

GAVINTON, FOGO & POLWARTH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting held at Gavinton Village Hall on Monday 26 March 2012

1. Apology for absence was received from Ellen Curran
2. Present were: Margaret Bishop (Chairman), Janet O’Kane (Secretary), Peter Gibbens (Treasurer), John Marjoribanks, David Seed, Kerry Renton, Cllr. Frances Renton, Cllr. Donald Moffat, Cllr. Trevor Jones and 1 member of the public
3. Daren Silcock, Neighbourhood Manager, SBC, gave a short presentation on his work. SBC has brought parks, SBLocal, toilets, burials etc under one roof. This was trialled in Berwickshire and now adopted for other areas. Berwickshire has 1 manager, 2 assistant managers, 2 foremen and around 30 staff. The team is responsible for the maintenance of about 500 miles of road, much of it unclassified. Wherever possible the voluntary sector is being involved, e.g. the Criminal Justice Team and working with communities to retain the Floral Gateway. Environmental grants are still available and the small schemes ‘pot’ for Berwickshire will be retained at £50,000.
Mr Silcock offered to discuss the issue of drainage problems in Gavinton with Cllr Renton and agree the way forward with Scottish Water.
The team is moving from being reactive to being proactive, e.g. clearing ditches to improve drainage before flooding.
Mr Seed asked Mr Silcock to review the turning out of Gavinton on to the main road in order to make it safer.
Mr Silcock’s direct number is 01361 886131
4. No police input
5. Minutes of the meeting of 13 February 2012 were agreed and signed
6. Matters arising:
 - ‘No Cold Caller’ scheme: does CC want visit from Justin Hulford of Safer Communities? It was agreed that Mr Hulford will be invited to a CC meeting after the summer.
 - Jubilee tree-planting: The Fogo planting has been done. SBC is reluctant to take down the cankered flowering cherries in Gavinton but will ‘crown-clean’ them. The landowner at Polwarth has given the go-ahead and David Seed will take this forward, liaising with Peter Gibbens.
 - Polwarth Thorn sign is now up. Janet O’Kane has obtained a copy of *Heritage Trees of Scotland* which features the Thorn, and it was agreed she would buy a display box so that the book can be seen in Gavinton Hall.
 - Grit bins: Cllr Renton progressing
 - Gavinton drains: see Item 3
 - Football pitch: this has now been cleared of litter
7. Planning applications: John Marjoribanks circulated the latest summary and 2 applications were considered
8. Treasurer’s report: £966 is in bank, £1001 ringfenced for specific projects, SBC has confirmed 2012/13 grant will be £630
9. Community Council office bearers: Margaret Bishop announced that she wished to step down from being Chair, but would remain as CC member. Janet O’Kane nominated John Marjoribanks to become Chair, this was seconded by Peter Gibbens with no objections. The handover will take place at the AGM in May.
10. Correspondence received:
 - Jim Clark Rally: notification of road closures
 - ASCC: Final conference, 18th April, Dunblane Hydro
 - SBC: Local Development Plan – Main Issues Report. Local exhibition, 12 April, Council Chambers, Duns and meeting on 5 April, Newtown St Boswells
 - Launch of consultation on the introduction a tenant information pack in the private rented sector
 - SBC: Diamond Jubilee funding to help local communities celebrate
 - SBC: Community involvement in town plantings

- OFT consultation on local prices and choice
11. AOCB
- Peter Gibbens questioned why some signage for local walks has been removed. David Seed confirmed that these paths are no longer part of a funded path scheme.
12. Dates of future meetings in 2011 (all at 7pm in Gavinton village hall unless otherwise stated):
- 14 May (AGM)

Janet O'Kane, Minutes Secretary