

GAVINTON, FOGO & POLWARTH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting held at Gavinton Church Hall on Monday, 19th December 2005, at 7pm

Present were Mrs B Darling, Mrs J Seed, Mr B Weir, Mrs C Taylor, Mrs C Allman, Mr A Macmillan, Mrs J O'Kane, Cllr. M McCrave, a representative of Lothian & Borders Police and one member of the public.

1. Apologies for absence were received from Mr D Paterson, Mr N Humphry, Mr I Gill, Mrs F Renton
2. Police input: There have been reports of a bogus British Gas caller who makes appointments but does not turn up. Mrs Darling reported that there had been another accident at the Gavinton road end; it was agreed that SBC should be pushed again re this issue. There have been six fatalities and 11 serious injuries on the roads in Berwickshire recently.
3. Minutes of meeting held on Monday 14th November 2005: it was noted that Mrs Taylor had joined the meeting at 7.30; the minutes were then agreed.
4. Matters arising:
 - Sewage overflow at The Glebe: 15 households to receive £10 compensation from ScottishWater
 - Bus 60 into Gavinton: SBC have written that First Bus have done a risk assessment on reversing at Gavinton Kirk and deemed this unsafe
 - Training evening at SBC on 23rd November: Mrs Darling reported that there had been a good turnout and the event was excellent. Mr A Mitchell (of Duns) is to produce a guide to accounting for community councils
 - Grueldykes right of way: the hedges have been cut but it is still not clear. Could this be handled by SB Local? (and floodwater at the Ladyflat bridge going south?)
 - Rats in Fogo: no progress, to be chased
5. Vacancy for Gavinton on Community Council. There was a discussion on the need for full community representation: members would like to see some younger people and parents of primary school children on the CC. Mrs Seed suggested a second representative for Polwarth, as it has about the same population as Fogo. This would need a change to the constitution at the AGM. It was agreed that individuals who have expressed an interest will be approached about representing Gavinton. They need to be on the electoral roll.
6. Planning applications
 - 1 Plot 1, Langton Edge: a letter has been received giving reasons for refusal.
 - 2 Polwarth: 10 houses with garages. The planned public meeting was deemed unnecessary by the local residents. The CC will submit comments to SBC: happy with 6 but 10 is over-development
 - 3 Crunklaw: change of use from stables to 4 dwellings; redesign of 2 houses with current planning permission. A second application has also been received. It is believed that the granary and stable block are listed. CC members expressed concerns about over-development.
 - 4 Site north of Langton Field, land at Hardens Farm: erection of dwellinghouse with garage/workshop. This is still to be commented on by some CC members.

- 5 Blacksmith Hill: erection of temporary 20m-high meteorological mast. CC members expressed a hope that if this is successful, it will not be followed by an application for a windfarm.
7. Training programme for Community Councils: Wednesday 22nd February 2006, 7-9pm at SBC on legal procedures, including holding elections and changing constitutions. Names of attendees to be confirmed at the January meeting.
8. Planning Aid training day, 28th January 2006, Allanton Village Hall: Mrs Seed and Mrs O'Kane have put their names down to attend. It is open to all Borders CCs.
9. BCCF: proposed membership of Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO) was agreed.
10. Scottish Executive discussion paper: 'What can we do to help Community Councils fulfil their role?'. This was discussed. There was concern about the implications of the new multi-member wards. Mrs Darling will pull together people's comments for further discussion at the January meeting.
11. NHS Borders consultation document: 'Getting fit for the future – Modernising health services in the Borders'. This was discussed, and it was felt that it gave too little information on the proposed changes to services, especially what new facilities will replace Coldstream Cottage Hospital. Concern was expressed about what is to happen to the residents of Marchmont, due to be moved out by April 2006. It was agreed that the CC response should be that there is insufficient bedspace in Duns to replace that due to be lost in Coldstream.
12. Finalised Scottish Borders Local Plan: deposit period 13/12/05 – 31/1/06 confirmed.
13. Carriageway repairs in Gavinton to start in early January.
14. New Ways Our Scottish Borders, Your Community: A vision for the future. There will be a presentation to the BCCF on 23 January, as well as one on Borders branding.
15. Treasurer's report: £1512 in the normal account, £1699 in the extraordinary account.
16. Correspondence received:
 - 1 Tweed Invasives Project Review 2005
 - 2 Scottish Borders Woodland Strategy, November 2005
 - 3 SEPA View Issue 27
 - 4 Scottish Borders Elder Voice, Issue 6
 - 5 RAF Calendar 2006
 - 6 Leaflets on CC work
 - 7 There is a Police focus evening on 19 January, but no one is available to attend.
 - 8 There is a new Assistant Access Officer for Berwickshire – Euan Calvert
17. AOCB
 - 3 Mrs Darling reported on the planned digital switchover.
 - 4 Congratulations were given to Gail Weir for being selected for the Scottish under-16 hockey squad.
 - 5 Mrs O'Kane reported on SBC 'Eventful' guide available for event organisers
 - 6 Mrs Seed reported that Berwickshire High School has notified parents it will be losing 1.42 FTE teaching staff. Cllr McCrave explained that technically schools are currently at 104% staffing so they will be returning to 100%. Work is being done to minimise the impact on actual teaching time. Cllr McCrave recommended that anyone concerned should contact the Education portfolio holders at SBC. It was agreed to discuss this matter further at the January meeting.

- 7 Concerns were expressed about how long Duns Swimming Pool may be shut due to the roof needing repaired.
18. Dates of future meetings:
Monday 30th January 2006, Gavinton Church Hall, 7pm
Monday 13th March 2006 or 20th March 2006

Bridget Darling
Chairman

S. Darling
30 January 2006