

GAVINTON, FOGO & POLWARTH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting held at Gavinton Church Hall on Monday 21 May 2007 at 7pm

1. Welcome, introductions and apologies: Mrs M McCrave took the chair and confirmed that the following have been duly elected: Gavinton - Mrs M Bishop, Mr G MacLeod, Mr T O’Gorman, Mr J Weir, Mr N Whyte; Fogo - Mrs C Allman, Mr P Gibbens; Polwarth – Mrs J Seed.
Present were: Mrs M Bishop, Mr G MacLeod, Mr T O’Gorman, Mr J Weir, Mr N Whyte, Mrs C Allman, Mrs J Seed, Mrs J O’Kane. Also in attendance were Constable N Cameron and Sergeant K Storey of Lothian & Borders Police, Cllrs F Renton and T Jones, and 1 member of the public.
Apologies were received from Mr P Gibbens
Mrs Bishop proposed a vote of thanks to Mrs McCrave for all the help she had given during her time as SBC Councillor.
2. Appointment of Chairperson: Mr Whyte proposed Mrs Seed, who declined. Mrs Seed proposed Mrs Bishop, was seconded by Mr O’Gorman. Mrs Bishop took the chair.
3. Appointments of:
 - Vice Chairman: Mr O’Gorman was proposed by Mr MacLeod, seconded by Mrs Bishop
 - Treasurer: Mrs Seed was proposed by Mr Weir, seconded by Mr Whyte
 - Minutes Secretary: Mrs O’Kane agreed to continue in this role
 - Planning sub-committee: A new procedure was agreed on for dealing with planning applications, which does not require a sub-committee. In future, planning applications that do not have to be returned before the next CC meeting will be available for comment at the meeting, with CC members also able to comment confidentially to Mrs Bishop within 3 days after the meeting. Planning applications that have to be dealt with before CC meetings will be circulated to all CC members for comment.
4. Minutes of AGM of April 2007 will be circulated with these minutes
5. Police input: There has been one theft (the Gavinton bench) and one car fire (caused by an electrical fault. Mr Weir asked who was responsible for clearing the debris from the latter – the police ensure the carriageway is clear, then it is up to SBC to remove the remaining debris. Comments were also made on the increased traffic through Gavinton during recent roadworks, and the problem of ‘boy racers’, which is constant, not just during the Jim Clark Rally.
6. Neighbourhood Watch for Gavinton: it was questioned whether such a small community needed one, and agreed that the police would be asked for their opinion at the next meeting.
7. Planning application: Steading conversion at Longbank, Swinton, and bungalow at Cothill. These were circulated for comments.
8. Scottish Borders Floral Gateway: Thanks were expressed to Rev. Bill Longmuir, who has volunteered to coordinate Gavinton’s entry. The CC makes a donation towards plants. Judging is w/c 30 July
9. Benches: (a) one at Hannah’s Brig reported missing to police in April – replacement requested via Berwickshire Area Committee, to be bolted to the ground, has now been installed; (b) one adjacent to Gavinton Church – has been re-oiled by SBLocal.
10. Community benefit from commercial windfarms: (a) Mrs Bishop read out the report from SBC on previous consultation; (b) we are still awaiting a date for the meeting with RES about Black Hill, Duns. It was agreed to contact RES and the CC which is leading this. Mrs O’Kane will supply Mr O’Gorman and Mr MacLeod with copies of the information provided by RES.
11. CC insurance 2007/08: the letter from SBC does not include an asset list. Mrs O’Kane to contact SBC.
12. NHS Borders, invitations to join: (a) Community Health & Care Partnership; (b) Public Partnership Forum were circulated. There was no interest from CC members.
13. Training for Community Councillors: Wednesday 30 May, 7-9pm at SBC, presentation on Equalities and the Diversity Agenda. Mr MacLeod to attend.
14. Planning Aid for Scotland Training Day, 21 April: Mrs Bishop, Mr MacLeod and Mrs Seed reported that they found the day very worthwhile, as it was interesting, well-presented and relevant.
15. Treasurer’s report: Mrs Bishop reported that there has been no move in the accounts since the AGM, so the current account stands at £236.24 and the special account is at £419.19.

16. Mileage allowance for attending meetings outwith the CC area (currently 40p/mile): Mrs O’Kane to check with SBC what the new rate is.
17. Update on Gavinton Village Hall refurbishment: Mrs Bishop confirmed that the architect is working on trying to solve the problem of getting contractors to bid for the work. The Hall Committee’s AGM is on 23 May, and all are encouraged to attend. There was discussion about the reopening of the hall in the interim.
18. Update on Gavinton.net website from Mr MacLeod: He has been measuring the ‘hits’ on the site, and many are as a result of searches on Richard Hillary, so Mr MacLeod has updated the new site to provide more information. There is still a problem of visitors to the site going no further than the front page: Mr MacLeod and Mrs O’Kane are going to discuss what can be done to retain visitors.
19. The following correspondence has been received. It was agreed to continue to bring it to the meetings for CC members to look at anything they are particularly interested in.
- Scottish Executive: Planning for a Scotland with an Ageing Population – summary and action plan
 - Friends of the Earth Scotland: offer of planning training
 - SEPA View, issue 35
 - Berwickshire Housing Association: newsletter Spring 2007
 - Southern Uplands Partnership, spring 2007
 - Burnfoot Community Action Plan, 2007-2010
 - Trading Standards, Issue 8
 - BAVS, Spring 2007
 - Borders Interactive Gathering, 24 May, 10-5, Volunteer Hall, Galashiels
 - SNP manifesto
 - SBC leaflets on Access Code
 - Elder Voice, April 2007
 - SBC Draft Supplementary Planning Guidance: Designing out Crime in the Scottish Borders
 - Postwatch Scotland: request for email contact (will be given Mrs O’Kane’s)
 - SBC: Structure Plan alteration, postponement of meeting
 - SBC: Proposed Berwickshire Citizen of the Year Award – after consultation ‘there is no appetite for this initiative’
 - Community Safety Forum: posters on domestic abuse
 - Policy document ‘A Bright Future for the Borders’ from the new SBC administration. Mrs O’Kane to circulate with these minutes.
 - Consultation on new replacement windows policy – reply by 13 August. Will be circulated to Gavinton members for comment.
20. AOCB
- The following would like to be co-opted onto the CC as they missed the election: Kerry Renton, 10 Bogend Farm Cottages (Fogo) and Bruce McClachan, Iona Cottage, South St, Gavinton (Gavinton). Mrs O’Kane explained the procedure for this: each will require a proposer and seconder, and will need to be added to the agenda for the next meeting, including their polling numbers.
 - Mr MacLeod asked Cllr. Renton if the CC should be replacing her on the Coldstream dental facility working group. Cllr Renton said that no further meetings were planned at this stage, but she would keep the CC informed.
 - The SBC Councillors confirmed that they, and their colleague Cllr Moffat, intend to attend all future CC meetings. Cllr. Jones requested that the CC change its meeting night from a Monday, but this was declined.
 - It was agreed to put a discussion about a possible bus shelter in Gavinton onto the agenda for the next meeting.
21. Dates of future meetings:
- Monday 2 July
 - Monday 13 August

