

GULLANE AREA COMMUNITY COUNCIL

(Representing Aberlady, Dirleton, Drem and Gullane)

www.qaddabout.org.uk

MINUTES OF THE ONLINE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 29 April 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
Martin White (MW)	West Fenton
Hugh Smith (HS)	Drem
Rebecca Simpson (RS)	Aberlady
Hayden Edwards (HE)	Aberlady
Jamie Tough (JT)	Aberlady
David Tait (DT)	Dirleton

Apologies

Karen Chapman (KC)	Gullane
Dorothy Arthur (DA)	Gullane

In Attendance ELC Councillors Jeremy Findlay (Cllr JF) & Jim Goodfellow (Cllr JG),
Martin Andrews (Gosford Estate Manager)

Item	Title	Action By
1	Sign On, Welcome and Apologies TD welcomed all to the online meeting and noted it was quorate. He particularly welcomed Martin Andrews as the guest for the meeting. DA and KC apologised for absence.	
2	Minutes of the Previous Meeting The minutes of the meeting of 25 March 2021 were approved, and all present agreed with decisions taken.	
3	Matters Arising and Actions from the Last Meeting	

	<p>FN's letter to East Lothian Courier in regard to the ongoing sewage issues at Aberlady Bay had not been published. Coincidentally they had published a letter from Ian Malcom which briefly covered the same issues.</p> <p>TD still working on report in respect of Sea buckthorn issues at Yellowcraig, hopes to this ready for next meeting.</p>	
4	<p>Membership and Secretarial post</p> <p>TD – still looking for 2 members to represent Gullane. GM has been trying to promote this through the Gullane Village Association who seem receptive to helping find members. TD highlighted that we still require a Secretary, GM suggests looking back in respect of previous applications when post was last filled. TD to check these.</p>	TD, GM, DA, KC
5	<p>Local Priorities Fund</p> <p>TD explained that Aberlady community day has still to claim their £300 (previously agreed) which is available from last year's budget.</p> <p>HS has been in touch with Council in regards to Drem's Christmas lights, ELC have requested £146.69 for lights to be installed and removed. Agreement that we can cover this fee for 2020/21 and revisit next year.</p> <p>TD Dirleton Bowling Club has asked for £800 toward expenditure of £2,681.40 for renewing their steps from club house down to bowling green as they have become hazardous. All members agreed to this.</p> <p>TD advised that an application has been received from Dirleton Good Neighbours per Anne Orr for £523 towards putting on a market on the village green in Dirleton. This sum will go toward their need for some furniture, printing and safety equipment. DT is aware of this and the idea is to have these regularly throughout the year. TD will get more detailed information from Anne Orr and circulate a recommendation round the members.</p>	TD
6	<p>Treasurer's Report</p> <p>TD has circulated most recent report. Nothing major to note other than we are still waiting to be given this year's budget.</p>	
7	<p>Police Report</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.</p> <p>DT noted hawking complaint under 'other issues'.</p>	
8	<p>Village Reports</p> <p>Gullane</p> <p>GM has emailed Paul Iannetta at ELC in regard to general appearance of street signs. Alan Stubbs at ELC has confirmed they will come back to us about any plans to improve. GM suggested</p>	

<p>locals could attempt to make improvements and clean up signs. Cllr JF will follow this up with Council and suggested locals should not have to fix these issues themselves. Cllr JG suggested that Area Partnership could assist in any funding required here as they have a budget for 'transportation'.</p> <p>In relation to the Section 75 planning agreement relating to the sports ground at the west end of the Saltcoats development site, it was suggested by GM and agreed to by JF that the matter best be handed over to the Gullane Village Association, who would coordinate the various interested clubs and then report to the Council. Cllr JF confirmed that payments not likely to be made until building work actually starts.</p> <p>Aberlady</p> <p>HE confirmed that Aberlady members have begun community engagement with locals as to what their priorities are and to promote communication and engagement with community council members. This is ongoing.</p> <p>Martin Andrews (MA) (Gosford Estate Manager) attended meeting to cover and discuss estate's plans. Key highlights -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Estate has seen a huge increase in visitors, which they welcome, though he noted that it can cause issues with managing the estate's infrastructure and services to support the increased numbers of visitors. - They are keen to manage the access to the estate so that they have a chance to interact and engage with visitors. - They have 2 new rangers in the estate to help with this. - They add information and news to their website regularly and MA accepts that they may need to utilise social media to reach a wider audience. - They have had to build a fence at west side of village, next to Craigiellaw golf course, due to damage to golf course tees. They are happy to have locals walk the course but need to manage access points to ensure no damage to the course. - Access to Gosford estate's gardens: MA explained that the gardens are part of a private residence and that the public do not always understand this. They are keen to share the estate policies with the public but have some work to do to educate the public as to what areas are private. - They have embarked on some replanting within Craigiellaw and are continuing to remove some old Scots Pine on the Aberlady mile. - A new coffee van will be coming to Bothy carpark - Path on Southside of mile is still being worked in; surface to be improved. - Path from Mair Road to be started by summer. <p>Thanks given to MA for attending and members are happy to promote estate's priorities within the community. Aberlady members are to set up a meeting with MA to focus on any local areas of discussion. MD to liaise with MA on this.</p> <p>FN covered his letter sent to Courier in respect of the sewage issues in the bay. He has made contact with Cameron Ritchie</p>	<p>MD</p> <p>RS, FN, TD</p>
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	<p>(Courier journalist) to see if he still intends to take the story on this further. RS supports FN's endeavours as the area has significant importance as the first Local Nature Reserve in country. RS, FN and TD to discuss a strategy for moving forward with this.</p> <p>All Aberlady councillors received updated 'place making' report on Aberlady from Ian Malcom. This will be considered along with other responses from recent online surveys of resident priorities/ideas.</p> <p>West Fenton</p> <p>MW explained that he has contacted the Council in regard to open drains and awaits an answer.</p> <p>Drem</p> <p>HS conformed he is in touch with Alan Stubbs at ELC in respect of street sweeping and drainage, which ELC are in process of fixing.</p> <p>Dirleton</p> <p>DT reported on the large amount of pigeons causing damage to the north-east side of the village and he is not sure who to raise this with. TD and DT to pursue with coastal ranger David Wild</p>	<p>MD, HE, RS, JT, FN</p> <p>DT, TD</p>
9	<p>Website and Communications</p> <p>GM's posting of the new Aberlady CC members has seen an increase in website traffic.</p>	
10	<p>Planning</p> <p>TD highlighted a planning application by owner of the Newmains steading housing development for a business development with a residential content on the adjacent farmland. Direlton Village Association has prepared objections having sought feedback from residents. Agreed that the CC should submit a letter supporting the DVA objections</p> <p>TD noted the refusal of the recent planning application relating to 33 The Village, Archerfield, to convert a large garage block into 2 semi-detached houses. Previous applications similar to this have been rejected due to this being considered as infilling. Another application has been made, in respect of 28 The Village, Archerfield for large extensions to an existing dwelling house. Agreed that the CC should submit objections to this.</p>	<p>MW</p> <p>MW</p>
11	<p>North Berwick Coastal Area Partnership (NBCAP)</p> <p>Nothing to report</p>	

12	<p>Discussion on when to return to traditional meetings.</p> <p>Agreement that we should aim to have meetings in person by end of the summer if Covid restrictions allow, but no action to be taken on this meantime.</p>	
	<p>AOCB</p> <p>GM has queried with Cllr JF when Gullane library will reopen, Cllr JF unsure and will try and find out.</p> <p>RS had attended a webinar on the SSE Berwick Bank and Marr Bank wind farms to be built in the outer reaches of the Firth of Forth. These are still in the early planning stages but if they go ahead they will be massive projects and be amongst the biggest wind farms in the world. No huge impact to our area is expected, although there will be two landfall points in other parts of East Lothian outside our area. The webinar was also an update on supply line opportunities for local/regional businesses - which may be of interest to our wider area, particularly in the vicinity of the two landfall points, power grid connection and associated infrastructure. There will be further update webinars. The current expected operational wind farm date is 2027/8.</p>	

The next regularly scheduled online meeting will be on Thursday, 27 May 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