

**MINUTES OF MEETING**  
**Held in Dirleton Church Hall on Thursday 27 October 2011**

**Minutes are subject to adoption at the next meeting**

**Present:**

S Morris	Drem (In Chair)	A Steel	Dirleton
J Aitken	Aberlady	PC Banks	Lothian & Borders Police
J Findlay	Gullane	Cllr Mackinnon	East Lothian Councillor
G Fraser	Gullane	PC Banks	Lothian & Borders Police
H Heenan	Aberlady	L Ogilvie	Secretary
A McIntosh	Gullane		

Item	Title	Action By
<b>1</b>	<b>APOLOGIES</b> SM welcomed everyone to the meeting and accepted apologies as follows: Cllr Rankin, RA and DS.	
<b>2</b>	<b>MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING</b> The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as a true reflection of the meeting.	
<b>3</b>	<b>LOCAL PRIORITIES</b> JF reported that there were no new applications this month. He is awaiting the bank details for an award made last month and on receipt will make arrangements to transfer the funds.  Pupils from the Primary School in Dirleton have sent thank you cards for the funds received from the Local Priority Fund.	
<b>4</b>	<b>MATTERS ARISING – REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENCE</b> Cllr Mackinnon attended the meeting at the invitation of the CC to speak to the Community Partnership initiative. The forum was trialled in Musselburgh with many different groups attending eg housing, transport, parking and police input; this gives the group a picture of what the community wants for their area. A meeting had taken place in North Berwick on 4th June with ward representation. This meeting was not only for North Berwick but for the whole ward and a further meeting took place in Gullane. Attendance at the North Berwick was not as high as the group would have liked. A full meeting will take place on 16th November and results of all the meetings will be collated. The group will work closely with Transition North Berwick and North Berwick Living. One of the meetings had focused on remedying parking problems in North Berwick which is a relevant issue for the entire area. Cllr Mackinnon advised that Musselburgh had receiving a substantial amount of funding to put towards some of the issues they raised which will be used throughout the town. It was noted that the group will exist alongside the CC and is an attempt to hear as many local views as possible.  GF felt that that the CC have many views expressed to them throughout the month even although individuals may not attend the meetings. SS felt this is a new structure but it is the route that ELC is going down with strong encouragement and funding from the Scottish Executive. It was agreed important that a representative on the group is required from the CC. It was the feeling of the CC members that an extra layer is being added and who reports to who? There seems to be a proliferation of groups. Do we need so many? Eric Thomson had attended the meeting in Gullane and felt there had been sensible discussions on local issues. It was noted that the monies available for awards is new money made available by the Scottish Government.  <b>Expansion of village noticeboard - request from village hall committee - JF</b> Eric Thomson, a trustee of the Village Hall committee was in attendance and advised of the many events and organisations which use the village hall. He felt it would be very helpful to have a good sized community noticeboard to publicise the various clubs and events. It was suggested that he make a bid for local priority funding for this project and to give an indication of size, costings etc. This can then be discussed by the sub group. It was agreed that it would be good to have a prominent board but it was suggested that permission be gained from the landowner whether this is ELC or the Golf Club. GF will check this with ELC and the Golf	

	<p>Club.</p> <p><b>Deer Cull</b>  AMCl had at last received a response from Neil Clark at ELC Landscape and Countryside regarding the Council position in respect of deer management which basically states that there is no policy in place. The fact that the Council still has no policy on deer management on their land is causing considerable frustration to Steve Baldry who was seconded to GACC to advise on the matter and after consultations with Scottish Natural Heritage and ELC it was agreed to carry out a controlled cull on Gullane Bents. Steve has gone to lot of trouble to produce a deer management plan and has also carried out a number of attempted culls all at no cost to ELC. The Owners of the Car Park and adjacent area, which is managed by ELC, have given their consent to proceed with a cull and ELC were content to allow this on this land which is managed by them. However they have no policy as regards ELC land which is adjacent to the Owners land and is where most of the deer are to be found. This area of land is more remote from the car park areas and provides more cover and thus is a more suitable and safer location to cull the deer. As this matter had been raised originally over 2 years ago and there is still no policy Councillor Stuart MacKinnon proposed that the matter should be raised with ELC as a matter of urgency and he will do so as soon as possible..  A question was asked from the floor regarding the number of road traffic accidents in and around the village involving deer. As accidents involving deer do not have to be reported to the police it is difficult to provide accurate figures. The lady asked whether another solution ought to be sought rather than a cull which could include speed restrictions in the village. The lady advised that Dunbar are lobbying for a 20mph speed limit throughout the town to improve pedestrian safety. AMCl advised that this had been examined as part of a number of options discussed with SNH and ELC but it would not resolve the problem of the ever increasing deer population. SNH had confirmed that as a result of a recent census it had been ascertained that the deer population in the area had doubled in the past few years and that a deer management programme should be adopted. Further discussion ensued re a speed limit in the area but PC Banks advised that there would be problems in enforcing a lower speed limit. GF felt that the current 30mph in the village was quite acceptable and should not be changed. A reduced speed limit elsewhere would require legislation. Recent road traffic accidents (not involving deer) in the area were all due to driver error.</p> <p><b>East Lothian Coastal Museum</b>  GF advised of his error in putting forward John Fergie’s name as the CC representative on this group without realizing that John had not been approached by anyone from the CC and he wished to apologise for this error. A letter has been sent to John to this effect.  John advised that he had been a member of the original working group and had considered applying but he felt there is a great deal of work involved in this committee and had decided not to put his name forward. John has staged presentations/exhibitions in the area and feels aware of what is required. He advised that he may consider representing the CC on this group if the CC were willing to support him with a grant application for funding for a project on farming in the coastal ward. This project could then be housed in the museum. He would envisage applying to Viridor and Tyne &amp; Esk Leader for funding; with the CC completing the paperwork – the CC would not have to fund any part of this project.</p> <p>AMCl responded by saying that he had been closely involved with some major grant applications for the skateboard park in Gullane and it had been an extremely onerous and time consuming exercise, It also required certain legal undertakings by GACC. In his view GACC was not constituted to apply for grant funding on behalf of a third party. John stated that there were people in ELC who could assist in with the application however after further discussion it was agreed that GACC could not make an application although would be happy to write a letter of support to any application that was made if it was deemed to be a Community benefit.  It was also agreed that Representation on the Committee should not be linked to a condition that GACC should apply for grant aid.  Following further discussion John decided that he would not take up the offer to represent GACC on the Coastal Museum Committee. GACC will now consider appointing someone else to this group.</p>	
5	<p><b>POLICE REPORT</b></p> <p>PC Banks reported to the meeting as follows:</p> <p><b>Aberlady</b>  24 October – a 16<sup>th</sup> birthday party had got out of hand resulting in an assault. A male has been arrested. A vehicle had a window smashed and a fence damaged during the course of the evening.</p> <p><b>Gullane</b></p>	

	<p>7 October – youths entered Gullane House in Sandy Loan – this is a derelict building and youths were caught and their parents informed.</p> <p>14 October – A male selling the Big Issue was found to be harassing passers by. His ID was checked and he did not have authority to sell the magazine.</p> <p>25 October – A female had knocked a door claiming to be collecting for charity – this was legitimate but ID should always be checked. There is a scheme whereby elderly residents can nominate a neighbour to whom such callers can contact. Information is available at North Berwick Police Station.</p> <p>26 October – An elderly lady was ‘duped’ out of £400 through a scam relating to a Spanish lottery.</p> <p>Traffic wardens will now be visible in the area on a weekly basis. Please consider where you park.</p> <p><b>Dirleton</b> Speed camera van checks have taken place in the area – also hand held checks.</p> <p>11 October – The Post Office reported a suspicious incident relating to a blue transit van. Any information should be passed to PC Banks at North Berwick Police Station.</p> <p><b>Drem</b> Nothing to report.</p> <p><b>Road Traffic</b> A dog was knocked down on the A198 one mile south of Dirleton. A vehicle came off the road between Aberlady and Gullane – no persons were injured.</p> <p>A pro active policing plan regarding anti social behaviour is ongoing in the area. The Police will work very closely with the Community Wardens and Transport Police with this initiative. The Police will visit villages in the local area to promote information about Community Policing. This began on 15<sup>th</sup> October. Shop keepers in North Berwick have been advised not to sell eggs to local children in the run up to Halloween – in keeping with previous years.</p>	
6	<p><b>PLANNING MATTERS</b></p> <p>Falko the Bakers in Gullane have requested an extension to a drinks licence from 10am - 10pm. It was felt this was in regard to specialist sales rather than as an off licence. It was agreed that further information is required and AMcl will speak to the owner and JA will look at the branch in Edinburgh.</p> <p>SS noted that further to the long letter received from Tom Shearer of ELC the whole ‘Enjoy’ initiative had been cancelled - as reported in the East Lothian Courier. No communication regarding the cancellation of the initiative had been received by the CC.</p> <p><b>Fenton Barns</b></p> <p>It was noted that following attendance at the exhibition of plans that industrial land is to be made available behind the mushroom facility which will create jobs in the area. The new sewerage treatment works will cost in the region of £5m but the plans are also for the building of 75 houses to the north of the archery centre. This is not at the planning application stage as yet. Prior to attendance at the exhibition it had not been apparent that housing was also planned. It was felt that we had to be mindful of planned housing in view of the application for 200 in the North Berwick area. Should boundaries be the next step as were created for the village of Gullane? A question was put from the floor regarding any affordable housing - no indication as yet. With the proposed housing at Ferrygate it was felt that the infrastructure will have to be considered and also boundaries along the coastal strip.</p> <p>An application is ongoing regarding Maryville on Goose Green Road, Gullane - an extension of the house. The CC will not comment on this application.</p> <p>Archerfield - an application for works at the walled garden to create a cafe, retail outlet and micro brewery are ongoing. It was agreed that the works will add to the amenities in the area and will provide jobs. It was however noted that the Dirleton junction may need to be considered if traffic increases.</p> <p>Dirleton Green - SS advised that two days after the last meeting of the CC communication had been received from Nick Wright who is a Manse Road resident and very much against the proposals. Mr Wright will put together an alternative which will be forwarded to ELC when complete.</p>	
7	<p><b>VILLAGE REPORTS</b></p>	

	<p><b>Aberlady</b> Parking concerns in Aberlady, Main Road and Brian Cooper has been written to regarding this. Further details are awaited.</p> <p><b>Gullane</b> JF - Very disappointed that the locks at the new tennis courts have again been vandalised and a sign ripped off the fencing. PC Banks will look into this. Any suspicious behaviour should be reported to PC Banks. CCTV cameras will also be checked. GF advised that a barrier has been erected where the fatal accident occurred in Muirfield Drive. New signage to be erected for the village hall and tennis club. It is hoped that the Medical Centre will be completed by September 2012.</p> <p><b>Dirleton</b> SS advised of overhanging trees at Dirleton toll. SM will speak to the relevant person in ELC and progress this. There are a number of street lights out - SS will take their identity numbers and report the faults. SM will email him the link to the website. Wine tasting on 11th November -tickets are still available.</p> <p><b>Drem</b> Nothing to report.</p>	
8	<p><b>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</b> There were some publications available for any interested parties to view at the end of the meeting.</p>	
9	<p><b>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</b> The next meeting will take place in Aberlady Kirk Stables on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> November at 7pm.</p>	