**Gullane Area Community Council**

**Thursday 26 January 2023 7pm Dirleton Church Hall**

1. Welcome and apologies

Attendance: - Malcolm Duck (MD) Chair, Frank Neate (FN), Gordon McLelland (GM), , Dorothy Arthur (DA).Ruth Butterworth (Secretary) Martin White (MW) Hayden Edwards (HE) Cllr McFarlane, Cllr Jeremy Findlay, 6members of the public.

Apologies: Karen Chapman, Nicky Black, Simon Paterson Brown, David Tait, Phill Coll, Rebecca Hughes, Cllr Allen

1. Minutes of previous meeting, held on 24 November 2022 - see copy on our website at <http://www.gaddabout.org.uk/meetings/minutes/>

The minutes were approved, proposed by FN seconded by HE

1. Matters arising and actions from last meeting
   1. Pollution in the Bay

Moved to later in meeting

* 1. Digital Speed Cameras in Gullane

GM reported that these had been approved at the last On the Move meeting then by NBCAP, just waiting for date from ELC.

1. Aberlady Walks

MD will set up meeting with Anne Frost and Hilary Smith to progress.

1. Cala Feed back

DA-Nothing to report. DA will raise the issue of amount of mud on road from building site with Cala.

1. Local Priorities

**Aberlady**-payment has been made for compost hot bin.

**Dirleton** Playgroup -SPB is liaising with playgroup re-funding.

1. Treasurer’s Report

Report had been circulated, treasurer unable to attend. MD said it is good to encourage more applications for funding via website.as £7,000 still in fund for this financial year. JF said fund not being spent in this financial year unlikely to have negative impact on grant for following year. Action for next meeting-how to encourage more applications.

1. Police Report

Report has been received and circulated, very little to report. No speed checks in bad weather. Police Chief is moving on, successor not yet named.

1. Village Reports

**Dirleton**-Castle inspections have started. Caraig Mairns in charge. MD said very important to push action in areas of tourism.

**Gullane**-Village noticeboard arriving next week. Food Festival-10-16 April on children’s golf course. Newsletter will be issued shortly.

**Aberlady**-No update on flooding issue raised at last meeting. Committee will continue to monitor.

FN gave an update on the Aberlady Bay pollution.

At a meeting on 11/11/22, SW confirmed that during 2022, SW asset planning team rejected a CALA request to increase the number of sewerage connections to the Gullane Waste Water Treatment works. The technical justification given for the rejection was that the works could not accommodate an increase of 22 new connections, i.e. less than 1% of the existing work total because of the GWWTW hydraulic capacity shortfall.

This assertion obviously contradicted SW's previous assertions that were repeated at the meeting on the 18/8/22 about the GWWTW shortfall.

At that meeting, SW did confirmed that the "generic" SW network control room procedures did not contain any details on how or when to correlate any recorded CSO overspill events with the local SEPA weather station's hourly rainfall data.

As a direct consequence since 2017, over 1200 CSO overflows into Aberlady Bay from the GWWTW have been assumed, by default, to have been caused by excessive rainfall (by SEPA's definition excessive means more than 7.5 mm/h, which is unusual in this catchment area). Therefore, SW and, by default, SEPA classify these discharges as authorised. A CSO overflow in dry weather implies a works capacity shortfall and is a **breach of SW statutory discharge licence conditions**and should be classified as unauthorised and reported to SEPA.

As Aberlady Bay is classified as a razor clam collection area the maximum number of **authorised** CSO overflows is 10 per year.

Under current legislation, if the GWWTW does not have the dry weather flow hydraulic capacity to accommodate a development, then the capital cost of the essential upgrade must be covered by the developer and not SW.

FN was concerned that unless the minutes of these two meetings are approved as an accurate reflection etc., then SW may choose to ignore the GWWTW proven hydraulic capacity shortfall and authorise further developments in the catchment area.

There is ample evidence that demonstrates that SW ignored the recommendations on the GWWTW shortfall listed in the official 2016 ELLDP. The justification offered at the time was based on fundamentally flawed assertions.

FN sent a personal email to Paul McLennan and copied those who attended the meeting about these concerns. As of today, SW and SEPA have not publically confirmed that the current threshold on new connections is now less than 22.

FN has drafted an "official" community council letter to the local MSPs about the concerns.

MD suggested that as a result of this letter, there maybe a requirement for another meeting to clarify an agreed interpretation of the two SW announcements and if necessary, escalate the discussion.

FN asked JF as a member of the ELC planning committee, if he had heard anything outside this committee about the 22 house limit at – "no"

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DA Given the likely widespread repercussions of the asset planner's decision coupled with the procedure deficiency, DA will raise the issue with CALA at their next meeting.

MD said that drain on main road at crossing still blocked-JF will raise.

FN said that the North Berwick Youth Project is open to Aberlady, need to raise awareness.

MD suggested better awareness of what happens in case of fire in the village. GM said that police would take control of major incidents.

**Drem** – Nothing to report.

**WestFenton** – Nothing to report.

1. Village Vacancies

GM has drafted a recruitment notice. Will send on to MD to review then post on social media.

1. Website and Communications

Phil Coll had sent apologies-GM reported that software updates were ongoing.

Phil had posted links to a number of local and national government consultations on social media. GM commented that committee not always advised of consultations such as the North Berwick parking consultation. JF will raise with ELC. It was agreed that consultation has to be transparent and accessible

1. Planning

MW reported that it had been relatively quiet planning-wise. He added that weekly and monthly planning lists were not issued on consistent days each week/month-not major but meant something could be missed. MW will flag up with ELC. MD asked for all letters from committee to be signed on behalf of the chairman.

1. North Berwick Coastal Area Partnership (NBCAP)

GM said there had been discussion about safe access re new nursery school in North Berwick.

Funding had been granted for seagull proof bins for North Berwick-could this apply to Gullane too?

Walking Festival discussed.

FN asked if it would be possible for Aberlady and Gullane to apply for funding from the Genesis Group trust which includes Renaissance. MD agreed to investigate this and discussions re parking during Scottish Open.

GM reported that a letter had been submitted to ELC from committee re parking in North Berwick, acknowledged but no response yet. Discussion on this point moved to next NBCAP meeting. Nothing will happen until all responses collated.

1. On the Move Group

GM reported on recent meeting. The estate will not permit cycle path from Aberlady to Longniddry but may be way of partial path along Haddington Road into estate. Discussions ongoing.

Discussions ongoing about Drem to Gullane path.

Discussion about additional car chargers at North Berwick Rugby Club-ELC will contribute as long as they are fast chargers.

1. AELCC

RH will report at next meeting

1. Any other business.

MD will recirculate information about future local development pan.

Reported that charging points can be very expensive and better signage re charges would be useful.

GM said that state of main road between Gullane and Aberlady still very poor and through Aberlady. JF agreed to raise again.

**The next meeting will be on Thursday 23 February 23 - 7pm, Recreation Hall, Gullane**