

GAVINTON, FOGO & POLWARTH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting held on Monday 24 September 2012

1. Present were: John Marjoribanks (Chair), Janet O’Kane (Secretary), Peter Gibbens (Treasurer), Ellen Curran, Kerry Renton, David Seed and SBC Councillors Frances Renton, Donald Moffat and John Greenwell. Jane Devine, who has been nominated to join the CC, was welcomed to her first meeting. Apologies were received from Margaret Bishop.
2. JM outlined the recent CC nominations procedure and confirmed that the following had been nominated to join or rejoin the CC :
 - John Marjoribanks, Gavinton
 - Ellen Curran, Gavinton
 - Jane Devine, Gavinton
 - Lorraine Tait, Gavinton
 - Kerry Renton, Fogo
 - Keith Dickinson, Polwarth

While Gavinton remains under-represented, Polwarth would have been over-represented had David Seed decided not to seek re-election. The CC thanks David for his contribution and would welcome his re-nomination when the sub-areas are abolished.
3. Minutes of the meeting of 16 July 2012 were agreed and signed. As will now be adopted as normal practice, these were circulated shortly after the meeting to enable them to be published while still relevant to the community.
4. Matters arising:
 - MSPs John Lamont and Paul Wheelhouse have requested that they be included in the distribution of our minutes and this was agreed.
 - Path down to Fogo Footbridge: Cllr Renton has discussed this with Jean Robertson and the Pathways Officer at SBC who see no problem in the CC applying for funding to repair this (latest quotation: £15,000), SBC doing the work, then SBC taking its maintenance back on. It was agreed to apply to the Blackhill Windfarm Community Fund for the full amount, and JOK will assist PG in writing the application.
 - Cllr Renton will check that Gavinton is back on the grit bins list, although she warned there will be fewer available.
 - JOK was asked to confirm that the visit from the police about the No Cold Callers scheme was still on for the 22 October meeting.
5. Planning applications: an up-to-date sheet was circulated.
6. West Gavinton Proposal of Application notice (already circulated) and a public meeting is to be held on 1 October in Gavinton Village Hall.
7. Treasurer’s report: balance stands at £668. The work around the seat on Gavinton Green (£430) and election expenses (£102 – mainly postage) have been paid for. Mr Carss has painted the goalposts and refused payment, so the CC’s thanks go to him.
8. Community Empowerment and Renewal Bill: JM went through his proposed response to the consultation on behalf of the CC and adjusted it according to the members’ wishes.
9. Berwickshire Community Councils Forum: JM recently attended a recent BCCF meeting and found it useful. New Area Forums, replacements for the Local Area Committee meetings, will be held at the same time as BCCF meetings. These will follow a similar format to the old meetings but will be quarterly and won’t include

planning applications. Each Berwickshire CC will be invited to send a representative.

10. Correspondence received:

- National Network of CCs has relaunched and is now called The National Network for Change and Community: www.nationalnetworkcc.com
- Social Housing Access and Management Team: The analysis of responses to the consultation “Affordable Rented Housing: Creating flexibility for landlords and better outcomes for communities” is now available at: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2012/08/7737>
- Energy Saving Scotland: Scottish Communities Climate Action Network – invitation to join
- Berwickshire Housing Association: Putting something back into the community. JM has responded with some suggestions but has had no response as yet.

11. AOCB

- Following an incident involving one of his workers whose trailer went off the old railway bridge at Middlefield Bridge, DS called for this and the old railway bridge at Chatterdeanford to be removed.
- PG confirmed that the remaining money in the old Fogo Bridge fund has been spent on treating the two wooden benches there.
- Cllr Moffat said that the Borders is a Pathfinder region, which will be looking at policing and fire-fighting after the Scottish police and fire services are reorganised.
- Cllr Renton said that a consultation document is now out about the proposed rationalisation of courts in the Borders. She will send a link to JOK so that this can be circulated.
- Cllr Renton will check with the SBC officer responsible about the fate of the two trees at the war memorial.
- Cllr Renton will chase the repair of serious pothole at Fogo on the Bogend road.
- JM reported that a Gavinton resident is concerned that a piece of play equipment on The Green may be contributing to children’s injuries. Cllr Renton will get SBC to check the equipment and make it safe. She was asked to ensure it was not removed.
- Resilience Planning is to be brought up at the next meeting.
- JM reported that a resident had requested that the CC flag might be flown at half-mast for the funeral of any resident whose relatives requested it. This was agreed. Another resident had requested that the CC flag might be flown to mark their daughter’s wedding. It was further agreed that it could be raised to mark weddings and other occasions at the request of residents.

Dates of future meetings in 2012 (all at Gavinton Village Hall):

- 22nd October
- 3rd December

Janet O’Kane, Minutes Secretary