

**GULLANE AREA COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

(Representing Aberlady, Dirleton, Drem and Gullane)

www.qaddabout.org.uk

**MINUTES OF THE ONLINE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 25 March 2021**

Minutes are subject to adoption at the next meeting

**Present**

Tom Drysdale (TD)	Dirleton
Malcolm Duck (MD)	Aberlady
Frank Neat (FN)	Aberlady
Gordon McLelland (GM)	Gullane
Dorothy Arthur (DA)	Gullane
Karen Chapman (KC)	Gullane
Martin White (MW)	West Fenton
Hugh Smith (HS)	Drem
Rebecca Simpson Hughes (RH)	Aberlady
Hayden Edwards (HE)	Aberlady
Jamie Tough (JT)	Aberlady

**Apologies**

David Tait (DT)	Dirleton
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**In Attendance** ELC Councillor Jeremy Findlay (Cllr JF)

<b>Item</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Action By</b>
1	<b>Sign On, Welcome and Apologies</b> TD welcomed all to the online meeting and noted it was quorate. DT apologised for absence.	
2	<b>Membership – co-option; recruitment of Secretary</b> Welcome new members:- Hayden Edwards and Rebecca Simpson representing Aberlady. Also Jamie Tough attended and was proposed as a co-opted member. This was agreed.	

3	<p><b>Minutes of the Previous Meeting</b></p> <p>The minutes of the meeting of 25 February 2021 were approved, and all present agreed with decisions taken.</p>	
4	<p><b>Matters Arising and Actions from the Last Meeting</b></p> <p>There were no matters arising from the last meeting which had not been dealt with.</p>	
5	<p><b>Membership and Secretarial post</b></p> <p>Two membership positions required for Gullane. GM &amp; DA have both approached people with no luck at this stage. TD suggests approaching members of Gullane Village Association for volunteers.</p>	GM,DA
5	<p><b>Local Priorities Fund (LPF)</b></p> <p>Gullane Forest School –following the agreed award of £1800, The applicant had delayed progress on developing the school as a result of limitations relating to training caused by the pandemic and had asked for the expenditure set out in the application to be restructured, with more emphasis on internal training to be carried out by her and less on expenditure on equipment. TD, KC and HS have met her on Zoom and agreement has been reached to leave existing structure of funding as is.</p> <p>Gullane Village Association (GVA) – an application for a grant of £2440 had been received for the supply and erection of a new village noticeboard on ground adjacent to the Old Smiddy gift shop. Agreement reached to award £1,800 toward the costs, leaving the GVA to raise the remaining amount required. GVA confirmed that they had 3 quotes for the noticeboard and that they wished to proceed with the cheapest.</p> <p>Aberlady In Bloom (AIB) – application submitted for 12 hanging baskets in the village, costing total of £1,900. The Area Partnership has agreed to fund half of this. Agreement reached to fund £650 out of the LPF allocation for 2021/22 toward AIB requirement for a Water Trolley (subject to the LPF allocation for that year providing sufficient funds leaving it to the community to fund remaining £300 required for plants and PI cover. TD &amp; KC will make arrangement with the applicant.</p> <p>HE has agreed to join the LPF committee.</p>	TD, KC
6	<p><b>Treasurer's Report</b></p> <p>KC advised that budget will be used for this year after funding agreed for notice board in Gullane. Aberlady in</p>	

	Blooms £650 to come off next year's budget. Gullane Beavers defibrillator and Aberlady Village community day still going ahead but money has not been drawn for this yet. No change in Current Account	
7	<p><b>Police Report</b></p> <p>The monthly community police report, which had been circulated prior to the meeting and would be posted on the website and on Facebook, was noted. PC Paterson has now retired and we await confirmation of new community officer. Sergeant McDonald, based in Haddington provided this month's report.</p> <p>TD Having read report no major concerns.</p> <p>GM Surprised at number of parking tickets, likely to be residents outwith East Lothian using car parks.</p> <p>MD commented that it's important to support covid regulation but also not to over police visitors.</p> <p>FN concern about number of visitors to Aberlady nature reserve with path becoming eroded due to increased footfall.</p> <p>Cllr JF – 4 new wardens to be employed and also police to increase presence. Overflow parking provision at Gullane Bents to be ready for summer. New restrictions at Longniddry (double yellows) may push visitors down coast to Aberlady and Gullane for free parking. East Lothian Community Team are working on strategy regarding these issues. Any ideas or concerns to be fed back to him.</p>	
8	<p><b>Village Reports</b></p> <p><b>Gullane –</b></p> <p>GM reported a lot of litter on road to Drem, especially around the large layby south of Fenton Barns. There are 2 ELC bins that are overflowing and area seems to not have been attended for some time.</p> <p>Cllr JF confirmed that plans in place to increase signage in regard to litter and wild camping. Suggests contacting Tom Reid at ELC to raise issue with litter at layby.</p> <p>MD praised Council's efforts but advised it's still important to hold them to account where necessary.</p> <p>DA reported that she had still not been advised by ELC on Scottish Water's answers to questions which had been raised about the capacity of the drainage system for the CALA Saltcoats housing development.</p>	GM/JF

<p>DA also referred to complaints re potential footpath issues at CALA Saltcoats site. Doesn't appear much we can do. Cllr JF confirmed that it's in regular discussion at planning committee to find resolution.</p> <p><b>West Fenton</b> –MW reported that the flooding problems he had reported at the last meeting had been resolved albeit seems to have been a bigger job than expected.</p> <p><b>Drem</b>–HS had nothing to report.</p> <p><b>Aberlady</b>– FN explained he still has concerns about sewage overflows. Scottish Water have assured him that it's random discharge but FN thinks this is not the case. FN plans to make issue public and will do this with community council backing or individually. TD sympathetic with the cause, though sees it as a problem in many communities and not specific to Aberlady, has asked that FN shares any report he plans to send to media with CC to agree content before sharing to wider audience. Agreement reached that this should be taken up amongst Aberlady members who will provide update at next meeting.</p> <p>HE raised concerns about open areas and dog waste. Craigielaw golf course has had to remove 30kg of dog waste recently. Access to golf course from village has been blocked. No easy solutions but we need to give thought to potential solutions.</p> <p>MD has had feedback from locals regarding access to Craigielaw being blocked off. Also has spoken with estate factor, Martin Andrews (MA) regarding new path to estate requiring a bit more work and also an extension to the overflow car park. MA had also advised more trees to come down around the mile straight, therefore road may be closed occasionally for work to be carried out. MA keen on community engagement. TD to invite MA to next CC meeting.</p> <p>MD – a local couple have been litter picking along the coast and have agreement to leave their filled bin bags at roadside for collection by park ranger.</p> <p><b>Dirleton</b> – TD has been investigating issues relating to the removal of sea buckthorn at Yellowcraign in the Courier on 11 March and had met David Wold, ELC countryside ranger to discuss it. There is a management plan in place which involves ELC and estate owners. TD will write up a detailed note for members.</p>	<p>FN</p> <p>FN, MD, HE, RS</p> <p>MD</p> <p>TD</p> <p>MD</p>
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	<p>RH has also been looking into this and has had confirmation that there is planned removal of sea buckthorn elsewhere in the coastal region.</p> <p>MD will make enquiries with Archerfield estate about plans for buckthorn removal.</p> <p>FN had noticed excavation at the east end of Dirleton.</p> <p>TD confirmed this was a precondition of the planning permission granted for housing on the site. He understood that minor evidence of a small settlement had been found but not of sufficient importance to delay development.</p>	
9	<p><b>Website and Communications</b></p> <p>GM reported that responses to Facebook postings were continuing to run at a satisfactorily high level and that website visits continued to be reasonably satisfactory.</p> <p>GM – new community council members have been added to the website.</p>	
10	<p><b>Planning</b></p> <p>MW advised that concerns have been raised by Fenton Gate east residents around access to school, similar issues to arise for Saltcoats development. Cllr JF has confirmed suggestions have been submitted to ensure access to school.</p> <p>TD Old Clubhouse has submitted an application for an awning. To discussed by Gullane members.</p> <p>TD referred to a webinar to be held by SSE relating to the supply chain for the Berwick Bank and Marr Bank offshore windfarms</p> <p>RH to attend it and report back.</p>	<p>GM, DA, KC,MW</p> <p>RH</p>
11	<p><b>North Berwick Coastal Area Partnership (NBCAP)</b></p> <p>Nothing to report</p>	
12	<p><b>AOCB</b></p> <p>HE has had some positive correspondence with local MP Kenny MacAskill regarding recent reports of East Lothian having some of the worst broadband speeds in the country. New contracts being planned with providers and East Lothian are part of plans for improvement. Any members who have feedback or concerns to pass these to HE</p>	All

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**The next regularly scheduled online meeting will be on Thursday, 29 April at 7:00pm. If members of the public wish to raise any issues for discussion at the meeting or beforehand these should be sent by email to [gaccsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:gaccsecretary@gmail.com)**