GULLANE AREA COMMUNITY COUNCIL

(Representing Aberlady, Direlton, Drem and Gullane)

www.gaddabout.org.uk

MINUTES OF THE ONLINE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 25 June 2020

Minutes are subject to adoption at the next meeting

Present	Tom Drysdale (TD)	Dirleton
	David Tait (DT)	Dirleton
	Malcolm Duck (MD)	Aberlady
	Frank Neate (FN)	Aberlady
	John Hendry (JH)	Gullane
	Gordon McLelland (GM)	Gullane
	Les Sibbald (LS)	Gullane
	Dorothy Arthur (DA)	Gullane
	Karen Chapman	Gullane
	Martin White	West Fenton
	Hugh Smith	Drem

In Attendance ELC Councillor, Jim Goodfellow (Cllr JG), Bonnie Macmillan, GACC Secretary

Item	Title	Action By
	Sign On, Welcome and Apologies	
	TD welcomed all to the online meeting and noted it was quorate.	
1	Apologies were received from Cllr Jane Henderson, Cllr Jeremy	
	Findlay, and PC Paterson.	
	Minutes of the Previous Meeting	
2	The minutes of the January meeting were approved and all present	
	were in agreement with decisions taken.	
	Matters Arising and Actions from the Last Meeting	
	Cut-out Policemen – the cut-outs have been seen in a few different	
	places, PC Paterson will be asked to attend the next GACC meeting	
	and speak about the plans going forward regarding the cut-outs as	
	well as addressing the police end of year report. TD to get in touch	
	with PC Paterson to ask that he attend the July meeting.	TD
3	Drem Station Parking and Traffic – TD has been in communication	
3	with the relevant ELC officials about parking controls to be introduced	
	on the roads outside the station to help with traffic management. This	
	is on hold at the moment due to Covid 19 restrictions.	
	Village Gateways for Aberlady – There was a recent meeting between	
	ELC officials, Liz Forsyth (LF) and GACC representatives. LF felt the	
	meeting was fruitful as ELC officials weren't averse to enhanced	
	markings. LF, Aberlady GACC representatives and TD to discuss how to	
	consult with villagers about what they prefer to see happen in regard	
	to village gateways. TD expressed optimism about further progress	LF/TD

3	with ELC on this matter. This had been put on hold due to Covid 19 restrictions, Liz Forsythe, Chair Aberlady Community Association, is now going forward with this.	
	Aberlady Burial Ground Space – There is currently enough burial space for approximately 3 years. MD has spoken with Martin Andrews (MA), Factor of Weymss and March Estates, about the possibility of the estate providing additional land for burial. MA will look at possible areas with Lord Weymss when he visits the estate in the near future. MD to continue consulting with MA and report back to GACC when there are further developments. Ongoing discussions have been put on hold due to Covid 19 restrictions; we will carry this forward for discussion at a later date.	MA MD
3	Aberlady Footpath from the Pleasance to the Bothy - There is a path on the south side of the A198 that begins at the Pleasance, but it doesn't go all the way to the Bothy. There is a perceived need for a path that carries on to the Bothy so that walkers don't need to cross the road to/from the existing path on the north side as this presents a hazard. There were various ideas brought up regarding the path, MA and MD to continue discussion and MD to report back to GACC. Ongoing discussions have been put on hold due to Covid 19 restrictions; we will carry this forward for discussion at a later date.	MA/MD
3	Aberlady Memorial Garden Hedge – LF has met with interested parties and they have reached a compromise. The hedge will be cut flat and angled at the entrance to widen it a little and increase visibility of the garden from the footpath/road. The Aberlady Village Association has agreed this should go ahead. FN will speak with ELC officials to request the work be carried out. This has been put on hold due to Covid 19 restrictions.	FN
	Gullane Car Charging Points – GM reported that the work has begun on the car charging points.	
	Gullane Street Signs and Street Sweeping – TD exchanged emails with Eamon John (ELC Service Manager – sport, Countryside and Leisure) about the street signs with missing letters, etc and the cleanliness of the streets in Gullane which has been particularly bad because of litter from beach goers, etc. The conversation was positive, and GACC Gullane members will monitor the position	
4	Membership There remain 2 vacant seats for Aberlady. Interested parties should speak to MD. TD and MD to speak about this and issues surrounding Aberlady membership.	TD/MD

5	Local Priorities Fund (LPF) JH reported that processing of LFP applications is up to date and that we are ready to receive new applications. GM would like photos of completed projects to post on GACC social media, KC to liaise with recipients.	КС
6	Treasurer's Report The Treasurer's year end accounts which were circulated before the meeting were approved. KC will now submit them to ELC. TD requested that the reference to the purchase of the Police Cut Outs should indicate that this was a shared expense with North Berwick CC. KC also clarified that the miscellaneous expenses entry referred to 1. The jumbo presentation cheque, 2. The Remembrance Day Wreaths and 3. The GACC insurance. There is an amount due back to GACC from ELC for Hall hire, this will be sorted after the accounts have been submitted to ELC.	КС
7	Police Report TD summarised the main points from the police report, which had been circulated prior to the meeting. Concerns were noted about the recent crash on the Dirleton bypass that involved a fatality. Also noted were the large amount of parking fines in Gullane and the number of people camping at Yellowcraig. TD to speak with Dave Wild, ELC countryside ranger, to seek clarification of the ELC position on camping at Yellowcraig. DT mentioned the emergent problem with teenagers and small nitrous oxide cannisters, TD to speak with PC Paterson about this. TD also to monitor the public toilet situation in the area.	TD TD
8	Village Reports Gullane – GM spoke about the concerns surrounding an increasing number of visitors to Gullane during the pandemic and the ongoing closure of the public toilets. Cllr JG clarified that this was a directive from the Scottish Government that ELC had to follow. There followed a discussion regarding an upgrade to the Gullane Bents toilets, which had been discussed previously, and the availability of finance after Covid 19. Cllr JG explained that at present the relevant ELC account is in a deficit due to Covid 19. DA reported that she had received many complaints about the speeding in at the east end of Gullane and eastwards from there on the A198. TD will discuss the issue of speeding throughout the area with PC Paterson. Aberlady – FN spoke at length about the Scottish Water waste water discharge problems in Aberlady. TD will contact the Courier about the possibility of a story in the paper regarding these problems. TD and FN to liaise on this. TD will also contact the MSP, Iain Gray, to discuss this and to explore to what extent he might become involved.	TD

8	FN reported that some of the planters the Aberlady Bloomers had begun to add throughout the village had been stolen. They have now been replaced with new planters made of a heavier wood that will be harder to steal. MD reported that he has had complaints about pedestrian access issues. Dirleton – Td has had correspondence with Scottish Water regarding the recent water pressure issues in parts of Dirleton. He feels that the matter is now closed. DT reported that the Dirleton Area Resilience Team is still functioning and has been consistently busy. Drem – HS reported that the main issue at the moment is speeding through the village, TD to discuss this issue with PC Paterson as noted under the Gullane report. West Fenton – no report	
9	Website and Communications GM reported that the traffic on the Gaddabout website has been higher than expected and together with the Facebook activity the major reports which were seen involved the proposed Mallard Hotel development and Cala's building restart. The letters regarding planning applications published on the web site have proved useful and linked to our and Gullane News Facebook pages.	
10	Planning MW spoke about the planning application regarding the Gullane Gym. There are several community members involved in an aspiration to purchase the gym to keep it as an asset for the surrounding communities. MW has already submitted a letter of objection on behalf of GACC in respect of the planning application. TD is also to contact Douglas Connan, who had emailed GACC about the community group interested in buying the gym.	MW/TD TD
10	TD summarised the four controversial outstanding planning applications that are affecting Dirleton at the moment: • The Archerfield Links application, which includes 2 house plots on the edge of the village green. This application is still under consideration by ELC. • An application for the refurbishment of Auburn House, facing onto the church green, which includes the redevelopment of the old laundry building as 3 holiday accommodation units and garages/carports fronting Manse road. This is under consideration by ELC. • An application for a riding stables development on ground north of the church by a company owned by the purchasers of Auburn House and the old laundry building. This is under consideration by ELC. • The Newmains Farm Steading application, which involves several issues. (1) Scottish Forestry has served the developer with a restocking direction, which is	

10	being appealed by the developer, and which TD is monitoring. (2) The closed off right of way - ELC legal staff have advised that on the basis of evidence provided by the Dirleton Village Association (DVA) this is an established public right of way and that ELC is now considering issues relating to a diversion of the relevant section. TD has been monitoring the position with them and with the community police officers regarding behavioural issues as between the developer and local residents. (3) the application for planning permission and listed building consent for 3 (formerly 4) houses on the site, in respect of which the developer has recently submitted extensive amended proposals, relative to which the DVA have submitted extensive objections. It was agreed that GACC should submit a letter to the planners supporting these objections	
11	North Berwick Coastal Area Partnership (NBCAP) Not meeting at the moment due to Covid 19 restrictions. TD is circulating relevant correspondence to GACC members when received by him. There will be an online meeting of the On the Move Group on 1 July which TD will attend and after which he will report back	TD
12	AOCB Resilience Team News Gullane – GM reported that as we enter the phases of lockdown easing the Gullane Resilience group is beginning the process of standing down and letting ELC Connected Communities take over. Following a meeting with several other Resilience Team Coordinators, July 31 is the consensus standing down date. There has been a steady decline in the uptake of services offered by the Gullane Resilience Team. Dirleton – DT reported that the issues in Dirleton are different and the Larder has been one of the most popular services on offer from the Dirleton Resilience Team, though over the last few days there has been a significant drop in the people using it as more shops have begun to open up. There has been a steady stream of requests for prescription deliveries and shopping collections, but the Dirleton Team plans to stand down on July 31 as well. Aberlady – MD is wary of the winding down of the resilience activities As there may still be many people on furlough who are in danger of becoming redundant, there may be an ongoing need for support.	
12	Coastal Communities Museum – MW is the area rep on the Museum board of trustees. He asked for opinions as to whether the Museum should reopen this summer. GACC response was that the museum should probably stay closed, but that we will support the decision taken by the museum board.	

ELC Tourism Committee – MD reported on the activities of the committee. The goal is to try and help local businesses to reopen, especially local attractions with the aim of bringing tourism back to the area. TD to ask Cllr JF to attend the July GACC meeting to report on the work of this committee.

TD

The next online meeting will be on Thursday 30 July at 7:00pm. If members of the public wish to raise any issues for discussion at the meeting, or beforehand, these should be sent by email to gaccsecretary@gmail.com