

GAVINTON, FOGO AND POLWARTH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES of ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of Gavinton, Fogo and Polwarth Community Council held on Monday, 21 April 1986 at 8.45 pm in the Village Hall, Gavinton.

Present: Mr D McNiven (Chairman) Mr R Markby
 Mr I Aitchison Mr J Robinson
 Mr R Baillie Mrs B Sheldon
 Dr A Brown Mr A Macmillan
 Mrs B Darling Mrs J Wheadon (Secretary)

Miss M Burns Greig, District/ Regional Councillor

Mr W Smith, District Councillor

10 members of public

1 Apologies for absence

None.

2 Minutes of last Annual General Meeting

Not available.

3 Chairman's Report

The Chairman said we had had a very active year. We had been successful in retaining school transport; Mr Cowe had won the Berwickshire District Council Garden Competition, 1985; Mr Cleat had been highly commended for his entry in the Christian Heritage competition. Two Planning Applications for Middlefield Granary had been made by Philip Wilson, the first was not granted, the second descaled one for store without drier was granted with 4 clauses.

4 Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer circulated the Income and Expenditure Account.

5 Election of Officers

As Mr McNiven had served the statutory 3 years as Chairman he was not eligible for re-election.

Chairman - Mrs Darling: proposed by Mr Markby, seconded by Mr Macmillan.

Mrs Darling took the Chair on the understanding that if she was successful in being elected to another organisation for which she had been nominated then she would have to resign from the Community Council.

Vice-chairman - as there were no nominations the Chairman proposed this be discussed at the next meeting.

Treasurer - Mr Macmillan to continue.

Secretary - Mrs Wheadon to continue.

Committee members - Mr Aitchison, Mr Baillie, Dr Brown, Mr McNiven, Mr Markby, Mr Robinson, Mrs Sheldon.

Two membership vacancies - Mr Johnson to be asked if he would fill one place. Membership to be discussed at next meeting.

6 Any other business

(a) Miss Burns-Greig read a report covering the year's activities, a copy of which is attached, on the proposal of Mr Baillie, seconded Dr Brown.

Dr Brown said we did not necessarily accept the report and he reserved the right to discuss it at the next ordinary meeting.

The Chairman invited Councillor Smith to make a statement. He said he had enjoyed being at the meeting and hoped things could be ironed out and looked forward to a better scene next year.

(b) May Day Fund Raising Event

This was discussed but a decision was deferred until a meeting to be held at an early date.

The late submission of the swings' account was discussed but Mr Baillie proposed that the issue should be referred to at the next ordinary meeting, seconded by Mr Aitchison.

There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting.

Chairman *B.R. Larking*
Date *27. 4. 87*

BORDERS REGIONAL COUNCIL

GAVINTON FOGO AND POLWARTH COMMUNITY COUNCIL
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
COUNCILLORS REPORT

21st APRIL 1986

The last year has been an active one, with many issues being considered and dealt with.

Middlefield Granary has dominated the year, with the second and third applications being decided during that period. Between these two I started studying cereals and also investigated the information given to me before the end of September. Learning about uses permissible in agricultural buildings I realised that alternative uses without controls or restrictions could be of grave concern. Because of the controversy and concern of farmers and residents I discussed the future use of Middlefield Granary with the owner, and as a result a very de-scaled use application was forthcoming in February which had my full support. This was given after considerable balanced assessment of the proposed use compared with possible alternatives over which the authorities could have had no control regarding use, traffic, or expansion. I carefully considered the position of the residents, local farmers and industry and the owner. On this occasion I also listened to all views and learnt a great deal about the past use on which to base my opinions. The Planning Committee came to a narrow decision on the Chairman's casting vote to approve the application with conditions, the alternative being either approval with no conditions, or two as put forward by me at the meeting. Having lived through eighteen months of Middlefield I consider that it is high time the store was left alone and allowed to prove itself. Far too much time and effort has been expended on what is now only a farm size store. Speaking personally I have learnt a tremendous amount because of Middlefield Granary.

The other major issue was the threatened withdrawal of free school transport for the older Primary and Secondary children. This matter was discussed finally at the Conveyance of Pupils Sub-Committee when I spoke on behalf of the residents in the area. The members agreed to continue free transport, although the village is within the two mile limit. As I already reported to the Community Council, this decision was made after a close vote, and only got through the Education Meeting because of a misunderstanding. There is no doubt that at some time in the future the matter will be raised again and therefore this reprieve cannot be considered permanent. Naturally, while I am your Councillor I confirm I will do what I can to retain this service.

The pavement and drainage on the Main Street have also been attended to, plans for pavement renewal were shown to the Chairman and Vice Chairman in January, and adjustments to the drainage will be included when the work starts soon.

Sweeping of the Red Brae has been carried out.

Two important road schemes to increase safety at Nisbet Rhodes, and Polwarth are in action. The first started off as a minor sightline improvement, but has been increased to a point where two large trees have been removed and an electricity pole has been moved to allow the road to be widened and moved slightly away from the white house. The farmer has been very helpful and co-operated fully in allowing this scheme to be increased. When completed shortly this will greatly improve the visibility on the main A 6112, access onto the Gavinton road, and benefit the house. The total scheme is now priced at about £20,000. Polwarth bends are also about to be started this being a major scheme long considered. Tests and plans are at an advanced stage and work will start in the summer. This must cause disruption but will benefit the A 6105 when completed. Both farmers involved have been most co-operative.

Other minor works to pavements have been carried out in Gavinton.

During the year I have also dealt with many individuals problems, including those of residents relatives living outside my Division. A workshop enquiry for Industrial Development aid was considered but did not materialise.

When informed in sufficient time, I have regularly attended meetings of the Community Council, although I note with concern that no minutes of meetings held between May 85 and Feb 86 have been issued. ~~These must now be considered void.~~ Agendas and meeting places are now not being circulated in advance, I suggest that the CC conform with their Constitution in order to correctly inform people of their business. All Councillors for the area should be invited and sent papers, which should also be sent to the two authorities.

I look forward to continuing to represent the community for their best interests. Through my close contacts I am confident that my hard work has recently been correct and appreciated. I conclude by thanking the very many people in the area for their help, advice and support in this last difficult year.

MICHAELLE BURNS - GREIG

MBG.