

GULLANE AREA COMMUNITY COUNCIL

(Representing Aberlady, Dirleton, Drem and Gullane)

www.qaddabout.org.uk

MINUTES OF THE ONLINE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 24 June 2021

Minutes are subject to adoption at the next meeting

Present

Tom Drysdale (TD)	Dirleton
Karen Chapman (KC)	Gullane
Dorothy Arthur (DA)	Gullane
Gordon McLelland (GM)	Gullane
Malcolm Duck (MD)	Aberlady
Martin White (MW)	West Fenton
Hugh Smith (HS)	Drem
Jamie Tough (JT)	Aberlady
David Tait (DT)	Dirleton
Rebecca Simpson (RS)	Aberlady

Apologies

Frank Neat (FN)	Aberlady
Hayden Edwards (HE)	Aberlady

In Attendance – Councillors Jeremy Findlay (CllrJF), Cllr Jim Goodfellow (CllrJG), Jane Henderson (CllrJH), Clare Tulloch (CT) (resident)

Item	Title	Action By
1	Sign On, Welcome and Apologies TD welcomed all to the online meeting and noted it was quorate. Apologies from HE and FN	
2	Minutes of the Previous Meeting The minutes of the meeting of 27 May 2021 were approved, and all	

	present agreed with decisions taken.	
3	<p>Matters Arising and Actions from the Last Meeting</p> <p>Saltcoats Development – covered under Gullane village report.</p> <p>GM confirmed that ongoing street sign issue has been resolved as new signs have been put up.</p> <p>GM confirmed golf course access note has been published and distributed on website and village social media pages.</p>	
4	<p>Membership – co-option; recruitment of Secretary</p> <p>2 x vacancies for Gullane members 1 x vacancy for secretary</p> <p>Secretary, TD to post a further recruitment notice for this role.</p>	TD
5	<p>Local Priorities Fund</p> <p>KC confirmed payment for the current year of £6,610 for Local Priorities Fund (LPF) and £837 for administration has been received from ELC..</p> <p>Application from Aberlady Comminute Association has been received for Aberlady Bench Project. Request for £700 toward total costs of £4,744. All agreed subject to all other funding being secured for project to go ahead.</p> <p>Gullane Day Centre application for £1,000 to be revisited.</p> <p>Dirleton Village Association Christmas lights; TD has had further communication with applicant to explain that their request of £4,000 from LPF would be too much, they would need to seek funding from other sources such as developers and NBCAP Their application to NBCBAP is ongoing.</p>	
6	<p>Treasurer's Report</p> <p>KC has confirmed that funds have been received, as above. No outstanding issues.</p>	

7	<p>Police Report</p> <p>The monthly community police report, which had been circulated prior to the meeting and would be posted on the website and on Facebook, was noted.</p> <p>GM noted the still large numbers of parking tickets at coastal car parks. Feels signage is poor.</p> <p>CllrJG confirmed he has raised this issue with ELC in the past and has suggested clearer signage to give suitable warning to visitors.</p> <p>TD noted that the police have been unable to attend a number of issues and is concerned that police visibility in the area is reducing.</p> <p>MD explained that police are busy enforcing Covid regulations. Duck's hotel has been reported for serving alcohol after hours. MD confirmed this report was unfounded and is happily working with police to show their compliance with regulation.</p> <p>CllrJH explained that there has been an increase in police activity dealing with various issues concerning young people in the area.</p> <p>JCllrG confirmed that Chief Inspector Neil Mitchell can be contacted and invited to attend future CC meeting. TD to make contact.</p>	TD
8	<p>Village Reports</p> <p>Gullane</p> <p>GM – resilience group, nominated for the Volunteer Community East Lothian award, were runners up. Great success!</p> <p>MW confirmed drainage issue at West Fenton has been resolved.</p> <p>Saltcoats Development</p> <p>CllrJF had confirmed that ELC have received two stage 1 complaints in regard to this development; one to ELC Access Officer and one to planning department.</p> <p>DA has received an email from a group of residents who have raised a number of concerns about the development and their perception that</p>	

works should not have started without the necessary planning conditions being met. They argue that the ongoing groundworks are illegal and their opinion is that Cala would have to re-apply for planning permission. Furthermore they detail a severe lack of communication from whoever is carrying out the work, whether it is the landowner or Cala.

GM confirmed that he walks this site regularly and can't see that any other works other than removal of top soil is being undertaken.

MW explained that the site has had 17 planning conditions imposed, which is not unusual for a development of this size. ELC councillors have been looking into this and they appear to be satisfied that no law has been broken. His understanding is that the site is still owned by Luffness farm and that they have outsourced the ground works. He is aware of residents' concern about the core path being impacted, which he understands is still operational. MW has also queried plan for West Fenton residents' access to school as existing path seems to be closed off. It appears that requirement of developers to have use of this area daily from 7am until 7pm will cause issue with West Fenton residents accessing school safely. MW also commented that ELC, SEPA and Scottish Water are working together to ensure that the waste water treatment plant has adequate capacity.

CllrJF – ELC have stated that all but one of the planning conditions have now been met and Cala will begin work on 28th June. ELC are satisfied that this can go ahead. Explained that ELC are not able to request Scottish Water report. They are obliged to accept Scottish Water overall approval; though community residents can request the detailed report should they wish.

Cllr JH – ELC engaged with Scottish Water to detail community concerns, rather than just accept the overall approval.

RS has received feedback from residents living near the site that they are facing issues with dust pollution. DA confirmed she has experienced this also.

CllrJH confirmed that the dust issue was notified to ELC and appropriate measures were taken to minimise the dust, with use of water bowsers as instructed by SEPA.

CllrJG noted that the situation on the site is different to normal in that it is the land owner that has started the ground works whereas normally it would be the developers. Perhaps a lack of experience and communication problems is causing the issues identified by the community objectors.

<p>Overall discussion amongst CC about how best to represent the community on this. Apparent that nothing unlawful has taken place and that main issue is lack of communication. CC role is to represent community going forward and ensure that we can help ensure there is as little disturbance as possible for residents.</p> <p>Action for MW and TD to communicate with ELC voicing residents' issues and also to Gullane resident group that are hoping for the works to be halted.</p> <p>ClrJG suggests that ELC and Cala provide a contact that we can liaise with should future issues arise.</p> <p>CT – as a resident of West Fenton she wants to ensure that a solution is forthcoming for access for children to school as there is currently no safe means of access other than driving. Feels ELC have failed residents in this context.</p> <p>Concern was expressed about reservation of land for primary school expansion at Gullane, now shown as reduced in scope, with part of the reserved land renamed 'Saltcoats Meadow', and changes to the primary school forcing a reduction in playground space per pupil, despite land being earmarked. This thought likely to result in the area designated as Saltcoats Meadow and the rest of the reserved land being seen as suitable for further housing development.</p> <p>Dirleton</p> <p>DT confirmed that new website is up and running and showing a big upturn in traffic, with more plans to utilise keyword optimisation to drive more traffic toward the website</p> <p>TD confirmed that village market on the Green to take place again on 8th August after previous success.</p> <p>Drem</p> <p>HS is liaising with Alan Stubbs, ELC Service Manager for Roads, regarding street sweeping.</p> <p>HS noted that Ian Malcolm's report submitted to CC and NBCAP for improvements in Aberlady contains suggestions about bypassing the village. He is concerned that this may force more traffic through Drem. Agreement that the CC will work together to ensure any solutions for Aberlady take into account other villages.</p>	<p>MW TD</p>
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	<p>Aberlady</p> <p>MD confirmed Aberlady keen to take part in Queens’s canopy project.</p> <p>MD confirmed that Aberlady members are still pulling together details of Ian Malcolm’s report on improvements to the village to bring to CC for discussion. TD noted that it was submitted and discussed at recent NBCAP meeting</p> <p>MD noted that traffic and bus concerns in the village indicate a need for CC to work with ELC councillors to discuss solutions.</p>	
9	<p>Website and Communications</p> <p>GM confirmed defibrillator list now on website. Members to let GM know if they are aware of any others not listed.</p> <p>GM confirmed good response to article about golf course access.</p>	
10	<p>Planning</p> <p>MW commented on press coverage of house building quotas. ELC have responded that infrastructure should come first. New quotas will be set by year end, at which point there will be need to find suitable sites for house building.</p> <p>ClIrJH pointed out that the recent ELC full council meeting has been recorded and is accessible on the ELC website. It may be of interest as it included discussion on house building quotas. MW to listen to it and feedback to CC where necessary.</p>	MW
11	<p>North Berwick Coastal Area Partnership (NBCAP)</p> <p>TD attended recent meetings of the full Partnership and its On The Move group; raised concerns about suggested changes to voting structure and need to ensure that this would not dilute voice of the villages in the wider area.</p> <p>GM noted that Lothian Buses’ X5 service has not been restored and ClIrJG suggested that community members be encouraged to actively lobby them for its reinstatement. GM to create notice for social media.</p>	GM

12	<p>AOCB</p> <p>TD had issued a note to CC members about CC elections due to take place early in October. His intention is not to seek re-election as a Dirleton representative, so CC must identify a suitable replacement for Chair.</p> <p>MD requested that we discuss succession to Chair at the July CC meeting..</p> <p>GM noted concerns about ELC's proposals for Gaelic signage. TD had suggested CC members read full report on government website as this is clearly part of a national strategy.</p>	
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The next regularly scheduled online meeting will be on Thursday, 29 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