



**Gullane Area Community Council**

**Thursday 28 March 2024 Gullane Recreational Hall**

**1. Welcome and apologies.**

Attendance: - Malcolm Duck (MD) Chair, Gordon McLelland (GM), Frank Neate (FN) Ruth Butterworth (Secretary) Alan Fraser (AF), Martin White (MW), Karen McDougall (KM), Cllr McFarlane (CM) Alasdair Muir (AM) Doug Haig (DH) 7 members of the public.

Apologies: Haydn Edwards (HE) Cllr Jeremy Findlay (JF) Rebecca Hughes (RH) Cllr Liz Allan (LA) Simon Paterson Brown (SPB)

MD welcomed everyone and added thanks to the councilor for attending.

**2. Minutes of previous meeting**, held on 29 February- see copy on our website at <http://www.gaddabout.org.uk/meetings/minutes/>

The minutes were approved, proposed by FN seconded by GM

**3. Declaration of interest**

No declarations were made.

**4. Matters arising and actions from last meeting.**

4.1 Quiet Route - Gilisland to Kingston update – GM-no update, on hold

4.2 TTRO-lack of notice update-MD-No update. MD reported trying to be helpful. MD meeting roads officer shortly.

4.3 Offer of Portrait of King-No update, general feeling of indifference.



## Action Log

RB has colour-coded the log to make it clearer

- Green-complete
- Blue In Progress
- Red Urgent
- Purple Action for Councillors

MD ran through the log for updates

03/23 Request Cala minutes from meeting with Scottish Water and Sepa AF said CALA had stated the minutes cannot be shared-can a FOI request be made to ELC? AF/KM/MD to meet-see if issue can be escalated within CALA-**no update needs to be escalated.**

04/23 Funding request to be submitted for second Aberlady noticeboard at Community Centre £75. FN will submit application to LPF.

13/23 Cemetery exits-owned by ELC, LA reported on their list of work to be done. LA additional chase up. LA absent no update

15/23 Safe route to Gullane. GM reported. CALA going to raise again with Muirfield Residents. Nick Morgan has talked to Homes for Life CALA trying to trade off one path with another one. .

Dirleton-Application has been submitted for valuation of community hall. Survey being done, ZT suggested waiting until after survey results are in.

18/23 Still no minutes from November 2022 meeting, nor from SW and SEPA meeting. AF asked what the latest guidelines say. RH -if additional building work applied for developer must fund upgrades to wastewater systems. MD-need to push back to ELC. Query raised about how money from developments is allocated. For example, why is the money raised from Gullane development being partially spent on upgrades to Tranent town centre. GM commented that this has already been spent. MD said more transparency need from the Council re Section 75 funding. FOI request? FN suggested a public meeting about the wastewater issue. AF wastewater issue for ELC -implications in Local Place Plans (LPP)

Overnight parking issue-in progress

MD has spoken to Martin Andrews re lack of space in graveyard-owned by the estate.

New-RB to build up bank of contact details for various issues.

MD said more Gullane Reps required-could everyone present please encourage others to join.

Septic Tank issue has been resolved.



**5. North Berwick Planning Proposals**

GM reported that this was not discussed at the On the Move Group meeting. original proposals have been binned. Council will be revising the proposal and will circulate in due course. GM envisages that the problem will not be the proposals but enforcement.

**6. Cala Feedback**

AF reported no further update other than above.

**7. Local Priorities Fund**

Seagull bin application approved, fits criteria

Applications from Table Tennis club and hockey club. SW queried application for cooker in Aberlady Village Hall, all approved

AM volunteered to join this sub-committee with HE and SPB

**8. Treasurer's Report**

Report has been circulated, all happy. Still looking for an accountant.

**9. Police Report**

Report has been circulated. CC sets priorities with police month by month. MD said police short of resource. Query about pavement parking-not yet illegal in East Lothian. MD will raise the issue of speeding with police. Speed indicator at SOC (west end of Aberlady) not working-reported to Ian Lennox at ELC. Speeding issue throughout ward. ZT suggested a cardboard policemen-could we buy one or hand-held speed radars.

**10. CAP**

ZT reported on recent meeting. Relatively quiet. Update-under Police Report (above).

**11. Village Reports**

**11.1 Gullane**

GM-main issue lack of bus stop markings outside Bonnie Badger. GM has raised with roads department-still no response Concerns about amount of roadworks on Main Street.

GM-issue of parking on Main Street and Templar Lane. 6 cars-taxi business, park beyond permitted time of 90 minutes and no ticketing. MD agreed to call owner.

GM-still issue with A198 that he has raised many times. Was supposed to be inspected in January, no action yet. No action through 'Report It'. LA will ask how work on roads is prioritised. AF asked if we can find out what the income from roads -parking fines etc, is spent on. MD suggested raising all FOIs in one meeting and report back to next meeting. Application for FOI without payment still with ombudsman.

Potholes nationwide issue.



## **11.2 Aberlady-**

SW reported that Aberlady Community Hall refurbishment progressing.

MD reported on Sue Jardine's message. ACA raised issue of state of toilets at Nature Reserve.

Sub Pond at Cruden Estate looking dangerous but MD reported that Cruden seem to be working on.

FN said that memorial garden cannot be seen from the road -can the hedge be cut back? Earl does not want it cut back and it is on his land and MD reported that the village don't want it cut back and SW said that many people appreciate the quiet space. SW and FN to discuss.

Subject: Gullane Waste Water Treatment Works hydraulic capacity shortfall.

In a letter to CALA (6/6/2016) SW emphasised that the GWWTW did not have the hydraulic capacity to accommodate the 49 houses of the first ELLDP scheduled 470 connections to the network. However by 2017 someone with the political authority to do so chose to ignore this SW technical assertion.

In an email (19/12/2018), SEPA rejected SW's claims that their procedural changes would resolve the capacity shortfall. By doing so, SEPA acknowledged the existence of the shortfall that as of March 2024 has not been resolved.

Over a 3-year period SW recorded 1001 discharges of raw sewage from the GWWTW overflow outfall into Aberlady Bay, none of which were reported to SEPA. The discharge licence defines that the number of authorised discharges should not exceed 10 per year.

If SW had complied with the statutory discharge licence conditions and reported the discharges to SEPA then by definition, SEPA would have had to initiate multiple proceedings against SW, its sister Scottish Government agency.

An entry in the minutes of a Saltcoats Farm development meeting (16/8/2021) clarified that the SW Operations team had constantly assured the ELC planning dept, that the GWWTW did not have any hydraulic capacity issues.

At a meeting (11/11/2022) convened by Paul McLennan between SW, SEPA and the GADCC, SW's asset planner confirmed that because of the shortfall, they had turned down a CALA request to increase the number of connections to the GWWTW.

In a follow up email dated 26/2/2023, PM stated that because of this SW admission "it was very clear – no additional housing to the GWWTW, other than what's been approved. Any investment would to be (sic) met by a developer".

In PM's response to a local resident (4/7/2023) he stated, "In concluding my enquiry I cannot give an assurance that there will be no further housing development in Aberlady... area unless there is an update to the sewage works".

MD sent a letter (29/2/24) to Ms Patterson the ELC's CEO copied to the local MSPs, P McLennan, Graig Hoy and M Whitfield, about the ELC's planner's approach to a moratorium on house building in the works catchment area until the capacity shortfall has been resolved.



The response copied to the same list dated 4/3/24 stated;"....the Council cannot state that there will be no more building until the matter is resolved. Any future planning permission for the erection of residential developments would be considered on its individual merits"

The dichotomy that exists between the management of both SW and SEPA and SW's asset planners' technical assessment of the GWWTW hydraulic capacity will facilitate those with the authority to do so, to make the same choice as their colleagues in 2017. This would be a demonstration of the same degree of corporate culpable technical ineptitude (Corrupt behaviour?) as the Post Office fiasco. Future generations who will have to pick up the tab for the sewerage networks upgrade will not forgive us if we allow this to occur.

### **11.3Dirleton-**

ZT-Village hall in progress. DVA has submitted a SCIO application (The **Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation** is a legal form unique to Scottish charities and is able to enter into contracts, employ staff, incur debts etc)

Recycling calendars-perception from businesses that recycling is not being collected and MD responded saying businesses need to arrange themselves e.g. through BIFFA, no expect council to do it. MD will pick up with ZT.

### **11.4Drem /West Fenton**

Fly tipping becoming big issue. CMcF has raised with ELC., it is the farmer's duty to pick up. MW asked if anyone has spoken to the farmer. No-one knew.

Nothing to report from West Fenton.

## **12. Website and Communications**

GM reported that all up to date. MD speaking to Phil Coll about taking it over after GM departs.

## **13. Planning**

### **General**

MW reported that planning applications very quiet. Still issue with short term lets-affects housing stock and parking. MW still looking into last local appeal of one applicant, appeal stating that it does not have an impact on parking or housing stock. MD said there is also the issue of shared access and future ownership. Two councillors objected and one supported application. Now goes to planning and licensing.

Issue raised by two members of the public in attendance (request by email to put on agenda) re adventure playground in garden for next door to their home. Planning permission has not been granted-planning breach? Wanted CC to be aware. They are keen for this not to be set as a precedent. CC cannot stop things happening, has to go through planning. GM said that he had walked past the house in question, he couldn't see anything from the road. MW said



**Gullane Area Community Council**

Serving the communities of Gullane, Aberlady,  
Dirleton, Drem and surrounding rural areas

**GADDAbout**

that CC will look at and see if any parts are non-compliant, look at whether it is an issue as far as the wider public is concerned. Neighbours should be encouraged to engage in the process. Concern with any by-passing of the planning process, becomes de facto after a number of years.

#### **14.LDP and LPP**

**Aberlady**-need to bring all of the ward together, SPB keen for this to happen. SW reported that over 200 survey responses have been received so far. Deadline 1 April. ACA has been awarded funding for an advisor. Statutory consultation with rest of the ward. DH commented that Hilary Smith (Chair, North Berwick Coastal Area Partnership/North Berwick) keen to have everyone together to inform the LPP.

DRAFT



**14. NBCAP**

GM attended meeting is 6 March. Lot of representation from North Berwick. Lot of applications discussed. Need to increase attendance from elsewhere to ensure not too NB focused. Hilary Smith (above) is aware that the length of the agenda means that village reports are after time. Village representatives are keen for agenda to be re-arranged. DH said that notes regarding this will be circulated regarding future meetings.

**15. On the Move Group**

GM reported discussion on shuttle bus for North Berwick. Proposals sent out to members. Discussion about proposal for new coastal trail between Glen Golf Club and Drift.

GM stepping down from rail partnership -MD will take over.

**16. AELCC**

No updates to report.

**17. Any other business**

Recreation Park proposals-no update, closing date for proposal 26 April.

AM suggested starter pack for new community councillors. ZT commented that ELC provides training for new CC. DH said that Scottish Government provides new guidance.

Scotland's Golf Coast logo had been trademarked MD dealing with

***FN -sewage issue-FN will add to minutes.***

**18. GM last meeting.** MD thanked GM for all *the work he had done for the CC over the last 12 years. His contribution had been enormous. This was echoed by many attending the meeting.*

**19. AOB**

The dangers of cycling between Gullane and Drem were re-emphasised by AF. Can this be revisited?

MD asked if money spent on NBCAP could be better spent elsewhere? NBCAP not representative. How can this be better representative-MD and AM to discuss