

GAVINTON, FOGO & POLWARTH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting held at Gavinton Hall on 29 June 2009

1. The Chairman opened the meeting at 7pm. Present were: Margaret Bishop (Chair), Cathy Allman, Graeme Macleod, John Marjoribanks, Ellen Curran, Terry O'Gorman, Jane Jeffrey, Kerry Renton, and 1 member of the public.
Apologies were received from: David Seed, Treasurer Peter Gibbens, Councillor Frances Renton and Secretary Janet O'Kane. In the Treasurer's absence, his report was presented by Mrs Bishop. In the Secretary's absence, Mr Marjoribanks took the minutes. Councillor Renton was present at the end of the meeting (see AOCB).
2. Police input: Sgt. Mark Walker G4603 represented the Police.
 - 3 new community police officers have been appointed to cover Berwickshire from 1/7/09: Ronnie Richardson (based in Duns), Allan Richardson and Kirsty Nash (based in Eyemouth). They are keen to support Neighbourhood Watch and to make their presence known in all communities with their dedicated community contact van.
 - CC raised the problem of speeding in the village, particularly during the weekend of the JC Rally. A resident had complained that her call to the Force Communication Centre in Edinburgh that weekend had not produced a helpful response. Sgt. Walker apologised on behalf of the Force. He noted that Gavinton had been used as a 'rat run' between rally stages and that this needed policing next year. CC pointed out that it was the extensive road closures in Duns that had made it necessary for through traffic to travel via Gavinton. Part of the problem is co-ordination: SBC closes roads; JCR marshals control closed roads; the Police control open roads. Next year, JCR must liaise with affected CCs prior to route finalisation to ensure that no unintended adverse consequences recur. (See AOCB.)
 - CC asked if the vehicles recently stolen in Swinton and Eccles in broad daylight on the same day had been recovered. Sgt. Walker stated that neither had been recovered and nobody had been caught.
3. Minutes of the meeting of 18 May 2009 were agreed and signed.
4. Matters arising:
 - Report on windfarm community finding: Wendy Reid, Cumledge, had been co-opted to the group. RES had agreed some up-front funding. The fund should be on stream in September, so residents should now be considering projects to put up for funding.
 - Polwarth amenities: there have been no further developments.
5. Planning applications: of the 10 applications covered in the Planning Summary, 5 were approved, 3 pending decision and 2 pending consideration. None required further input from the CC at this stage.
6. Treasurer's report: CC account stands at £890.00. £60 had been received for environmental enhancement but the year's main grant had not yet been received.. It was noted that the claim to SBC for refund of rent should be done on an annual basis under the heading "Meetings".
7. Mr Macleod offered his resignation with immediate effect as work requirements meant that he had to move closer to Edinburgh. The Chair accepted it with reluctance and expressed hearty thanks for the work he had done for the CC, particularly, but not limited to, his contribution on constitutional and planning matters. All CC members joined in wishing Graeme, Tara and Megan well for their move.
8. On a proposal from the Chair, seconded by Mr O'Gorman, Mr Marjoribanks agreed to take over Mr Macleod's role in handling the CC's responses to planning matters.
9. Gavinton's 250th Anniversary: 70 to 80 people had taken part in the festivities on 13 June, including 30 on the walk up from the Old Langton Graveyard. Many wore fancy dress and some good photographs and a short article appeared in the Berwickshire News on 18 June. The main content of the exhibition will be published as a small booklet by 21 November. The photo and time capsule project will be carried out over the coming year. Funding may be sought for this. The day itself ran at a small loss, funded by the GVHA. Mr Macleod proposed a vote of thanks to the organising committee for all their hard work in running the event.

10. Coat of arms: The presentation on Saturday 21 November will start at 3pm. Tea will be served in the Village Hall at 4pm. It was agreed that all households in the CC area will receive an invitation to attend. Mr Marjoribanks noted that, due to the further generosity of individuals subscribing to the cost, there would be a small amount of money available in addition to the fees payable to the Lord Lyon and proposed that this should be used to purchase a flag. It was agreed that he should investigate the planning implications of erecting a flagpole and should also find the cost of various armorial souvenir items, (such as pens, pencils, tea towels, T-shirts, mugs, badges, shopping bags).
11. It was noted with regret that Gavinton PO would close at the end of July.
12. It was noted that Pharmacy Services has been granted planning permission for a new pharmacy in Chirnside.
13. Dog Fouling in Gavinton: a complaint had been received of dog fouling at the western end of the village. The CC was unanimous in its condemnation of this. The matter had been discussed with SBC's Senior Dog Warden, who has agreed to attend the October meeting of the CC to give a talk. All Gavinton residents are invited to attend.
14. Correspondence received:
 - SepaView, Summer 2009, Issue 43
 - Enquire: Helping families with children with additional support needs
 - Scottish Borders Elder Voice, June 2009-06 SBC: Foster carers wanted
 - Berwickshire High School: Youth provision in the community
15. AOCB
 - Village in Bloom: a leaflet had been prepared and circulated by Tara Gray
 - GFPCC website: there have been some recent changes. It is proposed to upload the photos posted by Chris Maginn on <http://picasaweb.google.com/candjartists/Gavinton> # of the 250th Anniversary
 - Archives: these have now been sorted out and are ready to go into storage
 - The hazard presented by the parking of a horsebox on Main Street, Gavinton, was discussed. Mr Russell Cram of SBC has been approached about the legal situation regarding the permanent parking of a commercial vehicle in a residential area.
 - House names: a report was received that in two recent instances the Fire Service had been called to properties in Gavinton which had no external identification of the house name. In both cases, this caused delay in the arrival of the service. It was agreed that all residents should be encouraged to display their house name prominently.
 - Fogo: damage to road verges at Fogorig needs attention. The Fogo children's play area had been weeded. The car park at Fogo Hall also needs attention.
 - Photocopying costs: It was agreed, due to the high cost of ink, that members should be recompensed 10p a side for all copies made on CC business, to be claimed once a year just prior to the year end.
 - Jim Clark Rally: Cllr Renton joined the meeting after attending a meeting of the JC Rally organisers and gave a brief report:
 - The closure of the route through Duns (Newtown and Currie Streets) that affected Gavinton is being looked at. If there is a closure next year, it is likely to be shorter.
 - Efforts will be made next year to ensure that local businesses do better out of JCR.
 - There will be a meeting to discuss JCR 2010 in the Council Chamber in Duns on 30 November 2009.
 - It was agreed that, at the next CC meeting, a member of the CC should be mandated to attend the JCR 2010 meeting and speak on behalf of the CC.
 - Langton Footbridge: it was reported that we now, thanks to SBC, have an excellent bridge, but that the access path needs clearing. Cllr Renton agreed to ask SBC if CC could go ahead and do it, then reclaim the cost from SBC. The Chairman noted a correction to her report to the AGM regarding the bridge. Help had been received from Councillors Moffat and Renton and from Mr Darren Silcock of SB Local.
16. Dates of future meetings (all at 7pm in Gavinton village hall unless otherwise stated):
7 September at Fogo; 19 October; 30 November; 11 January 2010; 22 February; 5 April
17. Meeting closed at 9.15pm

John Marjoribanks, on behalf of
Janet O'Kane, Minutes Secretary