

GULLANE AREA COMMUNITY COUNCIL

(Representing Aberlady, Dirleton, Drem and Gullane)

www.qaddabout.org.uk

MINUTES OF THE ONLINE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 29 July 2021

Minutes are subject to adoption at the next meeting

Present

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| 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 |
| Rebecca Simpson (RS) | Aberlady |
| Frank Neat (FN) | Aberlady |
| Hayden Edwards (HE) | Aberlady |

Apologies

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| David Tait (DT) | Dirleton |
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In Attendance –Jane Henderson (CllrJH), Hilary Cochrane (Deputy Lieutenant for East Lothian), Nicky Black (NB) (Gullane resident)

| Item | Title | Action By |
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| 1 | Sign On, Welcome and Apologies TD welcomed all to the online meeting and noted it was quorate. Apologies from DT | |
| 2 | Minutes of the Previous Meeting The minutes of the meeting of 24 June 2021 were approved, and all | |

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| | <p>present agreed with decisions taken.</p> <p>FN wanted to clarify point relating to CllrJF comments on Scottish Water's decision on approval of Saltcoats development. Comments were in regard to Scottish Water not being required to provide the detail on how the approval decision was arrived at. FN & TD to discuss separately what if anything can be provided in terms of how Scottish Water came to their decision.</p> | |
| <p>3</p> | <p>Matters Arising and Actions from the Last Meeting</p> <p>TD - having posted recruitment notice for Gullane vacancies and Secretary position Nicky Black has agreed to be considered for membership. . See below under Membership</p> <p>TD – Gullane Day Centre has applied for £900 for their Gazebo which was granted. KC to deal with payment to applicants.</p> <p>TD – Dirleton Christmas lights proposal is ongoing and will be discussed amongst the NBCAP at a meeting on 18 August which TD will attend.</p> <p>TD – Chief Inspector Mitchell has been invited to CC meeting; he has passed over the names of 2 community officers; Douglas Kerr and Marco Crolla responsible for North Berwick. Both have since been invited but unable to attend so far.</p> <p>MW – listened to recording of last ELC full Council meeting which covered future plans for house building in the region. Noted that plan is to build houses where existing infrastructure is in place already, but where there isn't it needs to be put in place first. Quota for new builds comes from government so ELC essentially have to fulfil this and find most suitable sites within region to build.</p> <p>CllrJH noted that there is an urgency to get houses built. ELC must meet quota as quickly as possible so they are not continually targeted for future builds. Hope is that once quota met, then it's unlikely that ELC would be expected to build more.</p> <p>It was noted that a Gullane resident had questioned members' concerns about the Council's proposed use of Gaelic road signage. In discussion there was still concern about this, incurring expenditure at a time when there are more urgent demands on the Council's budget. Concern was also expressed at the Council's overall proposals for encouraging the wider use of Gaelic within the community, which was felt to be inappropriate in an East Lothian context. It was however decided to take no further action on this and not to make any representations to the Council about it.</p> | <p>KC</p> |

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| 4 | <p>Membership – Vacancies for Gullane, recruitment of Secretary, October CC Elections and succession to chair.</p> <p>2 x vacancies for Gullane members 1 x vacancy for secretary</p> <p>Nicky Black (NB) has agreed to be considered for one of the Gullane vacancies. This was accepted unanimously and she was welcomed to the membership.</p> <p>DA has put forward Ragbir Chana, a Gullane resident, who had expressed an interest in being considered for membership. TD is to meet with Ragbir to discuss joining.</p> <p>TD requested that vacancy notices are taken down from village notice boards.</p> <p>TD confirmed that he is to retire as chair and not seek re-election at the October elections. Position under the ELC rules is that at the first meeting after elections a new chair should be elected. MW observation that a previously suggested rotating chair (rotation around villages) is not in line with Green Book and would cause too much confusion.</p> <p>HE felt we should discuss and consider alternatives to chair as concern is that no one wants to take on position.</p> <p>TD suggested that some of the Chair’s current duties could be delegated amongst members to reduce the overall work load of Chair.</p> <p>MD felt that a solution needs to be agreed ahead of TD leaving. Has requested that if anyone wants to put themselves forward they should discuss with TD and MD so that we can understand if and how we might need to consider alternative arrangements.</p> | |
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| 5 | <p>Local Priorities Fund</p> <p>TD confirmed that no applications are outstanding</p> <p>RS and FN have had an enquiry from Aberlady Bloomers for payment of bowser (already agreed at £650). KC confirmed she has a cheque waiting for collection. FN to liaise with Aberlady Bloomer representative and organise collection.</p> <p>KC confirmed that we have allocated just under half our annual LPF budget so far.</p> | |
| 6 | <p>Treasurer's Report</p> <p>Nothing to report except as under LPF (above)</p> | |
| 7 | <p>Police Report</p> <p>TD keen for police to attend CC meetings again as has been some time since last attendance. Concern raised that reported crimes on police report seem to remain unsolved, or that we do not get any notification that they're being closed off.</p> <p>ClrJH confirmed that she (and CllrJF) has a meeting with new community officers on 31st August. Disappointed they have not been attending meetings thus far.</p> <p>TD noted high number of campers and visitors to area have caused issues with some of the public services; namely the public toilets at Yellowcraig having to be closed due to blocked pipes.</p> <p>GM - following on from last meeting where parking signage in Gullane bents was brought up. He has discussed with CllrJG and he will take on board potential improvements to signs to warn of need to pay for parking. TD agreed that clearer signage is required and will approach the Council in regard to this.</p> <p>NB has spoken with local traffic wardens to try and understand why such a high level of tickets being issued. Their general feeling is that it's a combination of visitors assuming that no traffic wardens patrol these car parks and that Edinburgh residents assume that parking is</p> | TD |

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| | <p>free on Sundays, as is the case in much of Edinburgh.</p> <p>HE noted that similar issues exist in Aberlady Bay car park, though signage is very clear, so feeling is that people are 'chancing it' on assumption that area is not patrolled.</p> | |
| 8 | <p>Village Reports</p> <p>Gullane</p> <p>TD confirmed that he wrote to ELC Chief Executive raising residents concern on Saltcoats development. Was passed to Keith Dingwall who immediately responded and was keen to take a meeting with some CC reps on the issue. Mr Dingwall has yet to come back with confirmation of dates and as such TD to chase again. CllrJH offered to contact Mr Dingwall as well as has existing business with him. FN has requested that he can be one of the members that attend this meeting as it ties in with his ongoing effluent waste issue in Aberlady Bay. TD to consider this as concern is that the waste and drainage are only a small part of the overall issues to be discussed at the meeting.</p> <p>DA confirmed that Cala have stated that they are happy to share the detail of their drainage report. Scott Fraser at Scottish Water is preparing report currently, though DA has confirmed that it's taking some time for it to be produced. DA has also emailed an FOI request to Scottish Water and expects response by 8th August.</p> <p>GM confirmed ongoing issue with litter bins next to Smiddy, overflowing due to high amount of visitors and seagulls making a mess with the debris. Has raised this with CllrJF. TD has had help from ELC previously. GM to contact their Eamon John and Andrew Hogarth to seek improvement of bin management.</p> <p>GM confirmed that Gullane Library to reopen 31 August 2021.</p> <p>Aberlady</p> <p>MD to approach Council in regard to finding a solution to help buses move through village at busy periods as concern that future service may be impacted.</p> <p>GM understands that X5 is to be brought back as of 9th August. GM had sent out appeal for residents to lobby East Coast Buses for the X5 to be brought back and there had been a good response.</p> | |

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| | <p>RS confirmed that there is interest within the village to take part in the Queens Green Canopy initiative, marking the 60th anniversary of the Queen’s accession in 2022. Aberlady Bloomers have contacted ELC tree officer to discuss sites. RS has a tree to donate for this.</p> <p>FN has been approached by BBC in respect of his ongoing issues of effluent waste in Aberlady Bay. He spent over 2 hours on site with a reporter to take them through the issues. Doesn’t know exactly where and when this will be used, though will keep CC updated.</p> <p>Drem</p> <p>HS confirmed that ELC have advised that fixing the ongoing drainage issue in Drem is Network Rail’s responsibility.</p> <p>HS is moving house to another area so will no longer be able to maintain CC Drem representation. Wants to encourage community engagement ahead of leaving so will liaise with HE to get a copy of the survey that Aberlady recently issued, to use as a basis for consultation with Drem residents.</p> <p>West Fenton</p> <p>MW confirmed that meeting between Cala and local farmer is taking place to discuss route for villagers to be able to walk to Gullane.</p> <p>Dirleton</p> <p>TD confirmed that Village Market to take place on 8th August.</p> <p>FN has a report about potential drainage issues coming to Dirleton and will forward to TD for him to look over and report back if deemed appropriate.</p> | TD |
| 9 | <p>Website and Communications</p> <p>GM detailed good responses to recent posts detailing vaccination info and Saltcoats development.</p> <p>GM requires photos of successful LPF applicants collecting their cheques. KC confirmed that she hopes to capture a photo of Aberlady Bloomers accepting their cheque which they are due to collect.</p> | |

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| 10 | <p>Planning</p> <p>TD confirmed that Renaissance Golf Club has re-awakened their 2019 application for 6 cottages and ten cabins to be used for holiday accommodation. This may involve felling of significant amount of trees. MD indicated that he is aware that the Renaissance Club has a strong history of planting trees since they started this development. It's important to understand that they take tree planting seriously. TD and RH to review the application and advise whether any representations should be made on it.</p> | MW |
| 11 | <p>North Berwick Coastal Area Partnership (NBCAP)</p> <p>TD confirmed that nothing to report other than the Christmas lights meeting due to take place on 18 August, on which he will report back.</p> <p>RS enquired as to the availability of minutes of the NBCAP meetings TD to check and circulate.</p> <p>Agreed that Doug Haig, the Partnership's Connected Communities Manager, should be invited as a guest to our August meeting.</p> | TD TD |
| 12 | <p>AOCB</p> <p>Agreed that we should seek to resume face to face meetings by September. This to be monitored in the light of progress on release from pandemic lockdown.</p> | |

The next regularly scheduled online meeting will be on Thursday, 26 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