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GAVINTON, FOGO & POLWARTH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**Minutes of a special meeting held at Gavinton Church Hall
on Tuesday 16 October 2007 at 7pm**

MR T. O'GORMAN

Present were Mrs M Bishop (Chair), Mr B Weir, Mr P Gibbens, Mr N Whyte, Mrs C Allman, Mrs J Seed, Mrs K Renton, Mrs J O'Kane (secretary). Cllr T Jones, Cllr F Renton and 25 members of the public.

Apologies were received from Mr G MacLeod and Cllr D Moffat.

The chairman explained that this meeting had been called to discuss the Report into Objections to the finalised Local Plan, Chapter 11: Berwickshire HMA which upheld the objection by RM & JF Seed and Mr N Whyte to have allocated a site for housing in Gavinton to the south-west of the village (ref. BGA1) at the southwest of the village over the previously allocated site (ref BGA4B) behind Crimson Hill.

Mrs J Seed declared a pecuniary interest, and was informed by the Chairman that she could remain in the meeting but may not take part.

Cllr Renton explained what the next stage with the Local Plan will be. The Reporter's findings are recommended by Planning to be accepted at the full council meeting on 25 October. Amendments such as that recommended for Gavinton will then go out to consultation, when the community and the CC will be given the opportunity to comment, probably by early in 2008. SBC will then decide which of the Reporter's amendments to adopt in the Local Plan and which it would not.

Cllrs Renton and Jones recommended that:

- It is not worth anyone lobbying SBC in advance of the meeting on 25th October
- Any response to the consultation should demonstrate it is firmly based on the views of the village, e.g. by having a public meeting/ballot

Mrs Bishop informed CC members that Cllr Renton had already received correspondence from the community on this matter and was able to read out two of them with differing opinions, but CC members agreed that this was not necessary.

Members of the public were invited to make their opinions known to CC members. Comments included:

- There had been a democratic process; was it not time to accept this?
- Those who do not accept the Reporter's findings could make their feelings felt direct to SBC, there was no need for the CC to be involved
- The community does not have all the facts, so does not realise the impact of the allocation of a site that could accommodate 14 houses being replaced by one that could have 45 houses
- Concern about the effect of a development of the size of the new site on what is already a hazardous road junction onto the A6105

Mrs Bishop read out to the meeting the part of the CC's constitution about its purposes and functions. This made clear that the CC is under an obligation to be involved in this issue to ensure that the views of the community are heard.

Mr Whyte pointed out that although the new site has the room for 45 houses, that does not mean that this would be what was built. There is room for facilities such as community parking, changing rooms for the football pitch and tennis courts, all of which would reduce the amount of housing.

Mrs Bishop