

GAVINTON, FOGO & POLWARTH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**Minutes of Annual General Meeting held in Gavinton Village Hall
on Monday, 14 May 2001, at 7.00 pm**

PRESENT: Mrs B Darling (Chairman), Mrs C Allman, Mr I Gill, Mr N Humphry,
Mr A Macmillan, Mrs F Renton, Mr B Weir.
Councillor W L Forrest.
Mrs J Wheadon (Committee Secretary).
2 members of the public

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Mr S Brodie, Mr D Paterson, Mrs U Robinson and Mr F Seed.

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 15 MAY 2000

The Minutes, which had previously been circulated, were signed as a correct copy by the Chairman.

3 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Mrs Darling said:

During the year 8 meetings and 3 special meetings have been held. Attendance of your representatives has been excellent, and I thank them for their support, suggestions and commitment to the Community Council affairs. Councillor Logan Forrest has been assiduous in his interest and most helpful when the need arose.

Thanks are also due to Joan Wheadon, the Minute Secretary, who has had a lot of extra work. Her professional input to the minutes and letters has achieved a high standard of presentation, and made my workload much easier.

Our views were sought on 12 Planning Applications. Of these, the proposal to put 49 houses at Polwarth required a special meeting. Our comments and opposition were made very clear, and the developers have not yet progressed their ideas.

The outline planning consent for a house on the garage strip in Gavinton will pose a car parking problem in the village that has yet to find a solution.

One-2-one wanted to place a telecommunication mast on the south side of the village. A public meeting revealed total opposition to this, and we were pleased that representation led to the mast being sited further to the east.

The first Borders Floral Gateway competition was held in August. The hard work by 8 volunteers in the public areas and the splendid gardens and window boxes of householders resulted in Gavinton winning Wee Village. The pretty Selkirk Glass trophy was presented to your chairman by Lord Steel and has been on display in the Post Office window.

In Keep Berwickshire Tidy 2000, our area came third. However, litter on road verges continues to be very evident.

The Gavinton Play Area had a balance of £2000 so a hopscotch, balancing beams and basketball net have been installed.

The main workload of the year has been with the proposal by Scottish Borders Council for a Waste Transfer Station, Depot and Civic Amenity Site at Middlefield bridge. Between August and January, many people from a wide area expressed concern. A Fighting Fund was set up, £2728.52 raised with generous donations, a Quiz Night, Horse Racing Night and a 60's Fancy Dress. These events were well organised and well attended, helping to boost community spirit and keeping everyone informed of developments. Thanks to John Marjoribanks for keeping the accounts in immaculate order. The sale agreement with Scottish Borders Council lapsed on 1 December and the vendor made a private sale that returned the site to agricultural use. There was huge relief as the proposal could have meant upwards of 100,000 vehicle movements per year on inadequate roads access, with resultant threat to the local vicinity and way of life. A Planning Consultant was retained and much to his surprise, and our concern, the Scottish Executive granted Scottish Borders Council planning permission on 27 December, even though they did not own the site. It is to be hoped that a more suitable site will soon be identified in central Berwickshire to take waste management forward. The balance of the Fighting Fund is retained meantime.

Scott Brodie must have a special mention for his work with the web site. Several comments were received on the excellent presentation, interest generated and IT skills. World-wide response was very evident and it is hoped to keep the website updated with community events and the local history.

The Millennium was suitably marked with a bronze plaque commemorating the establishment of Gavinton Village. An oak tree has yet to be planted.

The blizzard in February left the area without electricity for 5 days with enormous drifts posing problems. There was a lot of sharing, laughter and "making do" in the best British tradition.

Foot and mouth disease arrived in Duns in April, the 3Km cull affected Langton parish, making us very aware of the full horrors.

The fixing of Scottish Borders Council "No Dogs" notices to church gates in April caused a furore and thankfully they have been removed. The desecration of the War Memorial lych gates at Fogo was particularly deprecated.

The discovery of 5 small trust funds relative to our area has still to be researched.

This is a lengthy report but it has been a busy year and I appreciate the support received from the members and from the wider community.

4 TREASURER'S REPORT AND PRESENTATION OF ACCOUNTS

Mr Macmillan circulated an Income and Expenditure Account which showed a balance on 5 April 2001 of £1098.22. The balance of the Fighting Fund which is within the total is being retained meantime. Thanks were expressed to Mr McDevitt for auditing the accounts.

Chairman..... *S.R. Jackson*

Date *15/4/01*