

GAVINTON, FOGO & POLWARTH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Annual General Meeting held at Gavinton Church Hall On Monday, 30th May 2005, at 7pm

PRESENT: Mrs B Darling (Chair), Mrs C Allman, Mrs M Bishop, Mrs F Renton, Mrs C Taylor, Mr D Paterson, Mr A MacMillan, Mr N Humphry, Mrs J Seed, Mrs J O'Kane (acting secretary), and Cllr Mrs M McCrave.

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence had been received from Mr I Gill.

2. Appointment of Minutes Secretary

Mrs J Wheadon was thanked for her 18 years as Secretary and will be sent a Gardening Token in appreciation. Mrs J O'Kane was proposed as Minutes Secretary by Mrs Darling and seconded by Mrs Allman

3. Minutes of AGM held on 24th May 2004

Agreed and signed, subject to a minor amendment that this meeting was attended by Mrs J Seed, not Mr F Seed. It was agreed that rather than waiting until the next AGM in 2006, the minutes of this 2005 meeting will be circulated as soon as they are written up.

4. Treasurer's report and presentation of accounts

Mr Macmillan presented his report and the accounts. He was thanked by Mrs Darling, especially for the extra work generated by the Fogo bridge project. Mr J McDevitt was also thanked for auditing the accounts.

5. Chairman's report

Mrs Darling presented her report on 2004/05 (at end of these minutes)

Janet O'Kane
Minutes Secretary

Gavinton Fogo & Polwarth Community Council

Chairman's Report April 2004 – 2005

The third year of five for this term of office has had eight meetings. There is a vacancy for a Gavinton representative. Meetings have been held in Gavinton Church Hall, with one at Fogo where the funding required to upgrade the Nursery School was considered.

Our SBC Councillor, Mrs Margaret McCrave, is thanked for her input during the year. Thanks are also due to Joan Wheadon, who has been Minutes Secretary for about 18 years. Having taken sabbatical leave in September, she has decided to retire. Joan's immaculate paperwork has been a boon to our Community Council, and her support to me has been invaluable. Janet O'Kane offered her skills pro tem, and I am delighted that she is prepared to be confirmed in post. The Treasurer, Angus Macmillan, has had extra involvement with the Heritage Lottery grant, and we thank him for keeping the accounts.

There have been several highlights during the year. The CC area came third in Keep Berwickshire Tidy in May, Gavinton won Scottish Borders Floral Gateway (the fourth time in the five years of the competition), the rules having been changed to categorise Wee Villages as under 300 population meaning that there were more entries. The small team who tend the public areas are to be congratulated, and the householders who nurture window boxes and hanging baskets take a pride in their surroundings.

The John Hunter Footbridge at Fogo, with the associated paths, was the brainchild of Lisa Chernoff, who was co-opted on to the CC for the duration of the project. Frances Renton joined her to put together the Heritage Lottery Fund application. The prodigious amount of work took time and commitment. The SBC Lotteries Officer, Jean Robertson, gave advice, and the appointment of a Consultant was also an important factor. The Community Support Fund enabled match-funding. Work commenced in April, with the opening in July by Alistair Hunter followed by a party in Fogo Nursery School. The Heritage Lottery Fund currently has the project on its website as an example of excellence: www.hlf.org.uk.

Since then, landscaping by Niall Whyte has taken place. The Blackadder was in spate in April 05, with water lapping the legs of the benches purchased with funds from three trust funds 'for the poor in the parish of Fogo'. The daffodils survived being under water! The path on the north side has suffered damage from the cascade of water off the road. A new drain was installed earlier by SBC, but further work may be necessary.

A small sum of money surplus to the final accounts enabled a community noticeboard for Fogo to be sited on the Nursery School.

Planning matters have taken up much CC time, with consideration given to 22 applications and attendance at SBC's Development Control Focus Group. The final Draft Local Plan presentation was held in Duns. BT's threat to remove telephone boxes at Fogo and Polwarth is being resisted, and MSP Euan Robson has been helpful.

NHS Borders Out of Hours service has had mixed reports from residents needing help or advice.

Communications with SBC have improved since the appointment of Clare Malster as Community Engagement Officer. The BCCF and SBCCN are able to take an overview of

local problems and lobby appropriately. I also represent Scottish Borders on the ASCC, and am always prepared to liaise and communicate over the wider picture.

Other matters considered during the year have been a Community Coat of Arms, devised by John Marjoribanks. However, the cost is prohibitive, and the perceived value small, so the idea has been shelved.

Street names have been placed in Gavinton, with benefit to the many delivery drivers.

The website, gavinton.net, has continued to be a problem. Margaret Bishop has taken time to have training offered through the BCCF, but is now working with the village hall refurbishment committee. David Roberts has offered his help, and the website is currently under maintenance.

The poor state of the roads in Gavinton, and the verges generally, continue to be reported to SBC.

Seminars and meetings have been attended by some members on SBCCN, community benefit accruing from windfarms and other large developments, Planning Aid, the proposed new Berwickshire High School, SBC Budget, and New Ways Forum.

Response has been made to consultation documents from the Scottish Executive, SBC and the Water Board.

It has certainly been a busy year, and I thank members for their support.

Bridget Darling

GLOSSARY

ASCC – Association of Scottish Community Councils

BCCF – Berwickshire Community Councils' Forum

SBC – Scottish Borders Council

SBCCN – Scottish Borders Community Councils' Network