



## GAVINTON, FOGO & POLWARTH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

### Minutes of a meeting held at Gavinton Church Hall on Monday 5 November 2007

Present were Mrs M Bishop (Chair), Mr B Weir, Mr P Gibbens, Mr T O'Gorman, Mrs C Allman, Mrs J Seed, Mrs K Renton, Mr G MacLeod, Mrs J O'Kane (secretary), Cllr T Jones, and 2 members of the public.

Apologies were received from Cllr F Renton and Cllr D Moffat.

1. Police input: PCs Walker and Halford attended; they had no local crime to report. There was a discussion about drivers still going through Gavinton at high speeds; Mrs Bishop reported that this had happened one morning at 5.30 in the morning. Mrs O'Kane told of cars racing past Caldera at 10.30 on a Saturday night. The police asked that if possible registration numbers could be taken and incidents reported when they happen.
2. Minutes of the meeting of 24 September 2007 and special meeting of 16 October 2007 were agreed and signed.
3. Matters arising
  - Changes to signage etc by SBC at junction with A6105: Cllr. Jones gave an update – purchase of the signs has been signed off and approval given for the new road markings, and it is in the SBC work schedule.
  - Digital Forum presentation will take place at the Gavinton Christmas Coffee Morning on 8 December between 10 and 12.
  - Future dates for CC meetings will be planned for the next year.
4. Coat of Arms: Mr J Marjoribanks will be co-opted onto the CC as a non-voting member under section 4.2a of the constitution for the purpose of progressing with this project. He will find out whether the community wishes to have a coat of arms with a basic letter that he will copy, and seek funding sources. He explained the designs put forward.
5. CC membership: Mr N Whyte was thanked for his work on the CC, following his resignation. There are now several vacancies for the CC in Gavinton; Mrs O'Kane explained that the constitution required a proposer and seconder for anyone to come onto the CC and this was why Mr Cook's application had not been progressed. Mr Weir said he would propose Mr Cook and seek a seconder.
6. Planning applications: Mrs Bishop reminded CC members that they must declare pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests in any planning applications being considered by the CC. She invited Mrs Seed to declare an interest in the application for a dwelling house at Caldera as SBC's website carries a letter from the agent handling this on Seed & Co headed paper, but Mrs Seed said she did not consider this necessary.  
Mrs Bishop asked that in future CC members look at the SBC planning weekly list and send their comments direct to Mr Macleod. Mr Macleod circulated his list of current applications in the CC area.
  - Dwelling house at Caldera: Mrs Seed said she was concerned about the comments made in the CC's response, but Mrs Bishop said this was part of the Planning Officer's job. Mr Macleod confirmed that SBC welcomes additional information on applications that SBC may not have. Mrs O'Kane will circulate the link to the page on the SBC website that lays out what CCs may and may not include in their responses. There was a general discussion on how the new way the CC deals with planning applications, and CC members supported it. Everyone sees the Planning Officer's proposed responses and gets an opportunity to comment on them. Cllr Jones complimented the CC on its system.
  - Proposed development at Wood End: Mrs Seed declared an interest and did not take part in the discussion. CC members agreed to the wording of the response.
  - Dwelling house in the grounds of Coonanglebah: due back 27 November, being circulated.
  - Crunklaw: Mr Macleod has received CC comments and will circulate his response before it is signed off and sent to SBC.
7. Special meeting on 16 October on the Report into Objections to the finalised Local Plan: Mrs Bishop reported on the SBC meeting on 25 October when, as expected, councillors voted to accept the Reporter's findings then send out a publication consultation. Since then, she has received the consultation, and the closing date is 25 January 2008.

Mrs Bishop and Mrs O'Kane have met with Clare Malster to discuss how to run the ballot agreed at the CC's special meeting on 16 October. She confirmed that it was OK to ballot Gavinton residents only, and that she and SBC's Legal Dept. will check the CC documentation before it goes out. She also volunteered Christine Watson at SBC in Duns to receive the ballot papers. CC actions agreed:

- Mrs O'Kane to get copy of electoral register from SBC
  - Mr Gibbens and Mrs O'Kane to draw up ballot paper with Mr Macleod. This will only include information in the public domain. SBC will then check it.
  - Mrs O'Kane will obtain Jim Morton's hole puncher to make a unique mark on the ballot papers.
  - There was discussion on how far out of Gavinton to include in ballot: this will be clarified nearer the time.
  - The January CC meeting will be held on 14 January so that a response to the consultation can be drafted.
8. Report on seminar at SBC, 6 October by Mrs Bishop/Mr Macleod/Mrs Seed
  9. Bus shelter: Cllr Jones confirmed that Gavinton is on the SBC list to get a new-style bus shelter, but there is no date yet; he promised to have more news at the next meeting. The location needs to be agreed.
  10. Polwarth: verge trimming still not done (or in Fogo): Cllr Jones to chase.
  11. Treasurer's report: £421.44 and £852.96 in the accounts, with nothing outstanding.
  12. Update on Gavinton.net website: nothing to report
  13. Jim Clark Rally meeting: Mrs Seed reported on this. There was a lot of bad feeling from CCs towards the organisers, who seemed to have a poor attitude about involving communities and keeping them informed. There will be a follow-up meeting in January when the organisers are due to report back on how they will deal with the problems raised.
  14. Correspondence received:
    - New Border Women's Aid drop-in centre in Galashiels
    - NHS Scotland 'Better health, better care' consultation newsletter, Sept 2007
    - Berwickshire Community Safety Panel community safety evening, 14 November: Mrs Seed to attend
    - SBC Scrutiny Panel work programme 2008: Mrs Bishop to respond asking that grass/verge cutting schedules be looked at
    - Borders Party letter about new Strategic Development Planning Authority consultation
    - NHS Borders Draft food, nutrition & health strategy for health care settings
    - Scottish Government Community Council Working Group review of Community Councils: Invitation to take part in pilot evaluations
    - Scottish Borders Elder Voice newsletter
    - Scottish Borders Antisocial Behaviour Strategy Group: seminar, 21 November, 9-5, Tweed Horizons
    - Friends of the Earth training courses
    - Scottish Landscapes Forum: Scotland's living landscapes
  15. AOCB
    - Mrs Seed has looked into getting the Polwarth Thorn better signposted; SBC referred her to the brown tourism signs scheme. Mrs O'Kane advised that these are notoriously hard to obtain.
    - Mrs Bishop reported on the ASCC AGM she recently attended. She was very disappointed at their lack of professionalism and poor accounting procedures.
    - Mr Weir reported that the debris left on the Ladyflat road after a burnt out car earlier in the year is still there: Cllr Jones to deal
  16. Dates of future meetings:
    - Monday 17 December 2007 at Gavinton Church Hall
    - Monday 14 January 2008 at Gavinton Church Hall

*Janet O'Kane* 14.12.07