

GAVINTON, FOGO & POLWARTH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held in Gavinton Church Hall on Monday, 26th April 2004 at 7.00pm

PRESENT: Mrs B Darling (Chairman), Mrs C Allman, Mrs M Bishop, Mr N Humphry,
Mr A Macmillan, Mr D Paterson, Mrs F Renton, Mrs C Taylor, Mr B Weir.
Mrs J Wheadon (Committee Secretary)

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Mr I Gill, Mrs J Seed Cllr M McCrave, and Mrs L Chernoff.

2 POLICE INPUT IF REQUIRED

No police attendance.

3 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 8th March 2004

It was agreed the Minute, which had previously been circulated, be signed by the Chairman as a true record.

4 MATTERS ARISING

4,3,5 Name plates on Gavinton stone flower wells – have been replaced. Thanks have been made to those involved. The flower wells are looking very good, thanks to Mr Drew Gibb for planting them up. Fogo one is excellent too, thanks to Mrs Cathy Allman.

4,5 Trust and Bequest Funds held by SBC – Councillor McCrave sent a message stating that SBC would consider handing over the funds in the Revenue Accounts if the scheme would benefit the community, even Capital funds may be handed over if a scheme merited it. To be discussed at the next meeting when members will put forward their ideas. The funds are:

Gavinton Village Hall	£314.57	Mrs Darling said she had informed the Village Hall Committee that this can be claimed.	
Polwarth, Hamilton Bequest	£1583.55		
Fogo, 3 funds	£79.64	£44.50	£412.38

8 Langton Ford footpath – Peter Renton had given a verbal estimate of £1100. The path would have to be laid by hand using crushed aggregate and an extra strut fixed to the bottom of the existing railings.

5 FOGO HERITAGE PROJECT, REQUEST FOR NAMING “JOHN HUNTER FOOTBRIDGE”

A grant has been awarded. It will be made in 3 payments once the work starts. The first will be 50%, second 40% and third 10%. A progress report will have to be submitted each time an application for payment is made. A special bank account has been opened. Mr Friedman has been appointed as our consultant and the £5,000 from the Community Support Fund will be used towards professional fees. The “Permission to Start” form has been sent off and tenders will be requested from a number of firms and advise will be given on which one to choose.

Mrs Darling consulted SBC senior solicitor on the contract before it was signed.

Naming – John Hunter was the Minister at Fogo when the original footbridge was washed away. He tried to have it rebuilt at the time without success. His son regularly visits and it was thought that he would be pleased to carry out the opening and naming ceremony. A simple plaque would be fixed to the bridge “In memory of John Hunter, Minister, from date to date”. This was agreed.

Once started, work should be carried out in two to three weeks. Provided nothing goes into the water SEPA are happy.

6 PLANNING APPLICATION

Erection of dwelling house in garden ground of Pouterlany, Duns – outline

No objections.

7 WEBSITE

- (a) Update on Gavinton website – this is to be put on to Mrs Darling's computer. Mrs Bishop has ordered the appropriate software which will not exceed £200. This money will come from the Calor Gas award. Our licence and domain name have another 3 years to run.
- (b) Berwickshire Communities Online – Mrs Bishop has undertaken one half day's training. The space is limited to 3 sheets. One for news and where messages and questions can be posted. One for Minutes and the third for items of interest and events.
The website will be launched at Leitholm on 21st May and Scott Brodie has been invited. There will be a link between the 2 websites.

8 BERWICKSHIRE COMMUNITY COUNCILS FORUM AGM, 17TH MARCH

Mrs Darling said there had been a presentation by Mr Andrew Baxter on Waste Management. SBC had not budgeted for labour to operate a machine to clean chewing gum deposit on pavements.

Community Councils are eligible for rent rebate for meetings and requests must be received by Mrs Darling by the end of April who will then claim the total amount from SBC and distribute it to the CCs.

Mr Paul Wheelhouse from Coldingham is the new Secretary.

The next meeting will be on 22 September.

9 SCOTTISH BORDERS COMMUNITY COUNCILS NETWORK AGM, 18TH MAY, MELROSE

There is no speaker. Mr Douglas Scott, SPPU at SBC is looking after Community Councils.

10 SBCCN/SBC SEMINAR, 27TH MARCH, EARLSTON.

Mrs Darling chaired this meeting and Mrs Christine Taylor attended. It had been a good day. A Handbook for Community Councils has been sent to every Community Council and one put in the SBC members library. It will easily be kept up to date as it has loose leaves.

11 SBC THE LIVING LANDSCAPES PROJECT, GRANT SCHEME

There is financial assistance, up to £2000 for groups and individuals to improve woodlands and hedgerows.

12 SBC DEVELOPMENT CONTROL SERVICE FOCUS GROUP, 26TH MAY, 6.00pm

Mrs Darling will attend this meeting. Organisations and individuals will have an opportunity to provide feedback on the Development Control Service provided by SBC

13 SBC QUESTIONNAIRE ON HOUSING IN THE COUNTRYSIDE POLICY

It was agreed that Mrs Darling and Mrs Renton would complete this form.

14 INSURANCE COVER TO 31ST MARCH 2005

Certificate received. Mrs Darling said that insurance cover for elections was still being looked into.

15 TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance of working account is £395. Second account balance is £1770. The Treasurer will have the accounts for the year ending 31st March 2004 ready for the next meeting. Cheques were made out for annual subscriptions to BCCF and ASCC. It was agreed that £70 should be spent on plants for Fogo and Gavinton. There is £5.42 left over from last year's purchase of plants.

16 GARDENERS QUESTION TIME, HAWICK, 25TH APRIL

No one from this Community Council attended.

17 TOWN TWINNING ENQUIRY – FRANCE, NOGENT-SUR-VERNISSON

This is a community of 2,700 inhabitants and it was not felt suitable for twinning with us.

18 KEEP BERWICKSHIRE TIDY

Clean up week 19th –25th April. Judging during week beginning 26th April. Generally the area looked clean and tidy. Mrs Darling thanked those who had picked up litter and commented upon the large amount of litter found on the playing field. Thanks to the owners of the Post Office for their excellent themed window displays.

19 CALOR GAS SCOTTISH COMMUNITY OF THE YEAR AWARDS, 2004

It was decided not to enter this year as there were no suitable categories.

20 JIM CLARK RALLY, 2ND - 4TH JULY 2004

Mrs Darling said the rally organiser did not turn up for a meeting which he had arranged. A further one was held. The service area will be at Charterhall.

21 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

The following correspondence was tabled:

- (a) SBC Trading Standards matters
- (b) YO! Borders, Issue 4
- (c) Scottish Executive – Consultation on Guidance to Scottish Public Authorities on Charging Fees: Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2000 – Mrs Darling and Mrs Renton to reply
- (d) SBC Draft Scottish Borders Local Housing Strategy
- (e) SBC Proposed Byelaws prohibiting the consumption of alcohol in public places – Mrs Darling to reply stating that we do not want a plethora of notices in conservation areas. Plastic cups should be used. Members felt the scheme would not work.
- (f) Rights of Way Maintenance Grants (Neil Mackay, Assistant Access Office) – Mrs Darling to enquire if a grant would be available for Langton Ford footpath (see Item 4,8)
- (g) Scottish Water Customer Consultation Panels
- (h) Tweed Forum, Tweed Invasives Project – spraying giant hogweed last 2 weeks in April and first 2 in May.
- (i) SEPA View, Issue 18
- (j) SBC Corporate Plan
- (k) RARARI Bid 79, recommendations for the safe management of acutely disturbed psychiatric patients in Scotland's remote and rural areas.
- (l) SBC - Lothian & Borders Outdoor Diary 2004-05
- (m) Scottish Outdoor Access Code leaflets
- (n) Scottish Executive, Public Consultation – Rights of Appeal in Planning. – Mrs Darling and Mrs Renton to study this document.

22 ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

(a) Potholes in roads in Gavinton – vehicles involved in the building of the new house at the bottom of South Street have damaged the road as well as knocking down daffodils on grass verges. Main Street has been dug up again to allow gas to be supplied to one of the houses. Virtually the whole of Gavinton has very poor road surfaces.

(b) Request from Mr Weir for name of footpaths officer – Mrs Darling to provide this.

(c) Scottish Borders Community Support Fund – to assist communities with the development of community based projects.

(d) Draft Local Plan – This is in the public domain and it will be an agenda item at a future date. It states there is no need for future development in Gavinton bar the 2 vacant plots (Mr Rook has built on the garages site, the Clachan remains vacant).

Mr David Seed does not agree and wants it known that he will be applying to develop a candidate housing site on OS 6800, Grid 767521.

23 FUTURE MEETINGS

Monday, 24th May 2004 for AGM and business) Church Hall, Gavinton, 7pm
Monday, 5th July 2004)

The meeting closed at 8.50pm.

Chairman L.V. Darling Date 24/5/04