

GULLANE AREA COMMUNITY COUNCIL

(Representing Aberlady, Dirleton, Drem and Gullane)

www.gaddabout.org.uk

MINUTES OF THE ONLINE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 30th July 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 Councillors; Jim Goodfellow (Cllr JG), Jeremy Findlay (Cllr JF) and Jane Henderson (Cllr JH); and Bonnie Macmillan, GACC Secretary

Item	Title	Action By
1	Sign On, Welcome and Apologies TD welcomed all to the online meeting and noted it was quorate. Apologies were received from PC Paterson.	
2	Minutes of the Previous Meeting The minutes of the June meeting were approved and all present were in agreement with decisions taken.	

<p>3</p> <p>3</p> <p>3</p> <p>3</p>	<p>Matters Arising and Actions from the Last Meeting</p> <p>Cut-out Policemen – the cut-outs have been seen in a few different places. PC Paterson is not able to attend the GACC meetings at present due to his shift working pattern. TD and DA will meet with him to discuss the speeding and traffic problems in the villages.</p> <p>Drem Station Parking and Traffic – TD has been in communication 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.</p> <p>Village Gateways for Aberlady – There was a meeting in February between ELC officials, Liz Forsyth (LF), Chair of Aberlady Community Association, and GACC representatives. LF felt the meeting was fruitful as ELC officials weren't averse to enhanced road markings. TD is in further touch with them and awaits their suggestions and to how to proceed.</p> <p>Aberlady Burial Ground Space–Ongoing discussions about this with Wemyss and March Estates have been put on hold due to Covid 19 restrictions; we will carry this forward for discussion at a later date.</p> <p>Aberlady Footpath from the Pleasance to the Bothy - Ongoing discussions about this with Wemyss and March Estates have been put on hold due to Covid 19 restrictions; we will carry this forward for discussion at a later date.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>There is some confusion within the Village as to the GACC position on the matter, MD will sort this out.</p> <p>Camping at Beaches</p> <p>TD had corresponded with David Wild, the ELC Countryside Ranger, about the number of people wild camping at local beaches and surrounding areas. Mr Wild had provided a comprehensive reply and confirmed that the situation is being monitored by the ELC Countryside Rangers and the Police.</p>	<p>TD/DA</p> <p>LF/TD</p> <p>MD</p>
<p>4</p>	<p>Membership</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>TD/MD</p>

5	<p>Local Priorities Fund (LPF)</p> <p>JH reported that processing of LFP applications is up to date and that we are ready to receive new applications. An application in relation to the refurbishment of the Dirleton War Memorial was approved for £2000.00. The application regarding a new defibrillator for Aberlady has been approved in principal for £500.00 although it is on hold just now.</p> <p>GM would like photos of completed projects to post on GACC social media, KC to liaise with recipients.</p>	KC
6	<p>Treasurer's Report</p> <p>KC summarised the report informing members that there is £7632.89 left this year for LPF grants and £3572.32 available cash at bank for expenses. KC will identify in the ledger that the line which reports the amount of Covid 19 funds is for Gullane only.</p>	KC
7	<p>Police Report</p> <p>TD summarised the main points from the police report, which had been circulated prior to the meeting. Concerns were noted about a recent crash in Drem that wasn't reported in the Courier. Cllr JG suggested that GACC write to ELC asking if the accident was recorded, as in the past one of the reasons given for not making changes to the speed limit in Drem has been that there aren't enough statistics to support a change. TD will speak to ELC reps about this when they meet to discuss the village signs. MW and DA also mentioned an accident in West Fenton when a car drove through a hedge at speed the young driver's parents apologised to the land owner.</p> <p>There was much discussion about the new 20 MPH speed limits in the village centres. The restrictions are meant to remain in place for 6 months. There is much frustration over the new speed restriction and how effective it is, as against it being a cause of frustration, thus leading to dangerous driving.</p> <p>GACC will reconsider these issues during the trial period.</p> <p>GM brought up the large amount of parking control notices issued at or near Gullane Bents. Cllr JG explained that these funds go to the Coastal Car Parking Fund, but are not necessarily designated to be spent on the Gullane facilities. Cllr JF noted that the Gullane Bents toilets were at the top of the list for refurbishment pre-Covid 19.</p>	TD
8	<p>Village Reports</p> <p>Gullane - GM reported that the Main Street toilets might not be open yet and the library is not meant to open for a while. The library was meant to be used as an annexe for Gullane Primary School when it reopens for the new school year, but this was a contingency plan and it is now not going to be used in this respect. GM stated that the library is a lifeline for the ageing population in the area. Cllr JG explained that the library is not going to reopen for the foreseeable future due to staffing issues. Cllr JG explained that ELC Library Services have been hit hard by Covid 19 in relation to staffing issues</p>	

8	<p>and that this is an issue across the county with all village small libraries experiencing the same. A book exchange run by the Resilience team from the Village hall was terminated as they could not gain access to the Recreational (Scout) Hall in time to continue with their book exchange. GM and DT to email Cllr JG about the background and issues with the library not opening.</p> <p>GM gave a further update on the Gullane Resilience Team as they will be keeping lead volunteers in place for future need but all other activities will stop or be handed over to ELC as of July 31. They will continue to support Gullane Scrubbers who are now making medical gowns for children in hospital. There were funds raised by the Resilience Team through the sale of face masks and bread flour This money has been distributed in the following way; £1100 to the Gullane Village Hall, £220 to Brain Tumour Research, £275 to Muirfield Riding Therapy £100 to Gullane Scrubbers and £150 to the ELC Foodbank.</p>	GM/DT
8	<p>GM also reported that ELC is going to install temporary bike racks outside The Old Smiddy in accordance with monies from Sustrans. The electric car charging points have been installed but are not yet operational. DA reported that the new pavements at the east end of the village are finished and new lighting has been installed. She also updated GACC on the CALA developments reporting that building has been put on hold; they are only finishing houses already sold. DA has been in communication with Scottish Water regarding capacity in Gullane. FN is assisting her and she will report back when she has further information.</p>	DA
8	<p>West Fenton –MW spoke about the problem with speeding in West Fenton with some vehicles going at estimated speeds of 70/80 MPH within the designated quiet road area, where the limit is 40 MPH. MW will monitor this. Cllr JG suggested that MW try to note the time and colour of the vehicles involved, even if it is difficult to note the registration numbers.</p>	MW
8	<p>Drem –HS reported that speeding through the village is the most pressing issue just now.</p> <p>Aberlady– MD reported that Aberlady Bloomers had finished replacing the stolen flower planters and that the flowers look lovely. FN updated us on his correspondence re Scottish Water; he has now lodged a complaint with the Public Services Ombudsman and will keep GACC updated on the progress.</p>	
8	<p>Dirleton – DT reported that there had been complaints relating to the Dirleton - DT spoke about the Primary School lighting. He reported that there is an electrical fault with the system that he hopes to be rectified by the end of the week.</p> <p>DT gave an update on the Dirleton Area Resilience Team (DART), saying that services are winding down as of 31 July. The larder is closed and any individual who was depending on help from DART is being transferred to ELC Health and Social Care.</p>	

	<p>TD reported that residents are happy with the work at the Church Green. He also reported that the bowling green clubhouse will be undergoing significant refurbishment as well. TD reported that the public path through Dirleton Mains farm had now been officially recognised by the Scottish Rights of Way Society, although the diversion through the actual steading area is still to be agreed.</p>	
9	<p>Website and Communications GM reported that traffic is down compared to recent months, but that it is still higher than last year. The most viewed Facebook post was regarding the traffic problems arising as a result of the CALA developments</p>	
10	<p>Planning MW reported that it has been a quiet month for planning. The next ELC Planning Committee meeting will be in early September. MW commented on a planning application to build a new farmhouse at Ballencrieff, he had raised the issue of it being Development in the Countryside. Cllr JG reported that the planning application for the West Fenton to Gullane footpath/cycle path had just been granted. GACC had objected to it on the grounds of safety although stating that it did not object to the principle of the path. TD had been challenge on this by members of the Drem/Gullane Path Campaign and was in correspondence with them about it. He would keep GACC members advised on progress regarding this. Cllr JG reported that there is no news on the Mallard application and that the Manse Road Stables (Dirleton) application had been granted. FN asked for clarification about the possibility of a housing development on a site within the Aberlady Conservation Area. He will continue to monitor this. TD spoke about the Gullane Gym planning application, noting that it has been recommended for refusal by the planning officials. If it is refused at officer level the applicant can appeal to the Local Review Body. TD had corresponded with Douglas Conan who expressed his appreciation to GACC for their support.</p>	
11	<p>North Berwick Coastal Area Partnership (NBCAP) The Elcho Green parking Proposal is a big issue for the area. There is a need for improved parking facilities in North Berwick in both the short and long term and this is an important issue for residents in our CC area. The Elcho Green proposal has been put on hold for the moment while alternatives are considered by ELC. Cllrs JG and JH pointed out that there is much misinformation about the proposal circulating. Cllr JH informed GACC that she has stepped down as leader of the Conservative Party in East Lothian and that she will not be running for election in the next Council elections, although these will not be held until the Spring of 2022. TD expressed the gratitude of GACC for all of her service on their behalf.</p>	

12	AOCB ELC Tourism Committee – Cllr JF informed GACC that the committee is meeting every week, but that progress is slow.. Susan Smith, ELC Head of Economic Development, has resigned and this will most likely impact the work of the committee. Cllr JF and MD both emphasised the importance of focusing on the international market for 2021. There will be tourists visiting this year on staycations, but the main tourist thrust is for summer 2021.	
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The next online meeting will be on Thursday 27 August 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