**GULLANE AREA COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**(Representing Gullane, Aberlady, Dirleton and Drem)**

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

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 25 August 2022 AT 7 PM IN THE CHURCH HALL, DIRLETON

*The draft minutes are subject to adoption at the next meeting.*

**1 PRESENT**

 Malcolm Duck (MD) – Aberlady, Chair

 Gordon McLelland (GM) – Gullane

 Martin White (MW) – Drem Area

 Rebecca Hughes (RH) – Aberlady

 Simon Paterson Brown (SPB)-Dirleton

Philip Coll (PC)-Gullane

Jeremy Findlay (JF) – East Lothian Councillor

 Carol McFarlane (CMcF)-East Lothian Councillor

 David Tait (DT) – Dirleton

 Ruth Butterworth – Secretary

 **APOLOGIES**

Frank Neate (FN)-Aberlady, Dorothy Arthur (DA) – Gullane, Hayden Edwards (HE) – Aberlady, Liz Allen (LA)-East Lothian Councillor, Karen Chapman (KC) – Gullane, Nicky Black (NB)-Gullane, Karen McDougal

**IN ATTENDANCE** – 12 members of the public.

**2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on were approved – proposed by MW and seconded by RH.

These minutes can be viewed on our website – <http://www.gaddabout.org.uk/meetings/>

**3 MATTERS ARISING AND ACTIONS FROM LAST MEETING**

Aberlady Yellow Lines The yellow lines will be painted on 2 September 2022 and notices will be posted in advance.

Aberlady Bay Sewage RT reported on the recent meeting with Paul McLennan MSP, and Craig Hoy MSP and Scottish Water. SEPA (Scottish Environment Protection Agency) was invited but did not attend. RT said that Scottish Water certain that sewage in the bay was within rules. RH (also at meeting) reported that Scottish Water has only just begun the process of monitoring. RT said that it was difficult to move things forward in the absence of SEPA. MD said this was a major issue and the problem needed to be sorted. The CC was trying to be helpful and listen but at the end of the day capacity was insufficient and that any further housing development would exacerbate the issue.

RT had advised that CC happy to work with council to raise additional funds if this would help. GM asked if East Lothian Courier had been contacted and RH said that more communication will be coming on. MD said that it was disappointing that SEPA had been unable to attend but another meeting was planned in three months’ time.

Traffic Coning during golf tournaments. Aberlady and Dirleton had been coned off for the Scottish Open and Ladies Open. MD has talked to organisers emphasising the lack of good communication. The TRO was inaccurate-both tournaments stated as happening at Archerfield (neither was). MD said that neither tournament caused traffic issues in the two villages. **JF will speak to Ian Lennox at ELC** **regarding future planning of coning**. CMcF said that she hoped councillors will be involved in the future planning. **MD said that CC needed to involved in the planned ‘Wash up’ to provide** **feedback.** Local businesses have lost income and local people needed to be involved and informed. **JF will take forward**. JPB has already written regarding Dirleton. DT said that Castle Inn had lost business because of coning. MD will write on behalf of CC and he added that the CC should pay testament to the way the situation was handled by the police and John McMillan, Provost of East Lothian.

**4. CYCLEFORTH**

GM introduced the topic following the On the Move Group meeting. Information had already been circulated to CC about existing cycle racks and the desired number in each village. Mark Holling (MH) said that Cycleforth had been formed to promote the interests of cyclists and cycling and had prepared the audit of cycle racks. Many were on private properties therefore not open to all and there were a number of benefits in increasing the numbers of cycle racks open to all including

* Reduction in thefts
* Reduction in obstacles on pavements
* Increase in cycle tourism
* Reduction in car use

There was a desire to have more racks near facilities such as libraries and that the racks were visible and signposted. Also desirable to have racks where they will not cause any damage. There is funding available for racks and more drop kerbs. MD asked if it was for the CC to suggest where racks should be situated. GM said that there need to be care taken around planning issues and added that visibility was always useful. SaW said the issue had been discussed at the Aberlady Community Association meeting this week. SPB asked if there was a time limit to allow for an application for funding and MH said that mid-September would be the ideal. MD asked where the applications were coming from and it was suggested said it should be through each group supporting the village associations. MD asked if the CC supported the idea and all agreed. **He asked for all** **village associations to let CC know and that liaison and transparency was very important**. MW said that it would obviously be useful to have racks at Drem railway station and Fenton Barns. It was also suggested that citizens can speak to businesses to have racks installed in their premises as appropriate.

**5 CALA FEEDBACK**

GM reported that he and DA had emailed CALA re dropped kerbs and the state of the roads and that a TRO was imminent.

**6. LOCAL PRIORITIES**

Application passed at last meeting for £334 to fund table tennis court barriers has been paid.

Sadia Ward said that she will submit a planning application for mobile planters at Aberlady school.

**7. TREASURER’S REPORT**

MD asked if there were any comments-none.

**8. POLICE REPORT**

Not received. **MD said that he was still trying to encourage a police representative to attend.**

**9. VILLAGE REPORTS**

Gullane – GM need to keep pressure up re bins outside The Smiddy-constantly overflowing, insufficient bins and servicing-looks bad and untidy. CMcF said that planning application had been submitted to make Gullane Super Fry takeaway only. She reported that a number of residents had objected and that she had discussed the matter with environmental services. MD asked if CC was objecting to planning permission but CC decide more information needed and will be discussed at next meeting. GM said the problem was not the Super Fry but on lack of litter facilities and collection. **CC will write to ELC and CmCF will take forward and MW will establish deadline date**.

NB has been campaigning for increase in postboxes in Gullane, none large enough for A4 envelopes. Royal Mail had responded saying provision is adequate. **NB taking forward**.

Aberlady-Nothing to report

Dirleton-SPB reported that meeting with Ian Lennox regarding Castle Inn traffic had been very constructive. There will be a village communications day on Saturday 27 August to identify village priorities. This is open to all villagers.

 Drem and West Fenton – Nothing to report.

**10. WEBSITE AND COMMUNICATIONS**

GM completed process of handing over responsibility of the website to PC. PC updating news on a regular basis as well as twitter account and FB pages. Still a bug in Dirleton news and views which is being sorted. SaW said would be useful to post hard copies of draft minutes on noticeboards as not everyone has internet access. **RB to take forward**.

**11. PLANNING**

PC raised the issue of the planning permission re Hawthorns in Gullane. He reported on the 5th planning application submitted to have 48 trees felled-was there a justification to remove them? The application had stated that they would be replaced with properly managed trees. TPO has always stated that trees must be replaced like with like but some of the existing trees are approximately 60 years old and protect the area from wind etc. In addition, the trees are healthy. SPB said that it was odd to be applying to fell trees in the Platinum Jubilee Year which encouraged the planting of trees. MW said the planning application had been put to Gullane CC and nothing was raised. **RH and PC volunteered to attend the planning committee meeting on behalf of CC**. MW asked if CC happy to take forward views of community and this was carried. MW commented that no one had mentioned the replacement of the area with AirBnB businesses, it was not just about trees. JF said this would not be seen as a material point in a planning application to fell trees. MD asked if any of trees were at risk, and they were not.

MW and MD had a meeting regarding a local place plan in Dirleton with David Wood. Hard to quantify the cost of local place plan but could be somewhere between £15 and £30K. There are no available external funds for this. There needed to be input from all stakeholders and this could be hard to organise collectively. There was likely to be a diversity of views. GM said there was a possibility of pouring good money after bad. MW mentioned the possibility of Section 75 funds and CC could try to be more involved in these discussions. **JF will take forward**.

**12. NORTH BERWICK COASTAL AREA PARTNERSHIP (NBCAP)**

Next meeting 31 August and **MD encouraged all to attend**. Issue of overnight parking of campervans particularly in North Berwick and CMcF is looking into. PC said that East Lothian very much recognised as a desirable destination for campervans/motorhomes.

Issue of planters in NB high street to be discussed again, local traders not happy, needs to be clear through road.

Speed indicators-al in favour of indicators at either end of each village/town.

SaW said still issue of more pedestrian crossings needed in Aberlady-**MD suggesting moving to next meeting.**

**13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

DT said that Scottish Borders Council looking at fuel poverty tapping into Scottish Power for assistance with fuel poverty. It was reported that the Poverty Action Group had been pulled together on initiative of Cllr Allen. The outcome of this will be a resilience plan and there needed to be communications with the various village/town resilience groups. GM said that it is difficult in these times to rely on volunteers. There will be a poverty conference on 8 September details here <https://www.volunteereastlothian.org.uk/latest-news/east-lothian-poverty-conference>

PC asked that a vote of thanks be noted to Gary Hitchens for all his assistance on the website and Facebook.

RH reported on her recent attendance at the Association of East Lothian Community Council subgroup regarding offshore and onshore windfarms funds. She said that there appeared to be great scope for the funds in terms of wider areas. At the moment the funds are restricted to the areas directly affected such as Oldhamstocks with windfarms and sub-sea cables in Cockenzie. The developments will require improved roads, accommodation for the workers etc therefore providing much wider potential. A wind farm benefits group as a sub-committee of AELCC has been formed and RH will report back after the next meeting.

A member of the CC had raised the issue of number of CC meetings and this will be on next agenda.

**NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be on Thursday 29 September at 7 pm in Church Hall Dirleton.