

Gavinton, Fogo & Polwarth Community Council

Minute of the meeting held on the 11th July 1994 in the village hall Gavinton.

PRESENT

Mr R M Sinclair (Chairman), Mrs C Allman, Mr J B Elliot (district cllr), Mr R J Markby, Mr I McCowen, Mr A McMillan, Mrs M G Mowat, Mr J Nairn (rgl cllr), Mrs F Purves, Mr F Seed, Mrs C Watt, Mrs M Weir, Mr R Wilkinson

8 Members of the public were also present.

Before the meeting commenced business Mrs Mowat presented the chairman with a handsome gavel which was received with unanimous approval.

1. APOLOGIES - had been received from Mr M Lamb

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the last meeting on 1st March 1994 had been circulated previously were approved & signed by the chairman.

3. CHANGE IN ORDER OF BUSINESS

Because Cllr Nairn had another meeting to attend he asked that the order of business on the agenda be changed so that might put several items to the council before he had to leave. This was agreed and Mr Nairn told the council of the Regional Council's decision to postpone the adoption of the Local Plan until September 1st for a period of further consultation. Discussion of Fogo planning matters had been postponed until August because of late submission of detailed plans to the regional planning committee.

Some disquiet was expressed at the form of words used by the reporter at the enquiry into the local plan, namely that the council had "misled" the regional council when making its recommendations about the local plan. The secretary was instructed to write to the reporter asking him to clarify the wording in his report and Cllr Nairn advised to whom this should be addressed.

Cllr Nairn apologising for his early departure left the meeting.

4. MATTERS ARISING

1. Scotland in Bloom - Notification of this had been received and the chairman, Mrs Weir & Mrs Mowat agreed to meet the judges on the appointed day.

2. Keep Berwickshire Tidy - the campaign's report had been received and commendation noted. Marchmont station was again listed as the only black spot, but the council's attention was drawn to the considerable improvement noticed there lately.

3. Langton Burn Footbridge - It was noted that one of the rails was again broken.

4. Fogo Village Hall - Although the dangerous railings had been removed it was reported that the gate was still hung so that it would not shut properly. To rehang the gate would be an engineering matter but Mr Seed confirmed that it would be attended to.

5. Bus Service in Gavinton - The chairman reported that the Galashiels/Berwick bus now called at the village and urged the community to use the new service.

6. Association of Berwickshire community councils - Mrs Mowat reported that there had been sufficient support among community councils to form a steering committee for the proposed organisation and that she had attended the meeting in Longformacus where a draft constitution was discussed. The association would encourage dialogue between community councils and for a small affiliation fee would offer help and advice as to, for example, grants available to councils, how to cope with problems of litter etc. It was hoped that there would be another meeting in Duns before long and that Mr Wilkinson would attend.

7. Street lights - there was again a request for additional lights in glebe although there some improvement in lighting around the green.

5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. Safety surfaces and play equipment for the green - The chairman had seen Mr Rhind about the provision of a safety surface for the play area. Cllr Elliott explained that, because of the cost, the District Council had no policy to provide safety surfaces for existing play areas and were not legally bound to do so. However, they were bound to provide a safety surface when they replaced obsolete play equipment. Cllr Elliott agreed to find out from Mr Rhind what the live expectancy of the equipment was. There was some discussion about the possibility of scrapping the existing equipment and replacing it with new and to how this might be financed, or whether to make do with the existing equipment. The question of liability in the event of injury was raised. It was agreed that a sub-committee should be formed to look into all aspects of the matter and the committee to consist of Mrs Weir and Messrs Lamb & Wilkinson.

2. Council constitution - Mr Markby asked that a copy of the council's constitution be sent to all members of the council.

3. Regional boundry changes - Mr Markby wanted to know how the proposed electoral boundry changes would affect the community council. Cllr Elliott explained that the existing electoral districts would disappear after the elections in 1995 and it was still unknown what the wards would be.

4. Council finances & village hall - Mrs Mowat reported that the council had a balance of £302 in its account and reminded the council that in previous years it had made a contribution for the use of the village hall. A sum of £50 was voted to the village hall and it was agreed that this matter would in future become permanent item on the agenda of the council's AGM.

5. The Verter - Mr Cleat reported that while the Verter was distributed free to all households in the community it was sold outwith the community at 25p per copy and the net cost of each issue was less than £20.

6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Will be on Monday September 26th 1994 at 7 pm in the Village Hall, Gavinton.

Chairman:-



Date:-

26. 9. 94.