

GAVINTON, FOGO & POLWARTH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held in Gavinton Village Hall on Monday, 27 January, 2003 at 7.00pm

PRESENT: Mrs B Darling (Chairman), Mrs C Allman, Mrs M Bishop, Mr I Gill, Mr N Humphry,
Mr A Macmillan, Mrs F Renton, Mrs J Seed, Mr B Weir.
Mrs J Wheadon (Committee Secretary)
Members of the public: 8

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Mr S Brodie, Mr D Paterson and Councillor W L Forrest.

Before proceeding with the business on the agenda, Mrs Darling thanked PC Valentine from Duns for attending the meeting and relevant matters were raised with him:

- Concern was expressed about the danger for motorists on the bend of the A6105 at the Old Kirk. A WPC had gone off the road and down the bank in icy conditions recently. PC Valentine said he would make a Traffic Incident Report to Hawick Traffic Police
- Recently the gamekeeper at Langon had had 20 dead pheasants stolen from his shed after a shoot and equipment had been taken from the shed at Langton Terrace Lodge. Both incidents had been reported to the police.
- Speeding through Fogo and Gavinton was also a concern.

PC Valentine left the meeting.

2 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 16 DECEMBER 2002

It was agreed the Minute, which had previously been circulated, could be signed by the Chairman as a true record.

3 MATTERS ARISING

3,4 Bus service 60 into Gavinton - We await a reply from First Bus.

11(a) Bus travel from Edinburgh to Earliston – It was explained that if the bus from Edinburgh was taken into to Galashiels rather than Earliston to change into the Berwick bus then this would avoid being stranded at Earliston, but it would mean leaving Edinburgh an hour earlier.

11(c) Bogend/Fogo road – verge still not cut.

11(d) Closure of 6 Berwickshire rural primary schools – no news.

4 FOGO BRIDGE AND FOOTPATH

Mrs Chernoff was unable to attend but intends to report at the next meeting.

5 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

(a) Eden Cottage, South Street, Gavinton, replacement windows – no objections.

(b) Iona Cottage, South Street, Gavinton, renovation and extension – no objections.

(c) The Clachan, Main Street, Gavinton, outline planning permission for dwelling house and garage – access has not necessarily been agreed with all neighbours, no objection in principle to the house.

6 GAVINTON POST OFFICE

The post office will remain open meantime - any change of times will be displayed in the post office window.

7 IT REPORT

Concern had been expressed with regard to steam from the kitchen getting into the computer. However Mr Henderson of RRC said this would not be a problem as the machine was not in use. The proposed cabinet will be on wheels.

Mr Brodie was unable to attend the meeting but sent a report. He is researching the implications of the Data Protection Act and drafting an 'Acceptable Use Policy'. He proposed that when it is completed SBC legal department should be asked to check it and this was agreed. However, firstly, Mr Brodie to be asked to contact Mr Henderson to see what other communities have done with regard to Data Protection.

With regard to a cabinet for housing the computer, Mr Hall had not contacted Mr Brodie when requested so it was suggested that a ready-made one should be purchased, Mrs Darling to liaise with Mr Brodie.

8 TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr Macmillan said there was £360 in the CC account and £1835 in the Computer Account

9 SBC ADMINISTRATION BUDGET AND SPENDING PROPSALS 2003/04-2005/06

Mrs Darling and Mrs Renton had gone to this meeting in Berwickshire High School on 21 January, but it had been poorly attended.

- Council Tax is expected to rise by 8.2% this year, then 6.4% over the next 2 years which would bring it up to the average for the rest of Scotland.
- Community Council grants are to be increased by 50% which means an extra £150 for this CC but it may not be possible to claim hall rent (approximately £50 pa) in future.
- Pilot green recycling and composting to be introduced.
- More money for education.
- Grass cutting to be reduced by one cut per annum, ie a cut every 7 days will become 9 days.

10 WASTE WATER MINIMISATION MEETINGS

SEPA has said upgrading of the Duns sewage works may be in their capital programme for 2006. Councillor Elliot is chairing a group which Mrs Darling is attending to try and produce some sensible ideas.

11 ITEMS OF NOTE

- (a) Joel Roberts, award 'OCS Young Sportsperson of the Year', for Scotland – he is ranked second in Great Britain for backcrawl.
- (b) Mr J Marjoribanks appointed to SEPA East Regional Board
- (c) Polwarth Thorn included on Scotland's 100 Heritage Trees – a letter from Forestry Commission details all trees on list.
- (d) Richard Hillary Memorial, flowers laid on 7 January – Mrs Darling was requested to do this by a gentleman from London.
- (e) Land at Polwarth has been bought by a developer who intends to apply to build 5 houses including one for himself. He is now the owner of the Polwarth Thorn and therefore responsible for it.

12 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

The following correspondence was tabled:-

- (a) SBC New Ways Environmental Strategy (copies circulated) – no comments made.

- (b) SBC Rights of Way Maintenance Grants – it was suggested that an application could be made for the proposed path from Fogo to the bridge To be passed to Mrs Chernoff.
- (c) RAF Regional Community Relations Officer, presentation offered on low flying in our area – to be requested at a later date.
- (d) Scottish Water Winter Campaign
- (e) Scottish Borders Licensing Board, quarterly applications, 24 January
- (f) SBC, Duns waste site granted permission for another year unmanned. This was welcomed.
- (g) SEPA View, Winter 2002
- (h) Association of Scottish Community Councils Newsletter, December 2002 – subscription to be paid in March at a cost of £12 instead of £15.
- (i) Scottish Borders Rural Partnership – Grants to assist communities survey public opinion. To be given to Mrs Weir who is seeking public opinion on use of Gavinton Village Hall.
- (j) NHS Borders community food grants – Mrs Renton to take to Fogo nursery school.
- (k) B&Q awards.

13 ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

- (a) Trust fund money – It was suggested that perhaps the Fogo trust fund money could be used to help fund the proposed path and bridge at Fogo as this would be for the good of the whole community. Mrs Darling to contact Councillor Forrest to see if this is appropriate
- (b) It was suggested that halogen heaters could be used to heat the area near the computer.

14 DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

Monday, 10 March 2003 – preceded by a presentation from Power Systems
 Monday, 14 April 2003

The meeting closed at 8.35pm.

Chairman *S. P. Darling* Date *10/3/03*

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27 January 2003

**Presentation by Alastair Ross, SBC, Planning & Implementation Department, on
THE BERWICKSHIRE LOCAL PLAN AND GAVINTON APPRAISAL**

The village hall was full to hear Mr Ross give a short presentation. He said the overall Structure Plan for the area has already been approved and anyone can look at it. The Local Plan follows the lines set out in the Structure Plan. It is hoped that the draft Local Plan will be ready by the end of the summer. The Gavinton Appraisal is not yet ready.

He said 500 houses were required over the next 10 years in the eastern borders and it was envisaged that the main developments would be in the triangle formed by Duns, Eyemouth and the border near Berwick. Sewage capacity is a limiting factor in Duns. Mrs Darling said there were no plans to upgrade the sewage works before 2006. Eyemouth has available sewage capacity. The Council hoped developments would take place where there was an existing infrastructure of services and roads.

With regard to this Community Council area, owners of 3 sites have applied for land to be allocated for housing to be included in the Local Plan, 2 to the south of Gavinton and one to the north. No applications have been received for sites around Fogo or Polwarth.

With regard to sewage, if a property developer was to install a private sewage system, building could go ahead in this area, but it would be very expensive.

He said residents' views were requested and posed the following questions:

- 1 How do you see your community developing in the future?
- 2 Which issues are particularly important to you and your community?
- 3 Which areas do you see as suitable for development?
- 4 Are there areas which you would like protecting from development?