

GAVINTON, FOGO & POLWARTH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting held at Gavinton Village Hall on Monday 22 February 2010

Present were: Margaret Bishop (Chair), David Seed, Terry O’Gorman, Cathy Allman, Ellen Curran, John Marjoribanks, Jane Jeffrey, Pete Gibbens, Janet O’Kane (secretary), Councillor Trevor Jones
Apologies were received from: Kerry Renton, Councillor Frances Renton

1. Police input: no attendance
2. Minutes of the meeting of 30 November 2009 were approved and signed
3. Matters arising
 - Report on windfarm benefit from Mrs Darling –
 - meetings have been held December 09, January and February 10
 - RES have appointed their representative director
 - publicity launch is planned for April
 - website being set up
 - paperwork for admin has been completed
 - next meeting 8 March
 - Red Brae – Mrs Bishop emailed SBC over the state of the Red Brae, and was informed that SBC does not own it and is responsible for maintaining only part of it. SBLocal will clear it, then it is the responsibility of the adjacent landowners. Mr Marjoribanks has looked into the ownership issue and has asked SBC for proof of designation, i.e. that it is not SBC’s responsibility. SBC is ‘investigating’.
 - Recycling – most people have received their recycling bins, except Gavinton. Cllr Jones was questioned over the cost of these, and he confirmed that they are costing less than continuing to supply the plastic bags.
 - Coat of arms – the file has been handed over to Mrs Bishop for archiving.
 - Gavinton Futures project – Jane Jeffrey confirmed that an application will be made to the Heritage Lottery Fund.
4. Email from Polwarth resident – it was agreed that Mrs Bishop had been right to confirm that this was not an issue for the CC to deal with.
5. First Bus No. 60 – there has been a query from a resident about where the bus is supposed to stop. Mrs Bishop wrote to First Bus and it was confirmed that eastbound buses should stop ‘at the bus stop after the bridge’ and westbound buses should stop ‘at the bridge before the first right open bend’. It was agreed that a proper lay-by and bus stop are needed, and that this should be proposed to SBC.
6. Planning applications –
 - Mr Marjoribanks circulated the current report. Of note: the work on Fogo Kirk’s roof has been approved, and the conditions include the CC’s suggestions
 - A public consultation on draft supplementary planning guidance on gardens and designed landscapes has been issued. This does not include anything in the CC’s area, but it was agreed that the avenue of beech trees at Marchmont be proposed as a design landscape, in order to protect it.
7. Planning Aid training day –Mr Marjoribanks reported on this event, which he found very interesting:
 - The key message re local and structure plans was that communities shouldn’t wait to be asked their opinions, but get involved as early as possible in the process.
 - The onus is now on the local authority to notify neighbours, not the developer.
 - There is now a requirement on the developer of large scale developments (i.e. > 2 hectares or 50 houses) to demonstrate community consultation.
8. Treasurer’s report – £566 in the bank after expenses
9. Standing down of CC officers – Mrs Allman informed the CC that she intends to resign at the AGM.
10. Correspondence received:
 - Scottish Health Council Connect
 - SBC Good Practice Guidance for Local Authorities and CC (circulated round all CC members 15/3/10)

- SBCCN December 2009 newsletter
- SBC Dementia Strategy consultation: respond by 1 March 2010
- SBC Scheme of Assistance consultation: respond by 1 March
- Borders Sports Facilities Strategy: respond by 28 February (circulated by email) – it was agreed that mention should be made of better publicising what facilities are available
- Lothian & Borders Police Board: Custody Visiting Scheme
- Scottish Borders Council: Spring Clean Scotland 2010 (April)
- Scottish Borders Council: Ageing Well Handbooks (to be given out to community)
- Scottish Borders Council: Confirmation of CC funding for 2010/11
- Scottish Borders Council: Temporary halting of current consultation about public payphone kiosk adoption
- Scottish Borders Council: Insurance issues for CCs
- The Bridge: Intergenerational Practice Network
- Scottish Borders Council: CC training, equalities & diversity (24 March, 7-8.80pm, St Boswells) – no one able to attend but presentation requested for circulation
- Scottish Borders Elder Voice: February news update
- SEPAView Winter 2010
- SNH: The Nature of Scotland (winter 2009)
- BCCF Environmental: Master Composter Programme – Jane Jeffrey expressed an interest in this to investigate a proposal to organise a village composting scheme in Gavinton

11. AOCB

- The poor state of the roads following the extended bad weather was discussed, and Cllr. Jones outlined the action being taken by SBC
- Issues surrounding snow clearance were discussed: Mr Seed proposed that farmers' efforts should be coordinated in future, and Mrs Bishop wanted to express congratulations to SBC on its efforts. However Cllr Jones will investigate why SBC staff (4 men and digger) who were already on site would not clear the snow to enable a burial to go ahead.
- Mr Marjoribanks raised the subject of how the edge of Gavinton village green has been churned up, and suggested that the road be widened slightly and curbed to provide parking for users of the village hall. Mrs Bishop mentioned that SBC had refused to create disabled parking. It was agreed that Mr O'Gorman and Mr Marjoribanks will pursue this matter.
- The weight restriction sign for Fogo bridge has been removed – Cllr. Renton is dealing.
- Jane Jeffrey reported that the sandbags have been removed from her property and wished to thank SBC for carrying out the work required.
- Mrs Bishop reported briefly on the presentation about the SBC 2010/11 budget.

12. Dates of future meetings (all at 7pm in Gavinton village hall unless otherwise stated): 12 April (NB change from 5 April)

Janet O'Kane, Minutes Secretary