

GAVINTON, FOGO & POLWARTH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting held at Fogo Hall on Monday 11 March

1. Present were: John Marjoribanks (Chair), Janet O'Kane (Secretary), Peter Gibbens (Treasurer), Kerry Renton, Ellen Curran, Lorraine Tait, Jean Coleman, Cllr John Greenwell
2. Apologies for absence were received from Margaret Bishop and Keith Dickinson. Cllrs Frances Renton and Donald Moffat were not able to attend due to ill health; the CC sent them wishes for speedy recoveries.
3. Declaration of interests: none
4. WPC Suzanne Jacobs, our new Community Beat Officer, introduced herself and went through a few police issues:
 - Investigation of the house-break in Gavinton has been passed to the house-breaking investigation team and may be linked to other crimes outwith the area.
 - There is a new non-emergency contact number for the police: 101
 - The single Police Service of Scotland, comes into force on 1st April.
5. Minutes of the meeting of 28 January 2013 (circulated electronically) were approved and signed.
6. Matters arising:
 - No Cold Caller scheme – JM met with WPC Jacobs to discuss this. The police have had more demand than anticipated so it can now only cover main villages. Gavinton will be letterboxed; other households can be supplied with stickers.
 - Quotation for tree book display case – this was deemed to be too expensive (although reasonable for the work required) so the CC will buy 2 more books instead.
 - Footpath to Fogo Bridge – unfortunately due to SBC having adopted this as a core footpath we cannot access grant aid for its repair. It was agreed that PG will arrange for the trees to be removed and ask SBC to do the rest of the repairs, once he is able to discuss it with Cllr Renton
 - Courts in the Borders consultation – Cllr Greenwell confirmed that SBC is against the closure of Duns Sheriff Court and SBC's legal department has taken up the cause. Representatives of the Scottish Court Service were taken around the Borders, including Eyemouth, and the potential problems demonstrated to them.
 - Resilient Communities Plan – Keith Dickinson has reported back on responses received. About 30% of the community responded. It was agreed to discuss this matter in more detail when KD is present. In the meantime JOK will circulate his report and queries.
7. Planning applications: nothing to report
8. Treasurer's report: The CC has £593 in the bank. A tree has now been planted in Gavinton at cost of £74.40. PG will order plaques for the commemorative trees. The SBC grant for 2013/14 remains unchanged at £630.
9. Community Council Scheme Review: Cllr Greenwell is Berwickshire's representative on the review group. They are looking at every aspect: boundaries, numbers of people per community, funding issues. There will then be a consultation.
10. Duns Primary School's move to old High School building: KR reported on a meeting she recently attended when SBC's plans were discussed. Some funding from the Scottish Government is available towards the work required. Parents' main concerns are about parking, dropping off area. The old primary school will be

demolished and the site sold. The consultation runs until 15th March. JM agreed to submit on behalf of the CC any comments members wished to send him.

11. Correspondence received:

- TCI Renewables: Rumbletonrig Wind Farm Community Newsletter
- Community Energy Scotland – Free membership for community organisations
- Scottish Government – Community Empowerment and Renewal Bill consultation
- BAVS – Armed Forces Community Covenant grant scheme
- Jim Clark Rally – details of proposed route of 2013 Rally. JOK will investigate if the maps can be put up on the website.
- Scottish Borders Elder Voice – newsletter Feb-March 2013
- SBC – Scots Together collective energy switching system (circulated electronically)
- SBC – A Low Carbon Economic Strategy for the Borders: consultation (circulated electronically). It was agreed that CC members will submit individual comments.

12. AOCB

- JOK gave advance notice that she will be unable to attend the April meeting. PG offered to take minutes in JOK's absence.
- JOK gave a summary of a recent Berwickshire Area Forum she recently attended. The Volunteer Hall was an uncomfortable venue with poor acoustics; as a result much of the presentations given was inaudible. However, the representatives of SBC's planning department supplied some useful information about windfarm applications and directed CCs to this page on their website: http://www.scotborders.gov.uk/downloads/download/101/wind_energy_planning_guidance which we should use when commenting on proposed developments. SBC now has dedicated staff to handle these applications.
- KR asked Cllr Greenwell if he could get the pot-holes on the Caldra-Gavinton road repaired. He agreed to do this and also alerted the CC to <http://www.fixmystreet.com/> where similar problems can be reported.
- KR suggested that the CC may like to have a Facebook page and offered to set it up. JOK will initially consult John Robertson, who maintains the Gavinton.net website.
- LT asked Cllr Greenwell if white lines could be painted on Hardens Road. This is the only route to Longformacus and can often be foggy.
- JM reported that a constituent counted 60 trip hazards on South Street after tripping himself. JM will email Cllr Green well about this.
- Berwickshire Civic Society plans to put up directional signs to the Polwarth Thorn.
- The Society has also offered help to the CC when dealing with planning applications.
- ScottishPower has taken down an oak tree planted by the CC. JM will ask them to replace it once their work is completed.
- The chair of the SBCCN is now Trevor Jones

13. Dates of future meetings

- 22 April
- 20 May (AGM)

Janet O'Kane, Minutes Secretary