Musselburgh followed by Dunbar and then North Berwick coastal ward.</p> <p>Paul Edie –Meetings were held in Dirleton, Gullane, Aberlady and also north Berwick. From the meetings various things were identified – youth work needed within the villages and outreach services. A new film group has now been started in Gullane. In Musselburgh there is now a</p>	

	<p>community vegetable patch. Community Planning will be part of change in East Lothian and will work with everyone to try and improve services. VC advised that there are a number of priorities for this year and all can be viewed on the Community Planning website.</p> <p>IM – How comprehensive will Community Planning be? Cllr B it is a method of understanding local needs and allows local people to do this. Cllr B chairs CAPP for this area which ensures joined up thinking. PE - dealings with crime and ASBO has been very successful.</p> <p>Bringing together different agencies under one roof and getting services working together is worthwhile. It was noted that there are very different problems within this area than in some other areas of East Lothian.</p> <p>The Chairman thanked both Paul and Veronica for their insight into Community Planning and suggested that we invite them to the meeting at a later date for an update.</p>	
4	<p>LOCAL PRIORITIES</p> <p>JF advised that he had received one application today for Aberlady Village Hall. It was agreed that the sub-committee will consider this application. L Pryde advised that the CC must allocate funds within the next few weeks and that none of the current years funding had been allocated. Funding for new projects should be encouraged as a matter of some urgency.</p>	All
5	<p>POLICE REPORT</p> <p>It was noted at the CAPP meeting last night that statistics are improving – one third less. Dog fouling around Gullane Primary School was also discussed, and PC Banks will be advised of this</p> <p>The following report was read out by the Chairman in PC Bank's absence.</p> <p>Aberlady – 19 incidents in the period including the following: 16 Jan – Noise call to Aberlady Inn – patrons leaving a private function. 22 – 22 Dec – vehicle vandalised in Rig Street. 3 Jan – Items thrown at passing cars from within the churchyard. 18 – 19 Jan – Various calls regarding the throwing of snowballs. Youths traced and spoken to in front of parents. No damage.</p> <p>Gullane – 31 incidents in the period including the following: Slight increase in youth/Anti Social Behaviour calls – due to parties over the festive period and youths throwing snowballs. 4 Dec – vehicle struck by white transit van whilst in Erskine Road. The van drove off without reporting the incident. 7 Dec – A male was arrested following noisy music being played in the Muirfield area. The male subsequently abused officers and was charged with the offences. 11 Jan – Damage to benches at Gullane Primary School. The area appears to be used by youths who are smoking and drinking. 21 Jan – A vehicle was impounded and the driver cautioned and charged with driving with no insurance/licence. A report has been sent to the Procurator Fiscal. 22 Jan – A vehicle was impounded and the driver cautioned and charged with driving whilst using a mobile telephone and having no insurance. A report has been sent to the Procurator Fiscal.</p> <p>Dirleton - 11 Incidents during the period. No crimes of note. Drem - Several incidents on farmland relating to thefts of diesel.</p> <p>Road Traffic – 5 during the period of the report. Speed checks are taking place. Any information relating to crime in the community should be passed to PC Banks at North Berwick Police Station 01620 893538 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or email colin.banks@lbp.pnn.police.uk</p>	
6	<p>PLANNING MATTERS</p> <p>Archerfield – 40 houses and 20 flats on the north side of the site. GF has requested two reports and will consider any action on receipt of the reports.</p> <p>Medical Centre – works have begun and the cottage has been knocked down.</p> <p>Ferrygate – The CC will write to object. The original application was turned down and this is a new application. Objections had been made in connection with the original application and will be reiterated.</p> <p>Nigel Bibby – This matter had been left with JM and GF. The decision had been made that the CC will</p>	LO

	<p>not become involved.</p> <p>Ardmuir development on the corner of Broadgait. GF felt this had been an overdevelopment of the site. Cllr D advised that the developer had resubmitted an application which is less of a development. Cllr B overdevelopment is subjective and in some areas it is permissible.</p>	
7	<p>VILLAGE REPORTS</p> <p>Gullane – Dog fouling at the Bents was one of the issues raised at CAPP. SS enquired about the use of the funding raised from the registered dog walkers - £20 per year. There are no dog bags on display. It was agreed to write to ELC, Maree Johnston to make the enquiry and to request visits to the site from the dog warden. Cllr B advised that members of the public should take the registration numbers of any dog fouling owners and report these to PC Banks.</p> <p>JF – Reported a fire in the grounds of Templar Lodge. He will email Cllr G who will follow this up.</p> <p>Drem – No update on the local Access Forum regarding the meeting with Douglas Russell on the subject of the Core Path. It was suggested that there had been a possible change of route – confirmation is awaited.</p> <p>SM will speak to Network Rail regarding progress with a Noticeboard at Drem Station. Any signage will require to show the addition of a bus service. SM to progress.</p> <p>Dirleton – An email had been received from the local Primary School thanking the CC for their support.</p> <p>The DVA had met two weeks ago. One of the issues discussed had been car parking charges at Yellowcraigs and at local beach car parks throughout East Lothian. A concern is that parking will be encouraged on verges on roads down to car parks. There had been strong feeling that it was unfair that residents should be charged. The CC view was that car parks need to be maintained and that money raised will help towards this. There will be a fee for East Lothian residents of £40 per annum with concessions for disabled. The standard cost for parking will be £2 per session. This was viewed as a necessary charge. The decision to implement the car park charges has been agreed by the local authority.</p> <p>An extension to the Primary School is at the planning application at the moment and it is hoped to begin works during the summer term.</p> <p>Dirleton Fete and Games has been confirmed as 13th July.</p> <p>Castle events – There is a lack of toilet facilities for any organized events. This should be raised with Mr Martindale from Historic Scotland. Cllr D to check why the toilets have been closed for some time.</p>	<p>JF</p> <p>SM</p>
8	<p>ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS</p> <p>Website – IM suggested that Stuart Donnelly who originally set up the website be asked for his input in upgrading the website. LP suggested a senior school pupil might help. JM will look at the website and consider its maintenance. It was suggested that use of Facebook might be an alternative means of gaining support from younger people in the area.</p> <p>The CC was reminded of the campaign to retain Haddington Sherriff Court.</p> <p>High speed broadband – This will be in place prior to the Open Championship.</p> <p>Hedge outside Archerfield – Needs to be cut back. Cllr B has looked at this. Is this a safety issue? It was felt there was no visual problem. Bob Simpson advised that farmers are paid not to cut back hedges and verges for conservation purposes and should only be cut for safety reasons. The hedge will be looked at again.</p> <p>A plea was made from the floor for a bus from Gullane to Haddington. At the moment you can travel from Gullane to North Berwick then to Haddington which is very expensive. It was suggested she speak to David Kerr Transport Manager, ELC. Could such a service link to the train at Drem? A petition was started over Christmas which was signed by more than 300 people - there is a requirement for such a service. Could there be a service from Aberlady?</p> <p>Cllr B – First Bus will complain if we run from North to Gullane and viability will be an issue. The Scottish Government has reduced subsidy to buses today. Cllr B will speak to D Kerr and try to arrange a meeting with local people.</p> <p>SS – can this be raised with Community Planning. Veronica will look into this as it is of community interest.</p>	<p>JM</p> <p>Cllr B</p> <p>Cllr B</p>
9	<p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</p> <p>The next meeting will take place in Gullane Village Hall on Thursday 28th February 2013.</p>	