

GAVINTON, FOGO & POLWARTH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held in Gavinton Church Hall on Monday, 16th August 2004 at 7.00pm

PRESENT: Mrs B Darling (Chairman), Mrs C Allman, Mrs M Bishop, Mr I Gill,
Mr N Humphry, Mr A Macmillan, Mrs F Renton, Mrs C Taylor, Mr B Weir.
Mrs J Wheadon (Committee Secretary)
7 members of the public

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Mr D Paterson and Councillor M McCrave.

2 POLICE INPUT

A PC called at the beginning of the meeting and was welcomed. It was said that there had been less traffic using the village as a shortcut. A complaint had been received about a photographer taking photographs of children outside the Post Office which had upset some parents. A PC had been to the village and talked to the children. It was later discovered to be a project by Duns Rotary Club for a calendar. The police are pleased to be informed of any such incidents. The police officer left the meeting.

3 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 5th July 2004

The date of the meeting was corrected to 5th July 2004 from 7th. Also, Item 5, the opening ceremony of the Fogo Footbridge was corrected to 31st July 2004 from 30th. The Minute, which had previously been circulated, was then signed by the Chairman as a true record.

4 MATTERS ARISING

12 Judging for Scotland's Floral Gateway competition – no result yet. Last year Mrs Darling had requested to have a list of other villages in our category to be sent out with the notification of the judging but this had not been done. A further request will be made.

14 Street names – Permission will have to be obtained from owners for Street Names to be attached to their properties. In Main Street this will be Myrtle Cottage and Coonanglebah; The Green could be Wellcroft and The Village Hall; South Street will be Iona Cottage and Butterwell Tigh West. For Crimson Hill signs will have to be erected on the grass outside Numbers One and 7. One sign is required at the west end of The Glebe.

Community Coat of Arms - If it is decided to have a Community Coat of Arms then it would be better to postpone requesting the Street Signs until a decision is made. The cost of registering a coat of arms is about £800 but a grant may be available. John Marjoribanks has previously researched this subject and is to be asked to speak to the next meeting.

5 JOHN HUNTER FOOTBRIDGE OPENING

This was carried out by Alistair Hunter on Saturday, 31st July. Mrs Darling has a video of the event which can be borrowed. Thanks were expressed to Frances Renton for all her work in making arrangements for, and overseeing, the ceremony. A letter of thanks has been received from Mr Hunter saying he was proud to have been asked to open the bridge and having it named after his father.

The consultant has signed off the paperwork. A certificate of completion is being submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund. A retention fee will be held back for 6 months as per the contract.

Thanks were expressed to Niall Whyte for landscaping and tree planting.

Sympathy was expressed to Mrs Chernoff who missed the ceremony due to family illness. Thanks were expressed to her for her commitment to the project and her volume of work. As Mrs Chernoff was co-opted for this project she will not be attending any more meetings.

After publicity in local papers there have been visitors from as far away as Morpeth.

In the recent heavy floodwaters the 2 bottom spars of the fencing which run down to the river have been broken off. A measuring rod for flood levels is to be erected.

6 WEBSITE

Update on Community Council website – Scott Brodie to be asked if he can show Mrs Bishop how to operate the software, if not then to take the site down.

7 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- (a) Outline for erection of dwelling house at Nisbet Hill – Mrs Darling said she would ask the opinion of neighbours. It would be building in the countryside.
- (b) Thatched Cottage, Polwarth erection of wood store – no objections.
- (c) The Cottage, South Street, Gavinton replacement windows – no objections
- (d) Edenside, South Street, Gavinton replacement windows and Velux in the roof – no objections

8 TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. Macmillan reported that there is £1490 in the Community Council Account and £1676 in the special account.

9 DRAFT LOCAL PLAN

Three sites were put forward by their owners for candidate housing – Woodside, South View and Crimson Hill. The Community Council had supported the building of 12 houses at Crimson Hill. The draft local plan is available in Duns Library and a free CD ROM available on request. The SBC stated in the draft local plan that it is not proposed to allocate any land for housing in Gavinton. The date for submitting comments has been extended to the end of October from September.

Mrs Darling offered to stand down from the chair and for Mrs Renton to take her place. Mr Macmillan said he did not think this was necessary and members unanimously agreed.

Members of the public were invited to give their views and much discussion took place. Some felt that there should be more building allowed in Berwickshire rather than the majority going to Galashiels area. It was said that there was nothing affordable if any young folk wanted to stay in this area. However the point was made by a member of the Community Council that Gavinton is a desirable area and probably the plots would be very expensive and large properties would be built, the residents of which would not necessarily become part of the community but use the village for commuting to larger places. A request was made that the village should be letter-boxed with the SBC comments request sheet. Mrs Darling said it was up to individuals to obtain their own if they wished to complete one.

Mr Macmillan proposed that a public meeting be called and that a member of SBC Planning Committee be asked to attend. It was agreed that Thursday 2nd September at 7pm would be suitable. Mrs Bishop was asked to book the Village Hall and Mrs Darling to approach Planning Department.

Mr Macmillan said all the residents of Fogo were delighted that no land had been allocated for housing there.

10 NHS BORDERS PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON NEW ARRANGEMENTS FOR OUT-OF-HOURS HEALTHCARE

There will be 2 sessions at Tweed Horizons on Monday, 23rd August, 3pm-4.30pm and 5pm-6.30pm.

11 SCOTTISH BORDERS COMMUNITY COUNCILS SEMINAR

Saturday, 2nd October, 10am-3pm at SBC Headquarters. Mrs Darling, Mrs Renton and Mrs Taylor will be attending.

12 CONSULTATION DOCUMENT FROM SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE – “MAINTAINING HOUSES – PRESERVING HOMES”

Mrs Seed requested to see the document. Mrs Darling and Mrs Renton will complete the questionnaire and reply before closing date of 29th October.

13 CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS FROM SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE
(reply required by 12th October 2004)

- (a) “PAYING FOR WATER SERVICES 2006-2010”
- (b) “INVESTMENT IN WATER SERVICES 2006-2014”

Mrs Darling and Mrs Taylor to reply.

14 SOUTHERN UPLANDS PARTNERSHIP – INVITATION TO VISIT THE KIELDER BIOMASS HEATING SCHEME

22nd September 2004, 12.15pm-3.30pm

15 SEED & CO – RESTRUCTURING OF BUSINESS LEAFLET

Mrs Darling congratulated Mr Seed on the design of his new leaflet.

16 CATALOGUE RECEIVED

Turnock Lighting.

17 ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

- (a) Invitation to opening of BOG Organic Garden – Friday, 27th August.
- (b) Berwickshire Housing Association – Notification of AGM, 7th September 2004.
- (c) Fogo 'phone box – Mrs Allman reported that there is a notice inside stating that the box will be removed in 42 days. Residents do not want it removed. Similar notices are displayed in other rural boxes. The SBC are not in favour of this as it is difficult to get a mobile 'phone signal in these areas. Mrs Seed said she would check to see if there was a similar notice in the Polwarth box and if so get the feelings of the residents.

- (d) Potholes and state of roads in Gavinton – again there have been complaints from members of the public. The roads were patched before Reivers week in case any horses slipped.
- (e) Flooding at Old Kirk – and at east end near 30 mile sign in Gavinton. SBC has been contacted.
- (f) Red Brae, Gavinton – is not safe to walk on due to moss and overgrown vegetation.
- (g) SBC Agendas – will all be sent by e-mail on Thursdays to Mrs Darling.
- (g) Fogo field behind Rashie has not been cut. Mr Macmillan to request Mr Trotter to have it done.
- (h) Parking at side of football field, Gavinton – makes it difficult for vehicles, especially large agricultural machines, to pass. Mrs Darling to write to Secretaries of Football and Rugby Clubs and Police requesting that cars are parked on one side of the road only.
- (i) Village Green, Gavinton – dog excrement has been seen.
- (j) Fogo verges – Mrs Renton thanked Mr Allman for cutting these and Mrs Allman for attending to flower tub.

18 FUTURE MEETINGS

Monday, 27th September 2004)
 Monday, 8th November 2004) Church Hall, Gavinton, 7pm
 Monday, 13th December 2004)

The meeting closed at 8.50pm.

Chairman S.P. Darling Date 27/9/04