

GULLANE AREA COMMUNITY COUNCIL
 (Representing Aberlady, Dirleton, Drem and Gullane)
 www.gaddabout.org.uk

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 27TH NOVEMBER 2014

Held in Aberlady Kirk Stables

Minutes are subject to adoption at the next meeting

Present:	J Findlay (JF) Chair	Gullane
	T Drysdale (TD)	Dirleton
	R Ainslie (RA)	Gullane
	Malcolm Duck (MD)	Aberlady
	Angus McCallum (AMc)	Aberlady
	D McDonald (DMcD)	Dirleton
	V Sked (VS)	Gullane
	Cllr Day (CllrD)	East Lothian Councillor
	T A Lonie (TAL)	Secretary

Item	Title	Action By
1	APOLOGIES Apologies were received from: Fiona Boswell (FB), George Fraser, Ian Malcolm, Sian Morris, PC Tait, Cllr Berry and Cllr Goodfellow.	
2	MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING The minutes of the previous meeting, as circulated by the Secretary, were confirmed as a true reflection of the meeting with one revision to be noted under the 'Village Reports' section, (Gullane), regarding payment to Falkos.	TAL
3	MATTERS ARISING – REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENCE * The Chair had sent a letter to First Group plc regarding the issues with the local bus service but no reply or acknowledgement has been given. The group agreed that he should send another letter. The Chair had also received an email from Mr Harry Barker (HB) who is the RELBUS Representative on the new East Lothian Community Rail Partnership (ELCRP). The group agreed to invite HB to the next meeting in January to give an update on ELCRP and the East Lothian Bus Forum meeting that HB will attend on 28/11/14. Action: Chair to invite HB to next meeting. * CllrD updated the meeting on the planning for a car park on the north side of the railway line at Drem Station, which looks likely to go ahead. The Chair commented that this would assist people with disabilities as they would not have to go over the bridge to travel to Edinburgh. This could however present them with a problem on their return journey to Drem. A question was raised regarding the proposal of a new railway station at East Linton (EL) and whether it would reduce demand at Drem dependant on how many travel from EL to Drem. * The Chair had received an invitation from ELC for the Christmas Reception to be held in the Saltire Rooms, John Muir House, Haddington on Tuesday 16 th December at 7pm. Chair to attend and one other committee member who is available/wishing to attend. *The Chair had still not had a response from ELC's Landscaping Services in regard to ground maintenance at the Fire School at Gullane. However, he had discussed this with CllrG on 25/11/14 who agreed to talk to the appropriate contact in the Landscaping Dept.	<p style="text-align: center;">Chair</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Chair</p> <p style="text-align: center;">CllrG</p>
4	POLICE REPORT The Chair informed the group that, due to an unfortunate incident, PC Tait was unable to attend the meeting. He currently has no access to the software required for the reporting and said he would email the Chair with the report asap. * VS commented on the recent break-ins on Main Street, Gullane when the street lights were off, with both the Smiddy and Gannets Deli having attempted break-ins. The Smiddy are now installing security lights, padlock and alarm system as a deterrent and ELC have now fixed the	PC Tait

	<p>street lighting.</p> <p>* CllrD informed the group that the numbers of house-break-ins had dropped significantly of late thanks to the positive effect the smartwater kits had made. This continues to be a priority for the area as well as speeding.</p> <p>*MD noted that speed traps had been installed near the bird centre in Aberlady to address speeding but that it may be more effective to monitor cars speeding into the village rather than leaving the village.</p> <p>*AMc requested that any policing/anti-social issues in the villages should be highlighted to him prior to the CAPP meetings, which are usually held the evening prior to the CC meetings.</p> <p>Action: TAL to remind CC members of this when sending the agenda out one week before every meeting.</p> <p>* RA informed the group that the first smartwater arrest had been made in Edinburgh after a bicycle had been recovered. An article had been featured in the Scotsman regarding the positive and active use of smartwater in the area.</p>	AMc/ TAL
5	<p>LOCAL PRIORITIES</p> <p>Application for information board in Aberlady – ongoing with funding on hold until conservation consent is given – AMc requested an update on this application as Aberlady Councillors are keen to report back to the Aberlady Parish Church and asked the group if support was likely to be given. A discussion ensued regarding the process for applications and the consistency of the approach. RA re-advocated the need for a meeting of the LP sub-committee to discuss and review the current principles and guidelines. She also stated that a GACC Councillor should not be presenting an application request and instead a representative of the Church, in this case, should be invited to the next meeting to present the case.</p> <p>Action: AMc/IM to invite a Church Rep to next meeting. RA to obtain current documentation/guidelines from Russell Dick in order to review at LP meeting</p> <p>No new applications at present (deadline end of March 2015)</p>	AMc/ IM/RA
6	<p>PLANNING MATTERS</p> <p>Application for housing on Ware Road, Dirleton Update – the Dirleton Village Association (DVA) are considering lodging objections to the recent planning application for 21 houses by the 26/12/14 deadline. This site is classed as a reasonable alternative site in the Main Issues Report (MIR) but the DVA is concerned at the possibility of consent already having been given before the preferred sites as stated in the MIR had been considered.</p> <p>TD invited the CC to object and support the DVA, which the CC agreed they are happy to do.</p> <p>Action: TD to prepare objection on behalf of the CC and Chair to approve and send.</p> <p>Planning Committee Meeting (2/12/14)– TD hopes to attend this meeting and CllrD urged the community to attend these meetings and have their opinions heard before the MIR consultation ends.</p> <p>MIR Update – refer to section nine.</p>	TD
7	<p>WEBSITE</p> <p>Angus McCallum (AMc) updated the meeting on his proposal to set-up a facebook page for the CC that would link to the current website and provide up-to-date information to the community. He handed out copies of the homepage of Gullane Sports Development Trust (GSDT) as a good example of how the CC could promote itself to a wider audience with the community able to actively comment/feedback. AMc had met with the Chair of the Pentcailtland CC who has recently revamped their website and believes that it has transformed communications with their community. AMc believes that action is required to improve GACCs website and agreed to set up a simple facebook for GACC with a soft launch initially with himself acting as Librarian to respond to comments posted on the page. It was also agreed that this should be a GACC facebook page covering all villages and that ‘policing’ the comments would be essential.</p> <p>Action: AMc to take to the next stage and discuss with Gary Hitchen again to see if he would be willing to help set up the GACC facebook page and link in with the website.</p>	AMc
8	<p>DREM CORE PATH</p> <p>The Chair updated the group on the progress of setting up a meeting with ELC, Core Path Group,</p>	

	Professor Dale and Sian Morris with himself to be the independent Chair. After several communications, Nick Morgan has agreed to attend the meeting from ELC, which will be held in December or January depending on availability. Action: Chair to organise meeting.	Chair
9	<p>ELC MAIN ISSUES REPORT (MIR)</p> <p>TD had prepared and distributed a summary of the MIR by e-mail to all CC members and suggested that consideration needed to be given to how to move forward the consultation process as this must be submitted by 8/2/15.</p> <p>In summary, the proposed support for development in the MIR being concentrated on the A1/EL railway line covering Musselburgh/Tranent/Haddington and Dunbar. The western part of the county has been recommended as the preferred option as it is closest to the strongest infrastructure and TD agreed this would make more sense rather than the alternative scenario of spreading development across the whole county. GACC lies in the NB cluster and the sites proposed for all our villages are relatively modest. TD feels that it would be unrealistic to object to all development in the cluster but it was important to comment on the sites originally put forward for consideration and not only on those being proposed in the MIR:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Blindwells – important issues and long-term effects on the area with proposal of 1,600 houses with a new primary school and the possibility of another + 1,000 houses on the south side of the railway bordering Longniddry. * Fenton Barns – medium to long-term possibility for significant development including up to 1,000 houses or 6,000 houses with new primary and/or secondary school. <p>TD stated that ELC may introduce a designation of countryside around towns to protect the rural areas and ground round our villages, which are identified as suitable for having this designation. It was agreed that GACC should encourage this in their response to protect our countryside. CllrD reinforced TD’s position in that commenting on the MIR and attending MIR consultations are vital so that the community can have their say in the future growth of EL, (TD to attend MIR consultation meeting in NB on 4/12/14).</p> <p>RA commented that people are aware of the MIR and that some abusive comments had been removed from the Gullane News facebook page. She also informed the group that the Parent Council Committee (PCC) of Gullane Primary School were planning to hold a meeting on the plans for new housing in Gullane and that this had been advertised in the school newsletter. Finally, on behalf of the CC, the Chair thanked TD for his continuing hard work on this.</p> <p>Action: TD to hold separate meetings with the community councillors for each area prior to Christmas to assess what response should be given in respect of the preferred and alternative sites in each area. TD then to draft an overall GACC response by mid-January with a final discussion at the GACC January meeting before submission to ELC one week later by 8/2/15.</p>	TD
10	<p>VILLAGE REPORTS</p> <p>Aberlady</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * AMc informed the group of the continuing issues with the flooding at ‘Sea Wynd’ in the village and that he had sent correspondence to Mr Forsyth (ELC Transportation Dept). It was agreed that AMc would summarise the issues and CllrD would pass on to the relevant person in ELC. * It was noted that the new bus shelter had now been erected by ELC but that there were no timetables at the bus shelters, which has been causing issues especially for visitors to the area. Continuing concern was also raised over the service that First Group plc are offering (refer to Matters Rising section). * It was also noted that the CC minutes on the information board were out-of-date with a page missing. AMc to rectify and put up October’s approved minutes. TAL to issue final version. <p>Dirleton</p> <p>*DMcD informed the group that the Dirleton Village Association (DVA) had their AGM on the 20/11/14 and that Keith Cornwell had been elected as the new Chairman, Maureen Mabon (MM) as the new Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator for the village and that new committee members had also been elected. DMcD suggested that MM should now attend CAPP meetings.</p> <p>Drem</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Councillor not present – refer to Drem Core Path section. 	AMc/ TAL

	<p>Gullane</p> <p>* VS commented on feedback regarding disturbances at the new Gullane Medical Centre with groups of youths socialising and skateboarding there. It was felt that a rubbish bin should be installed at the centre as the closest bin is at the top of the lane and not in reasonable proximity to the centre.</p> <p>*RA reported on the ongoing problem of dog-fouling around the Primary School and the health and safety risks involved and that this had been discussed on the Gullane News Group facebook page. CllrD assured the group that the Council's Dog Warden was looking into this problem.</p>	
11	<p>ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS</p> <p>* CC membership – it was noted that Sophie Shorthouse (SS) had not attended a CC meeting since August 2013 and that she had not responded to any communications from the Chair. A discussion ensued regarding current representation on the CC and it was agreed that, in line with the ELC Green Book (pro-forma constitution), SS would have her membership withdrawn with immediate effect. It was also agreed that it was necessary to co-opt another councillor for Gullane and that the Chair would approach a lady recommended by FB.</p> <p>Action: Chair to send SS a letter regarding membership withdrawal & VS to remove SS from the website. Chair to request copies of the green book from ELC for MD & AMc and TD to email copy of original constitution to CC members.</p> <p>* MD informed the group that no decision had been reached yet on any road closures for next year's Scottish Open.</p> <p>* VS commented on the Gullane noticeboard and the need for a new wood side panel.</p> <p>Action: rotten wood damage to be assessed & monitored by VS</p> <p>* RA informed the group that the GACC Public Liability Insurance (PLI) had been renewed and a certificate issued running from 1/10/14 to 30/09/15. It was agreed that there could be issues with the PLI if Aberlady were to hold a sub-committee meeting where the public were invited. It was agreed that approval would need to be sought by the CC for such meetings to ensure coverage for insurance purposes. MD noted that he could hold such meetings in Ducks as the Hotel and Restaurant had its own PLI.</p> <p>* VS has been approached by the Archivist from the John Gray Centre in Haddington requesting digital copies of our approved minutes for all of our CC meetings for their Archives. The group granted permission to do this and VS agreed that she would take on the task of e-mailing copies of minutes once approved.</p>	<p>Chair/ VS/TD</p> <p>VS</p> <p>VS</p>
12	<p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</p> <p>The next meeting will take place on Thursday 29th January 2015 at 7:00pm in Gullane Village Hall.</p>	