

## **GAVINTON, FOGO & POLWARTH COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of Meeting held at Fogo Nursery School On Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> November 2004 at 7pm**

**PRESENT:** Mrs B Darling (Chair), Mrs F Renton, Mr B Weir, Mr N Humphrey, Mr A Macmillan, Mrs C Allman, Mrs J Seed, Mrs J O'Kane (acting secretary), Acting Sergeant R Spence, Mrs J Trotter (part attendance)

#### **1. Apologies**

Apologies for absence had been received from Mr I Gill, Mr D Paterson, Mrs M Bishop and Cllr. Mrs M McCrave.

#### **2. Police Input**

Acting Sergeant Spence was welcomed by BD. He reported that the police were pursuing a positive line of enquiry connected to the recent spate of burglaries in the area. He stressed the continuing need for security and being alert.

The following issues were raised with Acting Sergeant Spence:

##### **2.1 Junction onto the A6105**

There have been 2 recent accidents here, thankfully with no loss of life, although this seems to be counting against anything being done to address the problem. Visibility is a problem, but the owner of the trees will not have them taken down, as they were subject to grant aid. SBC have put up chevrons, but the wrong way round. RS advised that there was no chance of getting a mirror or a roundabout, but rumble strips may be possible. Action: BD to write to SBC.

##### **2.2 Fogo Speed Limit**

Fogo has not been able to get a 30mph speed limit, as the village is too small. However, the new legislation specifying that areas around schools should be declared 20mph zones could maybe be used. RS pointed out that this was not a police decision but a local authority one, but it would be supported by the police on grounds of safety. At worst, 'Children' signs are needed. Action: JT to ask the Care Commission for support and advice on who is best to request this.

##### **2.3 Speeding**

RS reported that this seems to be a particular problem throughout the Borders, possibly exacerbated by there being a policy of non-traffic police not receiving training on the use of handheld radar speed guns.

#### **3. Minutes of Meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> September**

NH objected to the wording of minute no. 6 – Draft Local Plan, as he believed it misquoted him on the subject of development in Gavinton. BD informed him that this cannot be amended without reference to Mr Gill, who had seconded

it. It was agreed that this would be reviewed at the next meeting. Action: NH to put his objection in writing to BD.

#### **4. Matters Arising**

##### **4.12 Scotland's Floral Gateway competition**

Gavinton came first in the Wee Village category. BD expressed thanks to all those involved.

##### **4.13 Street Names**

The new street names for Gavinton have been ordered, and will take approx. 6 weeks. It was agreed that it would delay things further to try to incorporate a coat of arms – if gone ahead with – on them.

##### **4.17c Threatened Removal of telephone boxes at Fogo and Polwarth**

The submission, contesting the boxes' removal, has had a further 42 days to go to BT, with a date of 30/11/04. Euan Robson MSP is being very supportive. It is considered important for Fogo Nursery to have access to a box, as mobile phone signals can be unreliable. Action: JT to find out if Nursery staff use the telephone box currently.

##### **4.5 Proposed Community Coat of Arms**

There was a discussion on the proposed coat of arms, trying to identify its benefits and possible uses. JS recommended that local people should be consulted, especially in the light of the costs and the fact that grant aid is unlikely to be forthcoming. It was agreed, as stated at the previous meeting, that a consultation will go ahead, but not until after Christmas.

##### **4.12 Right of Way, Langton Ford**

SBC has not yet responded to BD's email.

##### **4.16e Feral Cats**

Mr D Paterson reported that the female in the Glebe has now been caught and spayed. NH said his family has adopted a kitten.

#### **5. Presentation by Mrs Julia Trotter on funding required for Fogo Nursery School**

JT gave an informative presentation on the Nursery School's past and future plans for it. Established 30 years ago, the School takes in 2-3 and 3-5 year-olds, and has currently 26 pupils, which is nearing the maximum. Play Leaders and Assistant Play Leaders are fully trained. The Trotter family had given the listed building to SBC 'for community use'. It is leased to the Nursery, with a new lease currently being formulated.

The Nursery needs a new outdoors play area, and plans have been drawn up. This has been discussed for 3 years, and the parents have already raised over £1000. The equipment has been purchased, but is in storage. They need approx. £3000 for the play area, plus about £1200 for a shed to keep the equipment, and the cost of making raised beds in a garden area. An additional cost will be fencing, but discussions are ongoing on the style of this, as health and safety issues, as well as the listing of the building, need to be taken into account.

RS suggested that SBC be asked to help with the fencing, due to public liability issues.

It is hoped that the work can be done in time for the spring term in March, and JT asked if the Community Council can assist financially. She is already working with Jean Robertson of SBC on a lottery bid.

BD advised JT to contact the Rural Resource Centre for get assistance from a fieldworker who will be able to seek grant funding in addition to the Lottery. Applications to the Community Support Fund can be made in April 2005. The meeting extended its best wishes to the Nursery Committee and asked to be kept informed.

#### **6. Request for Noticeboard in Fogo**

FR reported that Osprey Designs priced the supply of a noticeboard big enough for the display of 4 A4 sheets at £295, though she believes she can get this down to £240 (plus VAT). There should be no planning problem if it is located on the Nursery School, as there was one there previously. Action: JT will discuss this with the Committee. (JT then left the meeting at 8.40pm)

#### **7. Request for 20mph speed limit for Fogo Nursery School**

See item 2.2.

#### **8. Fogo Footbridge and Paths – update on final Lottery Grant**

FR reported that the final 5% has been received. Additional work has been needed, to address the volume of water coming off fields and flooding the burn down the side of path. A mini digger has sorted this out, and FR has had a meeting with Daren Silcock of SBC, who has agreed to put in 4 drains on the west side. Some of the 5% will probably be underspent, but that depends on the final bills, including that from Niall Whyte.

#### **9. Keep Berwickshire Tidy Award**

The award was received on 18<sup>th</sup> October, and it was agreed that it should go in the Village Hall.

#### **10. Red Brae, Gavinton – improvements to right of way**

The trees have now been cut back, the fuse light is to be mended by SBC. The moss is still to be dealt with: it needs scraped and treated.

#### **11. Balance beams on Gavinton village green – request for removal**

More than one request had been received for the removal of these, which were installed 8 years ago, as they are rusty and never used. BW suggested that they should be maintained properly, and they may then be used, as there is a need for facilities for small children in the village. It was agreed to ask SBC to maintain them, and review the request for removal only if this cannot be done.

#### **12. Traffic Accidents**

See item 2.1.

#### **13. SBC Scrutiny Panel – opportunity to request items for consideration**

BD circulated information from SBC on the work of the Scrutiny Panel and invited suggestions for items to be considered in the future.

#### **14. Planning Application – Coonanglebah, demolition of porch and erection of sunroom**

To be circulated between AM, CA, FR and JS, as Gavinton members have already made comment. To be returned to SBC by 30/11/04.

#### **15. Treasurer's Report**

AM reported that there is £1047 in the ordinary account, and £1680 in the extraordinary account. There were discussions on what to do with the latter, which had been raised to "fight the dump". It cannot be used for anything else until end 2005, in case the situation arises again.

BD informed the meeting that Ron Cook had refurbished the railway bench on the Green at Gavinton. He was asking for £5 to cover the cost of the bolts, but it was agreed to give him £10 to include other costs, and was thanked for his help.

#### **16. Local Government Boundaries Commission – possible Community Council boundary changes**

The Boundaries Commission has been reviewing electoral arrangements, and there are anomalies in the present boundary, which follows the Well Rig burn. For example, of the new houses at the Golf Course, 2 fall within GF & P Community Council, while the remaining 13 are in the Duns CC area. RS confirmed that boundaries are always roads or burns. After discussions, including the possibility of asking residents if they would like to change, it was agreed that the Hardens Road should be suggested as the boundary, although it was unclear what action was required of the Community Council. Action: BD to discuss with Anne Isles, SBC's solicitor.

#### **17. Correspondence Received**

The following have been received and circulated where appropriate:

- Lothian & Borders Police Board – request for Independent Custody Visitors
- SBRP Community Calendar – replaces annual report this year
- Trail Riding Business Seminar, 17/11/04
- Scottish Borders Elder Voice Issue 14, Oct 2004
- SEPA View Issue 21
- National Lottery Day, 6/11/04
- BAVS Charities Market, 30/11/04
- SBC Information Session on Private Landlords, 25/11/04, Duns
- SBC Social Work Seminar, 12/11/04 – to be attended by FR and Margaret Bishop)
- Woodside submission to the draft Local Plan
- Handout on NHS24 Out of Hours Service – will not be arriving at Berwickshire Households until early December, due to poor planning by NHS Borders. Royal Mail has a full programme of commercial business to fulfil first.

**18. Any other competent business**

- 18.1 The late Mrs Hall's daughter and son-in-law would like to donate a bench in memory of Mrs Hall, to replace the old one at the top of the Glebe in Gavinton. Agreed.
- 18.2 A Joint Health Improvement Plan questionnaire was given out to JS, CA and BD to complete and return to SBC.
- 18.3 Lisa Chernoff's parents' gravestone has been damaged by a grass cutter again. Action: letter to SBC.
- 18.4 JS stated that David Seed has offered to do a presentation on the Woodside proposal.
- 18.5 AM requested that BD should bring the file of Community Council correspondence to all meetings, so that letters can be referred to.
- 18.6 It was agreed that £10 would be paid to the Nursery School for the use of the building for this meeting.
- 18.7 BW stated that the condition of the roads in Gavinton is cause for concern, and the short termism of stop gap repairs is not a solution. It was agreed that a letter should be sent to SBC.

**19. Future Meetings**

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2004, Gavinton Church Hall, 7pm

Monday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2005, Gavinton Church Hall, 7pm

The meeting closed at 9.25pm.

Chairman *S.F. Ashby* ..... Date *13.12.04* .....