

GAVINTON, FOGO & POLWARTH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held in Gavinton Village Hall on Monday, 25 February, 2002 at 7.00pm

PRESENT: Mrs B Darling (Chairman) Mrs C Allman, Mr S Brodie, Mr I Gill, Mr N Humphry,
Mr A Macmillan, Mrs U Robinson,
Councillor W L Forrest
Mrs J Wheadon (Committee Secretary).
5 members of the public.

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Mr D Paterson, Mrs F Renton and Mr B Weir.

Mrs Darling invited Councillor Forrest to tell the meeting what was happening at Scottish Borders Council with regard to their overspend last year and consequent cut in services this year in order to balance the budget.

Councillor Forrest said no Councillor wanted to cut down on services. Budgets had to be prepared quickly as the Scottish Office informed the Council in December what money they would be receiving and then the Council had to calculate by 14 February at what level to set the Council Tax and budget for the following year. There had not been so much an overspend in Education as an underbudget. The directors of various portfolios had to find 5% cuts and these proposals were found to be unkind.

The 2 principle departments which had to be looked at for making savings were Life-long Care and Education. Education has half the ~~capital~~ budget so a large part of savings must come out of it, such as curriculum support, advisory service and continuing education services. It was wrongly reported that all Community Centres were going to close but the present situation is that of the 78 people employed in Continuing Education, 18 will be redundant. In the Advisory Service, half the staff are being lost.

In Social Work, funding to voluntary organisations will be cut as there are other funds available for these causes. With regard to swimming pools, they should be moved into trusts either one trust or separate trusts like Duns. If the community is strong enough behind it, should the Council be carrying it?

Councillor Forrest answered questions from members.

Mrs Darling thanked him.

2 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 14 JANUARY 2002

The Minutes, which had previously been circulated, were signed as a true copy by the Chairman.

3 MATTERS ARISING

3,14(c) Basketball net on Gavinton village green – Gavinton will be letter-boxed with a questionnaire and a decision made, taking the responses into account, at the next meeting.

3,14 The Glebe project – thanks extended to Mr Seed for arranging to have the area skimmed. He will also arrange to take away the debris including old fencing, but the stobs to remain. The gravel should be delivered this week.

9(e) Transport Seminar, 7th February – Mrs Darling had attended and there had been useful discussion including problems in communities of under 500; road safety for over 55s. Consultation regarding transport strategy will be improved through the People's Panel. Help on road safety and driving on the left, to be available for people in B&B. Bus transport will be free for elderly and disabled from October 2002. Questions were raised regarding the proposed railway from Edinburgh and Galashiels, would it create jobs, improve the economy?

10(e) Bus shelter – Mrs Darling said 2 villages were currently investigating erecting shelters, one using lottery funding and the other using the Watson bequest. The positioning of one in

Gavinton could possibly be at the end of the wall to the south of Coonanglebah. The matter to be looked at further.

4 PLANNING APPLICATION – ERECTION OF 3 DWELLING HOUSES AT COTHILL

Application returned with no objections.

5 SCOTTISH BORDERS LOCAL PLAN REVIEW ISSUES REPORT

Housing Issues – infrastructure should be in place at the beginning of development; first-time affordable housing for young people; small infill sites for houses; sewerage problems need to be sorted before any more building in this area.

Community Services Issues – existing facilities are under-used, we are an ageing population and even the village hall use is down.

Infrastructure Issues – a planning application has been lodged for a waste transfer station near the present amenity centre on the Duns industrial estate however we are sorry to be losing skip facilities in Berwickshire.

Permission for a wind farm at Crystal Rig has been granted. Electricity from the Duns wind farm could be routed overland to Eccles but we request it should join up with that produced at Crystal Rig. Further wind farms would be supported if not visually intrusive.

Present sewerage system at full capacity at Duns.

Access from Gavinton onto A6105 has poor visibility. Many potholes in roads.

Much of the former railway has been incorporated into farms.

Walking and cycling routes are good.

Mrs Darling to send off report to SBC.

6 IT REPORT

Scott Brodie said a submission had been made to Scottish Borders Rural Partnership for free computer equipment. This would include a desktop computer with a large monitor and installation of a telephone line. Mrs Darling to approach the Hall Committee regarding siting of equipment.

The G,F&P web site is currently just short of 4,000 hits. The most popular pages are winter photographs, local history and waste transfer. It was agreed to buy a digital camera and scanner from Calor Gas award.

7 TREASURER'S REPORT

The current balance is £68. Mrs Darling to claim rebate on rent of village hall.

8 THE QUEEN'S JUBILEE 3rd 4th JUNE

Mr Ian Gill said the Hall Committee and Common Good Committee have nothing planned but would join in an event. The young people would like something to go ahead, perhaps a disco. A car treasure hunt was another suggestion. Mrs Darling said she had requested 20 tickets for the Queen's visit to Melrose.

9 HELICOPTER FLYING ACTIVITY, 18TH FEBRUARY TO 1ST MARCH

Extra notices distributed.

10 SCOTTISH BORDERS COMMUNITY COUNCILS NETWORK

The majority of Community Councils support this idea. There have been only 11 replies from 66 Councils to the proposed constitution. The steering group, chaired by Mrs Darling, will meet in March to progress the administration. At present only Berwickshire has a Community Councils Forum.

11 COMMUNITY COUNCIL ELECTION, DUE 14TH MAY

The current Council's 5 year term of office will be up and their last meeting will be on 15th April, therefore nominations will be invited for the new Community Council

12 SCOTTISH BORDERS COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM QUESTIONNAIRE

Mrs Darling will complete the questionnaire. Everything is up to date for Neighbourhood Watch.

13 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

The following correspondence was tabled:

- (a) Eyemouth East Berwickshire Partnership brochure on Business Skills and Tourism Business Seminars.
- (b) Scottish Enterprise Borders, new address for Environment Action.
- (c) RIAS Millennium Awards between £1,500 and £3,500
- (d) BAVS Newsletter February 2002.
- (e) Borders Local Health Council Special Edition on Patient Focus and Public Involvement.
- (f) Tweed Forum – Catchment Management Planning Process.
- (g) Road Safety in the Community – Seminar, 21st March at Tweed Horizons.
- (h) RARARI Newsletter (NHS Scotland)
- (i) 55+ Safety on the Move (Driving tips). A course could be organised in Gavinton.
- (j) Letter from Archie Kirkwood, MP, re proposed new constituency boundaries for Scottish Borders.

14 ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

- (a) Swimming for Scotland – a resident, Joel Roberts has been chosen. Mrs Darling to send letter of congratulations from Council.
- (b) Foot and Mouth Inquiry – Mrs Darling had been nominated to represent Scottish Borders at the inquiry in Dumfries.
- (c) Jim Smail Tree fund – application to be made for Glebe project.
- (d) Community Planning Conference – 23 March, Mrs Darling to attend.
- (e) Public Consultation re Planning – Mrs Darling to complete questionnaire for Scottish Executive.
- (f) Fogo Church - lych gate not yet repaired; Seven or eight gravestones were broken in the storms. Mrs Darling to contact Peter Dunn, SBC, as there may be insurance monies available.
- (g) Councillor Forrest said the community may receive, free of charge, dog poo scoops from the Community Safety Forum.
- (h) Electricity compensation – none available this time. Mrs Darling to write re surges in electricity supply.
- (i) Pot holes in roads – very bad at present.

15 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Annual General Meeting on Monday, 15th April 2002 followed by ordinary meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm.

Chairman B.P. Darling Date 15/4/02