

GAVINTON, FOGO & POLWARTH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at Gavinton Church Hall on Monday, 23 April 2007, at 7pm

Present were: Mrs C Allman, Mrs M Bishop, Mrs B Darling (Chair), Mr P Gibbens, , Mrs J O'Kane (minutes secretary), Mrs F Renton, Mrs J Seed, Mr B Weir, Mr N Whyte. Also: Cllr. M McCrave, 2 members of the public and invited guests.

Mrs Darling welcomed all to this, her last, CC meeting.

1. Apologies for absence had been received from: Mr I Gill, Mr D Patterson, Mrs C Taylor
2. Minutes of AGM held on 5 June 2006 (previously circulated) were approved
3. Treasurer's report and presentation of accounts: these were approved by Mrs Renton, seconded by Mrs Seed. Thanks were expressed to Mr A MacMillan for auditing the books.
4. Chairman's report, April 2006 – 2007: attached to these minutes
5. Arrangements for nominations, and election process, for Community Council election in May 2007: nomination papers needed to be in with the returning officer, Cllr. M McCrave, by 12 noon on 11 May, allowing 7 days for withdrawal. If no more than 8 Gavinton, 3 Fogo and 1 Polwarth nominations were received, there would be no need for an election. In this case, the next meeting will be 21 May. In the case of an election being needed, the meeting will be 28 May. Mrs Darling agreed to continue receiving CC paperwork until then, and will circulate any planning applications.
6. A planning application was on display for a steading conversion at Middlefield
7. The minutes of the meeting held on 26 March were approved.

The business of the meeting being over, Mrs Darling was presented with a card and gifts in recognition of her service to the CC. Refreshments were then served to all.

GAVINTON FOGO AND POLWARTH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT APRIL 2006-2007

This has been our 5th year of a 5-year term of office. Nomination papers for the new CC have to be lodged with the Returning Officer by noon on 11 May.

There have been 8 meetings with good attendance, and many agenda items to discuss. Membership changes saw the resignation of Angus Macmillan, a long-standing Fogo member, with Peter Gibbens elected to the vacancy. Nig Humphry, a Gavinton member resigned, and a co-opted member Niall Whyte was elected to the vacancy.

Consideration of 25 Planning Applications ranging from housing developments at Crunklaw, Fogo and Polwarth, relocation of farming operations at Cothill and Woodend to include steadings conversion and new build, and matters decided under delegated powers such as conservatories and velux windows.

The reasons for closure and sale of Polwarth Kirk were understood. Plans for its future are as yet undecided, but the Letts family has our good wishes for a satisfactory outcome.

Windfarm applications continue to raise debate. The Black Hill at Duns became operational in March. Consultation on the community benefit that will accrue is ongoing.

Several consultation documents from SBC, SE and NHS Borders have been considered by a small number of members on behalf of the CC. Frances Renton is a member of the consultation group planning a dental facility into what was Coldstream Cottage Hospital. I have attended seminars on Digital Switchover (planned for October 08) Community Planning and many other topics of importance to Scottish Borders as your representative.

Training sessions for community councillors have been held quarterly at SBC. The Scheme for CCs (1997) has been updated by a small working group, the suggested changes are about to go out for a 12-week consultation period. A Code of Conduct is likely to be included, and any CC election due will all be held in the same month to allow for publicity, then training for new councillors.

Locally, Fogo is to have a 30mph speed limit. Speeding through Gavinton continues to be a problem (we await a "smiley face"), and the access onto the A1067 continues to be reported as dangerous. Potholes and eroded verges continue to be concerns. SBLocal has been helpful over fly tipping, work on the north footpath to Fogo footbridge, reopening roadside culverts following heavy rain and maintaining benches.

Recycling commenced in Scottish Borders with a few teething problems. The new depot in Duns opened recently following months of closure for upgrading.

Returning to local matters, Gavinton won SB Floral Gateway in July 06 for the 5th time in 7 years. Much community input was apparent, and the judges' comments appreciated. Keep Berwickshire Tidy last April under the auspices of Berwickshire Civic Society saw our area placed 3rd. The presentation at The Hirsell by Lord Hume was attended by your chairman and vice chairman.

The website www.gavinton.net has had a difficult year, but I am glad to report that Graeme Macleod has rescued the situation, and is making a professional renewal of the site. He is also to be thanked for scanning all past minutes from 1974 onto disc.

Gavinton Village Hall was closed in February for refurbishment following successful fund

transfer of £1290.68 from the Fighting Fund closure last year. A donation has also been made to Fogo Community Hall, where welcome plans are in hand to enable community events to be held there.

Thanks are due to our treasurer, minutes secretary, auditor, Councillor McCrave, and my personal thanks to Frances Renton for support as vice chairman.

Finally, as I retire after nearly 30 years with this CC, I thank all members past and present for their interest in our community, and I wish the new council soon to be elected good fortune to its endeavours.

Bridget Darling
Chairman

GLOSSARY

SB Scottish Borders
SBC Scottish Borders Council
SE Scottish Executive
CC Community Council