

**GULLANE AREA COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

(Representing Aberlady, Dirleton, Drem and Gullane)

[www.gaddabout.org.uk](http://www.gaddabout.org.uk)

**MINUTES OF THE ONLINE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 29 October 2020**

Minutes are subject to adoption at the next meeting

<b>Present</b>	Tom Drysdale (TD)	Dirleton
	David Tait (DT)	Dirleton
	Malcolm Duck (MD)	Aberlady
	Frank Neat (FN)	Aberlady
	John Hendry (JH)	Gullane
	Gordon McLelland (GM)	Gullane
	Dorothy Arthur (DA)	Gullane
	Karen Chapman (KC)	Gullane
	Martin White (MW)	West Fenton
	Hugh Smith (HS)	Drem

**In Attendance** ELC Councillor Jim Goodfellow (Cllr JG), Liz Forsyth (LF), Chair Aberlady Village Association, Sandy Baptie (SB) ELC Emergency Planning, Risk and Resilience Manager, and Bonnie Macmillan, GACC Secretary.

Item	Title	Action By
1	<b>Sign On, Welcome and Apologies</b> TD welcomed all to the online meeting and noted it was quorate. Apologies were received from Les Sibbald (Gullane), Cllr Jeremy Findlay and PC Paterson.	
2	<b>Minutes of the Previous Meeting</b> The minutes of the September meeting were approved, and all present agreed with decisions taken.	
3	<b>Matters Arising and Actions from the Last Meeting</b> <b>Cut-out Policemen</b> – The “cut out” policeman was stolen while being utilised in Drem. All agreed that GACC would not replace it. <b>Drem Station Parking and Traffic</b> – 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. <b>This is on hold at the moment due to Covid 19 restrictions.</b>	
3	<p><b>Village Gateways for Aberlady</b> – 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 were not averse to enhanced road markings. TD is in further touch with them and awaits their suggestions and guidance as to how to proceed. <b>TD is still awaiting a response from ELC.</b></p> <p><b>Aberlady Burial Ground Space</b> –Ongoing discussions about this with Wemyss and March Estates have been put on hold due to Covid 19 restrictions; <b>we will carry this forward for discussion at a later date.</b></p> <p><b>Aberlady Footpath from the Pleasance to the Bothy</b> - Ongoing discussions about this with Wemyss and March Estates have been put on hold due to Covid 19 restrictions; <b>we will carry this forward for discussion at a later date.</b></p>	LF/TD
3	<p><b>Aberlady Memorial Garden Hedge</b> – 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. Ian Malcolm has been working with ELC who have agreed to keep the hedge trimmed.</p>	
4	<p><b>Membership</b> 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>	TD/MD
5	<p><b>Local Priorities Fund (LPF)</b> The awards to the East Lothian Countryside Volunteers as a contribution to a base at Aberlady Nature Reserve (£1500) and to Dirleton Village Association as a contribution to the costs of refurbishment of the Dirleton War Memorial (£2000) have been paid. There are 3 new applications:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Gullane Amateur Athletic Football Club – funds to be used to purchase 2 portable lights for the playing fields. The LPF sub-committee has recommended that this be approved for £600. All members agreed.</li> <li>2. Aberlady Community Association - funds to be used for Christmas lights. The LPF sub-committee has recommended a grant of £150. This was agreed by all.</li> <li>3. Revised application by Ian Malcolm for Aberlady in Bloom. The LPF sub-committee has recommended a grant of £250 to fund the purchase of wooden edging and gravel as part of the</li> </ol>	

	upgrading of the Memorial Garden. This was agreed by a majority of the GACC members.	
6	<b>Treasurer's Report</b> There was nothing new or outstanding in the Treasurer's report this month.	
7	<b>Police Report</b> LF reminded all that after recovering from the devastating fire at Fenton Barnes, the Café will be reopening on 31/10/20. TD will send GM the text of a note which had been circulated in Dirleton to add to the GACC website and Facebook page to alert the community of the reopening of the Café and to encourage people to shop locally.	TD/GM
8	<b>Smoke/heat/carbon monoxide alarms – New Regulations</b> The deadline to adhere to the new regulations has been extended until 1 Feb 2022, subject to amending legislation being passed by the Scottish Parliament. Cllr JG reported that ELC has already begun to implement these changes in its housing stock. DT pointed out to the committee that this is mainly going to affect homeowners and those that rent privately. GM raised the question of how the new regulations will be enforced. Cllr JG suggested that GACC could help to inform people about the new regulations by adding a post on GACC social media outlets about the extension of the deadline, what the new regulations consist of and how they will affect home owners, private renters and ELC tenants differently. TD will compose a post for GACC social media and send it to GM Cllr JG will give TD details of who to contact at ELC Trading Standards to speak to about the misleading circular that has been put through residents' letterboxes. The meeting was addressed by Sandy Baptie (SB) from ELC who spoke about Resilient Communities. SB thanked DT, GM, and Lorna Scott for their leadership in the local communities during the pandemic. He reemphasised that the Resilient Communities exist to deal with local emergencies that are sudden and quick. He gave an example of the severe weather warnings that are there to warn and inform the local communities. GM offered some feedback re SPOCs (Single Points of Contact) and the need to make to roles clearer. DT affirmed this by speaking about the need for a more coordinated effort regarding communications during an emergency.	TD/GM Cllr JG/ TD
9	<b>Village Reports</b> <b>Gullane</b> – DA reported that CALA have replanted bulbs that were removed during construction and that the Fenton Green development is almost complete. She has spoken with Ross Carruthers from CALA about the delay in the provision of the cycle stand/sculpture for the village, for which he has blamed ELC. GM reported that the temporary Sustrans cycle stands will be installed in November. He also spoke of the ongoing use of the Recreation Hall and that it will be available until the end of the year. A book exchange has been established in the Recreation Hall. GM also	

9	<p>spoke about the fact that the public toilets on Main Street are not open. He has emailed ELC to ask why the beach toilets are open and the Main Street toilets are not. Cllr JG agreed that the Main Street toilets should be opened. He suggested that GACC write to ELC in support of opening them. TD will take this up with ELC.</p> <p>GM reported that a steering group has been set up for the Gullane Village Association and they hope to be up and running by 2021.</p> <p>KC asked about the possibility of obtaining information regarding the formula used to calculate the amount that CALA is required to contribute to the new addition and ongoing work at the primary school. Cllr JG replied that he has access to a Section 75 spreadsheet that would be able to answer her questions. KC to liaise with Cllr JG about this.</p> <p><b>West Fenton</b> – Nothing to report</p> <p><b>Drem</b> – TD has written to Scottish Power about the power outages referred to at the September meeting but has not yet received a reply. HS reported that there have been no further power cuts.</p> <p><b>Aberlady</b> – MD reported that Aberlady is trying to arrange for a Christmas tree to be placed outside of Ducks Inn as it is a central point in the Village. MD also reported that the drains in Aberlady still need to be cleared and that the street is still flooding. LF reported that she is happy with the way things are running just now in Aberlady and that it is a great place.</p> <p><b>Dirleton</b> – DT has corresponded with the Recovery Group under ELC Connected Communities for guidance on what might be expected of the coronavirus resilience groups if we go into another lockdown. He is waiting to hear back from the Recovery Group and will report back to GACC at the next meeting. In response to this SB reported that he does not expect that shielding will happen again to the extent that it did in the first lockdown. He does not expect there to be a need for food banks, etc in a secondary lockdown. DART does not have a space to use as a base. GM noted that the local churches generally have not been able to help in this respect. TD reported that the Church could not allow the use of the Church Hall in view of the risk of infection, it being reserved for use only by the playgroup</p> <p>He will speak with a contact in the Church to see if they can offer DART any alternative space if needed in the future.</p>	<p>TD</p> <p>KC/Cllr JG</p> <p>TD</p>
10	<p><b>Website and Communications</b></p> <p>Nothing new to report, much the same as last month. The social media posts about cycling and the “cut out” policeman had the most views. GM would like photos from various village projects to use on GACC social media.</p> <p>GM and Gary Hitchen have spent quite a bit of time making sure the GACC website is compliant with the WCAG (Web Content Accessibility Guidelines). GACC unanimously agreed to a £50 honorarium for Gary plus a bottle of alcohol of his choice. KC will arrange this.</p>	<p>KC</p>

11	<p><b>Planning</b></p> <p>MW reported that there has been little activity. The extractor fan on the former Bank of Scotland building will be made to have as low of a profile as possible. MW also reported that there had been no news on the Mallard Hotel planning application.</p>	
12	<p><b>North Berwick Coastal Area Partnership (NBCAP)</b></p> <p>There are 2 meetings coming up. On The Move group will meet on 4 November and the full Partnership will meet on 10 November, where a number of grant applications will be considered. TD noted that although he is at present the only GACC member on the Partnership (with DA as his alternate) a second member should have been nominated following James Barbour's resignation. TD to progress this.</p>	TD
13	<p><b>AOCB</b></p> <p>MD spoke about the need for consistency in the Scottish Government's messaging about Covid-19 and restrictions resulting from it. MD will compose a letter about this and send it to TD. TD will consider it and distribute it to other GACC members for consideration. A discussion followed about the new tier system that has been introduced for Covid 19 restrictions in Scotland. The consensus is that this will be hard for local authorities to monitor and police.</p>	TD

**The next online meeting will be on Thursday 26 November 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](mailto:gaccsecretary@gmail.com)**