

## GAVINTON, FOGO & POLWARTH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

### Minutes of a meeting held at Gavinton Village Hall on Monday 20 September 2010 at 7pm

This meeting was held in place of the one scheduled for 6 September, which was not quorate.

1. Present were: Margaret Bishop (Chair), Ellen Curran, Jane Jeffrey, Terry O’Gorman, John Marjoribanks, Peter Gibbens, Janet O’Kane (Secretary), Cllr. Trevor Jones. Cllr. Donald Moffat. Apologies had been received from: Kerry Renton, David Seed, Cllr. Renton
2. Police input: none
3. Minutes of the meeting of 5 July 2010 were approved and signed
4. Matters arising
  - Election of new CC member for Fogo: Mrs Janet M O’Kane, Woodlea, Caldra, Duns TD11 3RA, electoral roll ref. 6F/20. Proposed by Terry O’Gorman, seconded by John Marjoribanks. Mrs Bishop reminded Mrs O’Kane that she may not vote for 3 meetings or 3 months, whichever is soonest.
  - Gavinton village green parking – update awaited from Cllr. Renton. Cllr. Moffat suggested that SBLocal could undertake this work and will find out if this is the case. CC members stressed that this would best be undertaken before the winter.
  - Gavinton playing fields – update from Mr Marjoribanks, who read out a letter he has sent to SBC’s legal dept. to establish once and for all the ownership of this land. The Football Club needs this information before it can obtain a grant to upgrade players’ facilities.
  - Release of CC funds from SBC –the required paperwork was submitted immediately after the July meeting and Mr Gibbens confirmed that the grant has now been received.
  - SBC enquiry re interest in further allotments – confirmation by Mrs O’Kane that this was responded to immediately after the July meeting
5. Planning applications: Mr Marjoribanks circulated an updated summary. The application by the new owners of Allanbank in Gavinton to create a small UPVC conservatory was discussed.
6. Treasurer’s report: there is £898.56 (remuneration for CC website webmaster now paid)
7. Correspondence received:
  - Berwickshire Community Councils Forum: meeting 26 August in Duns
  - Improving mobile phone coverage in rural areas: online petition by Ettrick and Yarrow CC
  - Scottish Borders in Figures report: available electronically from Mrs O’Kane (68 pages)
  - Community Payback Order awareness session: 30 September, Dalkeith
  - Volunteer Centre, Borders: volunteering opportunities requested
  - Scottish Borders Homelessness Services: posters
  - Scottish Borders Licensing Board consultation on review of policy: respond by 19 October
  - The Borders Party: letter re SESplan
  - Association of Scottish Community Councils: letter re representation (NB: GF&P CC is no longer a member)
  - SBC Winter Service Review – consultation with CC on location of salt bins
  - CC insurance – SBC request re Libel & Slander cover
  - No Need for Nuclear – letter re House of Commons Early Day Motion No. 557
  - SBCCN annual seminar, 2 October, SBC HQ
8. AOCB
  - Mrs Bishop asked Cllr. Moffat to explain the recent email issued by SBC about the changes to area committees. He summarised thus: with area committees no longer deal with planning issues, attendance had fallen off. Therefore SBC has abolished them, and issues that affect individual areas, e.g. SBC grant applications, will be dealt with by the councillors representing them. Mrs O’Kane asked that in future SBC issue such communications in a format and in language that is more easily understood.

- Mr O’Gorman asked if SBC would consider switching off Gavinton’s street lights for a time, as he questioned whether they needed to be on all night. Cllr. Jones confirmed that street lighting is one among many area being considered for SBC to make cost savings. He suggested the CC get in touch with the lighting dept. at Technical Services and ask for this to be considered and what savings this would amount to. CC members discussed other aspects of this matter, e.g. safety.
  - Mr Marjoribanks raised the issue of broadband speed in Gavinton, as he has experienced a reduction in speed, and others agreed with him. Mr O’Gorman thinks there has been a problem with the local phone exchange. Several CC members commented that they were getting a better service having switched to BT as their internet service provider.
  - SBC has taken on responsibility for the upkeep of Red Brae, but young trees and vegetation are now screening the street lights on the footpath to the bus stop.
  - Mrs Bishop confirmed the promised bus stop has not yet arrived. She has queried it with SBC and there had been a communications breakdown between departments but the request is now being actioned.
  - Mr Marjoribanks reminded members that Gavinton’s Founder’s Day is in November and asked for suggestions as to how to mark this. It was agreed that the flag should be raised, and Mr Marjoribanks would ask Mrs Cook, who recently made a ‘Welcome to Gavinton’ banner if she would like to do one for this event.
  - Mrs Bishop said that Gavinton came 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Wee Villages Borders in Bloom contest. Comments from judges included the need for something new to help the village to regain the coveted 1<sup>st</sup> position. She asked for suggestions. Several options were discussed, including tubs up Main Street and a flower bed at the graveyard entrance. Her idea for a floral coat-of-arms was very popular. Cllr. Moffat agreed to ask the SBC gardener who is based in Coldstream if he could advise the CC on this.
9. Dates of future meetings in 2010 (all at 7pm in Gavinton village hall unless otherwise stated):
- 18 October
  - 29 November

Janet O’Kane, Minutes Secretary