

GAVINTON, FOGO & POLWARTH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held at Gavinton Church Hall On Monday, 18th April 2005, at 7pm

PRESENT: Mrs B Darling (Chair), Mrs C Allman, Mr I Gill, Mrs M Bishop, Mr A MacMillan, Mr N Humphry, Mrs J Seed, Mrs J O'Kane (acting secretary), and Cllr Mrs M McCrave. Two representatives of Lothian & Borders Police attended for Item 2, then left. 20 members of the public were also in attendance (see Item 9).

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence had been received from Mrs F Renton, Mrs C Taylor and Mr D Paterson.

2. Police Input

The police reported that the enquiry into the theft of heavy machinery in the area is still ongoing.

3. Minutes of Meeting held on 7th March 2005

Agreed and signed.

4. Matters Arising

• Noticeboard in Fogo

This is now installed on the school wall, although it is for the use of the whole community.

• Power cuts

Recent power outages have been for a variety of reasons. Euan Robson has promised further information, but this has not yet been received.

• Coat of Arms

The proposed Coat of Arms has been circulated, and councillors have asked in their communities if there is interest in progressing the matter at a cost of about £870. They reported little or no interest, so it was agreed not to progress at this time. John Marjoribanks was thanked for his idea and research.

5. Berwickshire Community Councils Forum

Mrs Darling reported on the recent AGM of the BCCF:

- The BCCF's Treasurer has asked that each CC's £5 annual subscription be paid by direct debit – Agreed.
- Mrs Taylor will be attending the Planning Aid Seminar in Peebles (Allanton one cancelled).
- The Annual Seminar for CCs is taking place on 8th October, and suggested agenda items are invited.
- A second delegate to Ian Jarvie is required to represent CCs on the Scottish Borders Rural Partnership.
- Comments and ideas on the future role of the BCCF are invited.

6. Wildflower planting

Mrs Darling stated that she had enquired on behalf of the CC into SBC's Local Biodiversity Action Plan wildflower planting scheme. Unfortunately, all monies have been committed for 2005/06, but she had expressed interest for 2006/07.

7. Keep Berwickshire Tidy

Mrs Darling reported that the judging for this is next week, and invited everyone to do their bit in picking up rubbish throughout the whole CC area, as it has done well in the past. The cleanliness of the streets, around the war memorial and phone boxes etc will be taken into account

8. Planning applications

- a) Langtonlees Farm, derelict cottages, renovate, alter and extend to form one dwellinghouse. No objections.
- b) Land west of The Bungalow, Duns Mill Farm, outline for erection of dwellinghouse and double garage. The CC has no objections, but the owner has been told by SBC that this application will probably be rejected due to the stop line. Mrs Darling asked CC members if they would agree to submitting a strong recommendation for approval, because this is a local family with a definite need for housing, and there would be a guarantee of no further building. Agreed.
- c) Fogo Mains, outline for demolition of barn and erection of dwellinghouse. This has not yet been circulated around all CC members.
- d) Polwarth, Plot 31 west of Old Schoolhouse, dwellinghouse with integral garage. See Item 9 below.

9. Planning applications - Polwarth

In addition to the application for Plot 31 west of Old Schoolhouse, an application has been made for a further 30 homes at Polwarth, on a site which has previously been granted permission for the erection of six homes. Mr A Lester of Aitken Turnbull presented these plans to the meeting, on behalf of his clients Mr and Mrs Bradley. Referring to the 1994 Local Plan, Mr Lester stated that Polwarth is a preferred building group, and he believes his clients' plans meet the criteria in the Local Plan's policy requirements. There would be a density of 4.85 houses per acre.

Members of the CC and the public were given the opportunity to question Mr Lester.

Among the issues raised were:

- How would the four wells on the site be dealt with?
- Why the huge increase from six houses to 31?
- Can a development go ahead which would more than double the size of an existing settlement?
- Would there be a provision of affordable housing?
- How long would the development take to be built?
- How will the issues of drainage and access be addressed?

Mrs Darling told the meeting that SBC has granted an extension to the usual 21 days for public consultation on this application, but recommended that anyone wishing to comment should submit their comments as soon as possible.

10. Review of replacement window policy

It was agreed that Mrs Renton and Mrs Darling will respond to the SBC questionnaire by 6th May.

11. SBC New Ways Community Plan consultations

- a) Community Council Consultation seminar 19th March, 10 – 3pm – Mrs Darling to attend;
- b) Voluntary Sector Consultation seminar, 14th March 9.30 – 2pm – Mrs Taylor and Mrs Darling to attend.

12. Notification of helicopter activity

A MoD exercise involving low-flying helicopter activity between 25th and 29th April.

13. Website

Mrs Bishop has had a meeting with P Nisbet, but has decided the Borders Community Grid for Learning is not suitable for our needs. Mrs Darling has spoken to David Roberts, who will build the new website. Mrs O’Kane volunteered to do any copywriting required for it. Mrs Darling thanked Mrs Bishop for her work on the website.

14. Correspondence received:

- a) SBC – CC Insurance cover to 31st March 2006
- b) SBC – Outdoor diary 2005
- c) SBC – Ranger Service countryside visits
- d) SBC – Housing strategy team newsletter
- e) Borders Local Health Council closure
- f) Scottish Water – charges announcement
- g) Postwatch Scotland – spring 2005
- h) Trafalgar weekend, 21st –23rd October
- i) SEPA View March 2005
- j) Southern Upland Partnership newsletter Spring 2005
- k) Scottish Executive Water Division, Proposed General Binding Rules
- l) Scottish Executive Justice Department award scheme, “Standing up to Antisocial Behaviour”
- m) Berwickshire Community Safety Panel – invitations to Road Safety evening on 19th May and Emergency Exercise on 24th May
- n) SBC – invitation to attend Borders Parking Strategy meeting on 3rd May

15. Treasurer’s report

Mr MacMillan reported that the books are nearly completed for 2004/05. The CC has £914 in its ordinary account and £1687 in its special account.

16. Any other competent business

- A member of the public queried why she cannot get a salt/grit bin for treating her road in Polwarth Rhodes. Cllr. McCrave to investigate.
- Mr MacMillan queried the extra manpower used by SBC to manage traffic during the recent roadworks along Station Road in Duns. The meeting also agreed that there had not been adequate warnings to allow drivers to divert away from the works, which led to a lot of congestion.
- Thanks were given to Cllr. McCrave for getting the work done on the Red Brae; favourable comments have been received from members of the public. However, Mrs Darling reported that SBC vans are now using the Brae, so she is going to request a bollard to prevent this.
- Recent heavy rain has damaged the new walk to the river at Fogo.

17. Future Meetings

Monday 30th May 2005, Gavinton Church Hall, 7pm – AGM followed by regular meeting
Monday 11th July 2005, Gavinton Church Hall, 7pm

The meeting closed at 9.15pm

Chairman *Si Darling* Date *30/5/05*