



GAVINTON, FOGO & POLWARTH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting held at Gavinton Church Hall on Monday 17 December 2007 at 7pm

Present were Mrs M Bishop (Chair), Mr B Weir, Mr P Gibbens, Mr T O'Gorman, Mrs C Allman, Mrs K Renton, Mr G MacLeod, Mrs J O'Kane (secretary), Cllr T Jones and Cllr F Renton. Also attending were John Lamont, MSP and 9 members of the public.

Apologies were received from Cllr D Moffat.

1. Mrs Bishop welcomed Ian Jarvie, Treasurer, Berwickshire Community Councils Forum and Clare Malster, Community Engagement Officer, SBC who were attending to officiate at the opening and counting of Gavinton ballot on changes to the Local Plan while the CC continued with the meeting. They were assisted by Mr Gibbens.
2. Police input: PCs Glass and Scott had nothing specific to report. There was further discussion about speeding through Gavinton, which is getting worse as the village is being used as an alternative route during roadworks outside the new High School in Duns.
3. Coat of Arms: Update from Mr Marjoribanks, who confirmed that the design has been adjusted to accommodate the Polwarth Thorn. A vote was taken as whether he should proceed with this project, and he was given the go-ahead by 4 votes to 1.
4. Minutes of the meeting of 5 November 2007 were signed.
5. Matters arising
 - Bus shelter in Gavinton: update from Cllr Jones (see also item 11). He reported that a 'conventional' design shelter was now available, with the location to be confirmed. It was proposed that this should not wait until the results of the Local Plan consultation but it should be located asap next to the church entrance. This was proposed by Mr Weir, seconded by Mr O'Gorman. Cllr Jones undertook to progress this with SBC.
 - Verge trimming: update from Cllr Jones, who reported that this would be done early next year and thereafter added to the annual cutting programme.
 - Debris on Ladyflat road: Cllr Jones believed this has now been cleared, but Mr Weir said it had not.
 - Work on making Gavinton road junction safer: Cllr Jones reported that work is due to start now.
6. CC membership: resignation of Mrs J Seed, resulted in a vacancy for a Polwarth representative. Mrs Bishop is hopeful that someone will join after Christmas.
7. Appointment of new Treasurer: Mr Gibbens has agreed to take this on. His appointment was proposed by Mrs Bishop, seconded by Mr Macleod. It was also agreed that the £400 in the Bank of Scotland will be transferred into the Royal Bank of Scotland account.
8. Village hall: an update was given by Mrs Bishop. The building will be watertight by the end of the month, which means progress can then be made on the inside. About £20,000 less than estimated will be needed, due to some remedial work quoted for not now being required.
9. Withdrawal of bus service in Gavinton: update from Mrs Bishop. She confirmed that the twice-daily No. 60 service has been withdrawn as the contract has ended. She has written to David Hume, SBC and received an apology for the lack of advance warning about this. Other bus companies are not interested in providing the service, but Waits of Chimside are running a taxi service, 10.47 into Duns, leaving at 13.00 to return. This will be for a 3 month trial, and can be withdrawn if not used, so it's a case of 'use it or lose it'.
10. Bus shelter in Gavinton: location to be discussed. See 'matters arising'.
11. Sewage problem, Main St, Gavinton: Mrs Bishop reported that this is not really a CC problem, but she has received a letter from a resident about it. Since January 2007 Scottish Water has been called out 4 times to clear the drains. She has advised the residents affected to contact environmental health. Cllr Renton offered to take this up with Scottish Water.
12. SBC Business Improvement consultation on Area Committees: the response date has passed already, as this was issued with far less than the usual response time allowed.

13. Planning applications: Land east of Langton Field, Hardens Road (07/02215/OUT) – outline only, no indication of house size – no comments; Allanbank, Main St, Gavinton (07/02292/FUL) – Mr Macleod declared an interest and left the room during discussions – Mrs Bishop has responded to this one, supporting the application; Plot 2, land southwest of Langton Edge, Duns (07/02193/FUL) – no comments. Mr Macleod circulated an updated list of applications in the area, and reported that he is investigating the proposed installation of a gauging kiosk and that the Polwarth application is still awaiting a response from SBC.
14. Treasurer's report: £786.86 and £421.85 (to be transferred into the current account).
15. Insurance for Community Councils: the ASCC has written to tell CCs that as well as public liability, personal injury insurance (which GF&P has), libel and slander is required (which is excluded from the current CC cover). Mrs O'Kane to investigate. Mrs Bishop reported that the village hall insurance is now £1600 per annum, and she will be passing the ASCC letter to the committee.
16. Jim Clark Rally: Mr Macleod volunteered to attend meeting on 28 January 2008. Mrs O'Kane will email him the minutes from the first meeting.
17. Update on Gavinton.net website: this has had a facelift and a glitch solved.
18. Correspondence received:
 - SEPA View No. 37
 - Jim Clark Rally: Provisional routes
 - SBC Safer Communities – It's Your Community seminar: Duns, 12 February 2008
 - Scottish Borders Elder Voice, Dec. 2007
 - Postwatch Scotland: Issue 17
 - John Lamont MSP: Broadband coverage in the Borders. Mr Lamont listened to reports from CC members – most of the area now has broadband, but speeds are very slow.
19. Announcement of result of Gavinton ballot: of 165 ballot forms issued, 131 (79.4%) were received back. There were no ineligible ballot forms, and 76 58% voted in support of the change to the Local Plan, 55 (42 %) voted against. ~~This will form the basis of the CC's response to the consultation.~~ Mrs Bishop reminded the public that they were still free to respond personally to the consultation.
20. AOCB
 - Mr Weir reported that Red Brae was in a poor state of repair again; Cllr Jones said this was already in hand.
 - Mrs Allman reported that the path down to the Fogo Bridge had been damaged by the rain again; Cllr Renton will get this seen to.
 - Cllr Renton is to investigate having the ditches on the Marchmont Station road cleared.
21. Dates of future meetings (all at 7pm, venues to be decided during the year):
 - Monday 14 January 2008 at Gavinton Church Hall
 - Monday 25 February 2008
 - Monday 7 April 2008
 - Monday 19 May 2008 (AGM)
 - Monday 30 June 2008
 - No meeting in August
 - Monday 1 September 2008
 - Monday 13 October 2008
 - Monday 24 November 2008

See minutes of 14 Jan 2008 for agenda

Janet O'Kane, Minutes Secretary

J. Bishop
14/1/08