

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 30th JANUARY 2014

Held in Gullane Village Hall

Minutes are subject to adoption at the next meeting

Present:	J Findlay (JF)	Gullane
	R Ainslie (RA)	Gullane
	F Boswell (FB)	West Fenton
	M Duck (MD)	Aberlady
	D McDonald (DM)	Dirleton
	J McCallum (JMcC)	Aberlady
	S Morris (SM)	Drem
	L Ogilvie (LO)	Secretary
	Laura	Police Scotland
	Cllr Goodfellow (Cllr G)	East Lothian Council
	Cllr Day (Cllr D)	East Lothian Council
	Cllr Berry (Cllr B)	East Lothian Council
In Attendance:	S Baptie	East Lothian Council

Item	Title	Action By
	<p>Cllr Day welcomed everyone and thanked the committee for allowing him to open the meeting. On behalf of all the East Lothian Councillors he wished to thank the outgoing Chairman, Alistair McIntosh for all his work, fair minded approach and diligence, essential in local politics.</p> <p>The election of officials then took place with the following nominated, seconded and duly elected: Chair: Jeremy Findlay – who then took over the Chair for the meeting Vice Chair: Tom Drysdale Treasurer: Rosanne Ainslie JF thanked LO for her work as Secretary and intimated that he had approached LO a number of weeks to ascertain whether she would be happy to remain as Secretary and he was delighted that she had agreed to do so.</p>	
1	<p>APOLOGIES IM, VS, SS, GF. JF welcomed Malcolm Duck to his first meeting. All attending the meeting then made a brief introduction. JF thanked MD for joining and hoped he would enjoy his time on the CC.</p>	
2	<p>MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING Under Item 9 Area Partnerships – should read that JF and TD would be representatives on the Area Partnership. The minutes were then agreed as a true reflection of the meeting.</p>	
	<p>Presentation by Sandy Baptie, Emergency Planning and Risk Management Officer, Community Resilience - Sandy gave a brief introduction to the meeting and thanked the CC for inviting him to attend. He works with Scott Kennedy identifying risks for the area and preparing appropriate plans for emergency and recovery. Risks could be linked to severe weather and would include working closely with ELC emergency services etc plans are then exercised and trained for. This is a Scottish Government initiative and information can be found online on Ready Scotland website.</p> <p>The initiative involves the community coming together to identify what assets they have and how to use them. Lists of people who could assist are useful. Community help will be in addition to the assistance given by ELC and could involve the opening of community halls if houses are damaged or under water. Small working groups could be formed and letters asking communities for help will be sent out soon.</p> <p>A meeting will take place on 25th October – GACC will support this. 75% of all CCs have expressed interest in this initiative. A presentation from partner agencies will form part of the meeting and various scenarios will be discussed.</p> <p>The road at Aberlady was identified as flooding and sandbags have been used. The householder had contacted the local authority. It was agreed that the local authority should be contacted again.</p> <p>Mr Baptie advised that his role at The Open was to ensure that there was a contingency plan if something</p>	

	<p>went wrong. A response plan was in place; the Fire Training School had been used as a multi agency base during the period of the Open and this had worked well.</p> <p>MD – trade in local villages had been low but agreed that there are huge benefits in having The Open. Better public communication and consultation would be preferred next time round.</p> <p>JF suggested that the CC look at the web site and discuss the initiative at a future meeting, JF thanked SB for his time in talking to the meeting.</p>	
3	<p>MATTERS ARISING – REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENCE</p> <p>Gullane Sports Development Trust – A letter of thanks had been received for the donation made by the CC. The group have raised in the region of £25,000 to date.</p> <p>Speeding - A letter had been received from Peter Forsyth of ELC, and JF had spoken with Colin Baird on the matter of speeding on the road leading into Gullane. He had been advised that nothing will be done at the moment but a traffic survey will be undertaken in May/June and following results the matter will be looked at again.</p> <p>Goose Green – there is a tree missing, ELC are aware of this. This may be due to vandalism but there is no plan to replant another at the moment.</p>	
4	<p>LOCAL PRIORITIES</p> <p>At the last meeting the original planning application for a grant for street furniture in Aberlady had been discussed. The previous Chair had written to the Chair of Aberlady Conservation and History Society but no response has been received. To update new members the situation was explained in that they had requested that the funding be transferred to the archaeological dig but the CC voted not to allow this transfer of funds. No money has as yet been handed over. MD will try and ascertain the position. JF will send him the details.</p> <p>An application has been received requesting funding to help with roof repairs to Aberlady Village Hall. It is likely that the total cost will be approx. £20,000 and the sum of £5,000 is requested. JF will send an email to the sub-committee with the details for consideration and the application can then be discussed. A recommendation should be available for the next CC meeting.</p> <p>RA advised that funding previously given to Gullane Village Hall Committee had been well received; the hall is in very good shape and well used in the community. RA had attended the AGM last night. Cllr G advised that there may be money available for village halls which involved matched funding. This information will be passed to the Aberlady Hall Committee.</p> <p>Noticeboard – Gullane. The matter is ongoing but has progressed a little. ELC own the shop which is leased; the tenant should be asked for permission to move the current boards a little to accommodate a larger board.</p> <p>It was noted that a further two applications may be forthcoming in the next month, one from the Gullane Tennis Club and one for works to the Church Roof in Aberlady.</p>	<p>JF</p> <p>JF</p>
5	<p>POLICE REPORT</p> <p>Apologies were noted from PC Banks who is on annual leave. Laura then spoke to the report, attached.</p> <p>RA advised that on the Gullane news site the matter of a stolen surf board now appeared to be cleared up.</p> <p>TD raised issues with car parking at Drem Railway Station. The issue of inappropriate parking had also been raised at the CAPP meeting and the area will be patrolled on a regular basis. The car park is full from an early time and parking is inadequate. TD feels this should be a priority. Parking is taking place on the road to Prora on the corner and is often causing a problem. Cllr G advised that he had reported this matter to the Police a few days ago – a vehicle had been parked on the corner. Raymond Montgomery is to meet with the rail authorities to look at the situation with car parking and at the various options. Cllr B suggested that many of those people who use the station travel from outlying areas and that if a station is opened in East Linton this may go some way to easing the problem. Dunbar now has a new daily service and there is now a bus service to Drem. Travellers also use Wallyford and Prestonpans stations. TD felt strongly that with planning applications for new housing that this situation should be rectified now. Cllr B advised that the local authority rarely implement prior to an event. Could there be money available from an external fund to help? It was felt that planning in advance of housing would be best. The rail authorities are responsible for the car park at Drem. Station car parks are constructed by ELC.</p> <p>It was agreed to write to Scotrail to identify what pressure they are applying (or can apply) on Network</p>	

	<p>Rail in regard to this issue.</p> <p>FB- dog fouling is taking place in the evening around the school. There will be plain clothed patrols and marking with lurid paint.</p> <p>Cllr G – Wished to advise all present that this is Laura’s last meeting as she is departing for Inverness airport. Laura has worked in the Lothian and borders area for 12 years. Cllr B is sorry to see her go but this is the right step for Laura.</p>	
6	<p>PLANNING MATTERS</p> <p>TD has taken over from GF as planning spokesperson. Any planning matters for Aberlady will be sent to IM, Gullane to GF and Drem to SM. TD advised that there was nothing of note requiring attention this month.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There had been a previous application for a new house at Archerfield which has been revisited and has now been appealed. If granted it is felt there could be further infill. • There had been a report of tree cutting at the Renaissance Golf Club – TD had been aware of this. It is understood that a Planning Officer is currently investigating matters. MD advised that planting of beech trees had begun. • Blindwells – TD and DMcD had attended an exhibition as part of the consultation exercise. They could not see any objection relating to our CC area. There could be concerns with traffic and flooding in the immediate area. It was agreed that GACC should not become involved in any debate as matters are well covered by others in the more immediate area. • Planning and Renewable Energy Forum – TD had previously circulated an email following his attendance at this meeting and felt there were two points from the meeting. (a) The importance of involving young people in the community was stressed; this group prefer to look at social media rather than websites for information. (b) Pre application consultation – The importance of consultation in the planning process and the pre application consultations for large developments. It was felt that local communities should make more use of this process and the CC should attend exhibitions etc relating to large new developments and make comments at that stage than leave this to the time of lodging of the planning application. • Dirleton Airstrip – TD has spoken with Keith Dingwall, ELC. This application was referred to Scottish Government to decide whether they would call in or hand back to ELC. A further environmental report was then requested. The report is expected shortly and the application may be resurrected soon. Both GACC and the DVA had lodged objections. • K Dingwall had advised that the report which will identify land for housing development in the area is still being prepared and could be several months before it is published. • Housing in Dirleton - It has been rumoured in Dirleton that a housing development is planned but no further information is available from Keith Dingwall. Cllr D advised that there are plans for affordable housing in the field before the opening to Yellowcraig and this may have been misconstrued as a large build. • Main issues report – TD will speak to MD on this matter. It was suggested that building of housing at Blindwells might take pressure off some of the other areas in East Lothian. • It was noted that a second hangar may be planned for Archerfield. It is understood that planning permission is not required. • Freedom of information – Does the CC have any legal requirements on this issue? It was agreed that Lilian Pryde is the best point of contact. Information had been requested relating to an application at Ballencrieff. Cllr G advised that this related to the planning application for stables – no correspondence had been received by GACC on this matter. Discussion took place on whether Ballencrieff is in this area – it would appear that it does fall within the GACC boundary. JF will take advice from Lilian Pryde. 	TD
7	<p>WEBSITE</p> <p>Minutes have now been uploaded to the site. A photo is required from MD. Gary has been paid for his work on the site – it was always his intention to gift his fee to the sports development trust. Gary’s work has been very much appreciated. Should the CC now be on facebook with a link to the website? It was felt that young people are more likely to use facebook than to look at the website.</p> <p>FB advised that is struggling to make the meetings as she is time poor but is willing to continue to manage the website. This was agreed.</p>	

	<p>For the next meeting everyone was asked to think about links eg schools, Drs surgery. How should we manage emails on the site? It was suggested that it might be worth trying to obtain a .gov.uk domain which should help with the amount of spam. FB will discuss this with Gary.</p> <p>Should the website now be publicised? Yes.</p>	FB
8	<p>VILLAGE REPORTS</p> <p>Gullane</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RA advised that the Day Centre are delighted with the premises and are grateful for the support received from ELC. Cllr B felt it was a pity that the process had taken so long but was glad that the facility was now in place. • Millenium Wood – There had been a request for some work to be done to tidy up the area. Cllr D will make some enquiries. There had been a newsletter from the school re the Wood – FB will follow this up. • Bus from Gullane to Haddington – This service is underused and may be removed if not used. The timetable is advertised on the GACC website. There is no scope for an additional service to dovetail with any other bus services. JF will email the lady who raised the question. • Core Path – a meeting had taken place in the village hall which was less antagonistic than the previous meeting. A resolution had been passed to ask ELC to go down the legal avenue to compulsory purchase the land to allow access. This could take up to 10 years. A local farmer had volunteered to speak to Mr Russell to board over the ditch to allow walkers to use the path; it ensued that the land belongs to another farmer who will not give permission while Option 3 is still under discussion. Cllr B is only aware of one case in Scotland, in Aberdeen, when a compulsory purchase took place. <p>Dirleton</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The village shop is still open but may not survive without additional use. • Dog Fouling – this is a problem along the village green and outside the Open Arms Hotel. Craig McGowan had addressed the DVA meeting and advised that there is a problem in the whole area. The matter was brought up at the CAPP meeting. He has asked to speak to the CC about what can be done. SS had hoped to take this matter on but has not been in attendance at the last few meetings. There has been a focus campaign over the last few months. If the time and location of offences can be advised to Craig a £40 fine can be applied. All wardens can now fine offenders not only dog wardens. This is a huge issue in the area. Bags are still available in council offices – free. • Fiona was aware of a newsletter noting speeding vehicles round the green. <p>Drem</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christmas lights were very much appreciated. The noticeboard had been publicised in the East Lothian Courier. <p>Aberlady</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are issues with dog fouling. Jane will make contact with Craig McGowan. • Bench – JF advised that this was part of the application discussed earlier. There are slats missing on the bench in the bus stop. Cllr D will speak to Landscape and Countryside on this matter. • New member – Primrose Dunbar will come on to the CC which will bring numbers up to four for Aberlady. JF advised that Primrose has lived in the village for a long time and is a retired Nurse and Counsellor. She can be taken on as a Casual vacancy – this was supported and the vote carried. • JMcC is now struggling to attend meetings and suggested that she splits the post with her husband. She will attend when she can rather than split the role. • West Fenton – FB had been approached for some signage at the junction on to the Main Road out of West Fenton – Cllr D will discuss this with Colin Baird of ELC. • FB advised of a broken step on the pavement outside the Dirleton Primary School – between the houses and the school. This will be looked into. • Cllr B advised that Andrew Spratt who works for Historic Scotland at Dirleton Castle has been asked not dress up in period dress. Cllr B felt this was a pity. 	
9	<p>ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Area Partnerships – It is important that the CC send a rep to the meetings. JF can attend on Monday evening. Community Partnerships can have a say in where funds are spent and will devolve budgetary control decisions. TD advised that there will be four or five meetings per year and that these are important meetings. He will also attend on Monday but would rather not go to the meetings as we move forward. JF will email everyone to seek representation. Cllr B advised that 	JF

	<p>there will be opportunities for ward areas to take charge of how budgets are managed and set priorities and influence decisions. It would seem that GACC is only one of a few CCs where members of the public attend meetings. It is important that we play a part in this new initiative. There is one representative from Dunpender CC – it was noted that with two from GACC this gives a very strong position if both work together.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JF will attend a Business Conference in March. <i>East Lothian welcomes the World.</i> • MD felt that some of the new tourism signs were very small which are difficult to read while driving – but they are a very good idea. • Community Rail Partnership – Cllr B advised that they are trying to engage with communities to become involved at the stations. Some now have new posters and it would be useful to have additional local information. Someone from the local community should pick this up at Drem. JF will liaise with SM. Cllr B will identify the date of the next meeting. • RA asked Cllr G if he was aware of the next date for the community hospital steering group meeting. Cllr G advised that the meeting advertised in the East Lothian Courier is a meeting to give information to the general public and not the next meeting of the steering group. <p>RA felt that the CC must be mindful of the length of meetings. The meetings used to begin at 7:30pm and this timing was moved to 7pm as the intention was to finish earlier. Tonight’s meeting has been longer due to elections, a presentation and also the fact that there was no meeting last month.</p>	
10	<p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING The next meeting will take place on Thursday 27th February at 7:00pm in Aberlady Kirk Stables.</p>	