

GAVINTON, FOGO & POLWARTH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting held at Gavinton Village Hall on Monday 2 September 2013

1. Present were: John Marjoribanks (JM) (Chair)), Jean Coleman (JC), Kerry Renton (KR), Pete Gibbens (PG) (Treasurer), Keith Dickinson (KD), Janet O'Kane (JOK) (Secretary), SBC Cllrs Donald Moffat (DM) and John Greenwell (JG), and 2 members of the public
2. Apologies for absence were received from Ellen Curran, Margaret Bishop and Lorraine Tait.
3. Declaration of interests: none.
4. Police matters: the police could not be in attendance but sent a report which will be issued to CC members with these minutes.
5. Minutes of the meeting of 22 April 2013 were approved and signed.
6. Matters arising:
 - Footpath to Fogo Bridge: PG gave an update. SBC has had some more reasonably-priced quotations, including one for £3,000. He is making an application to the Blackhill Windfarm Fund. CC members commented on this, and JM suggested that Prof. Ritchie, who represents the CC on the Windfarm board, see it also.
 - Resilient Communities Plan: KD gave an update. The responses to the surveys have been summarised and the next stage is to create an asset register, i.e. of people and what they have said they can do. People need to input the information for their parts of the community, and these are all covered, bar Fogo and Gavinton. It was agreed that PG and KR will deal with Fogo and find someone to be co-ordinator, while JM will meet with volunteers in Gavinton.
7. Planning applications: members discussed the revised plan for the West Gavinton development, which has dispersed the affordable housing across the site. Due to the extensive changes, JM has requested another public consultation. The planned 54 homes equals a 55% increase in the size of the village, and the traffic issues at the Duns-Greenlaw road junction have not been adequately addressed.
8. Treasurer's report: the CC has £409 in the bank, with no sums earmarked.
9. Berwickshire Area Forum: report by JOK and DM on recent meeting called to discuss the way forward for the Forum and how the meetings should be run. JOK's main messages are that if CCs are expected to participate, the content must be relevant, interesting and non-political, and presentations should be tailored to the audience and brief. JM will represent GFPC at the full BAF meeting on 5 September and report back.
10. Public access to Ann Smith Memorial. The owners of the land on which the memorial sits have fenced off much of their property due to dog-fouling, but access to the monument remains. It was noted that, although the paths through the wood were not so far recorded as a right of way, SBC had offered to so record them if it could be demonstrated that the public had had access for over 20 years. It would then be necessary for gates to be installed in the fences to maintain the right of way. Although long (20 year +) use is, indeed, the case, the CC took the view that to require the installation of gates would not greatly enhance the use of the area by walkers, as the landowner had cleared an alternative path to complete a circuit for walkers in the wood. After discussion, CC members agreed not to require the installation of gates, provided that the access to the monument which the landowner had provided from the public highway was improved by the removal of obstructing trees and the levelling out of the pathway.
11. Flodden representation. JM is attending the service at Branxton on 10th September.
12. Contact with Villeneuve-au-Chemin. The mayor of V-au-C, Gilles de Cockborne, a descendant of Adam Cockburn of Choiselee, and his son Thibaut are coming over for the Flodden ceremonies and JM proposed holding a small reception in their honour, jointly sponsored by the CC and the Village Hall Committee. Members agreed to a small budget, to be matched by the Hall Committee, as long as Clare Malster of SBC agreed the principle. This is a preamble to twinning. It will take place on Tuesday 10th September, 6-7.30pm and all members of the community are invited.
13. Correspondence received:

- Scottish Borders Elder Voice, June-July 2013 and Aug-Sept
- Michael Moore MP, Community Fuel Buying Groups
- SBC: CC Scheme Review Group minutes of August 12 (circulated electronically)
- South of Scotland Next Generation Broadband newsletter (circulated electronically). JM encouraged everyone to register interest.
- Keep Scotland Beautiful: Dog Fouling Fortnight (circulated electronically)
- Towards a Litter-free Scotland: Consultation closes 27 September
- Scottish Government Improvement Service: www.tellmesotland.gov.uk (circulated electronically)
- Duns Council: meeting re new licensing laws. It was felt this was not of interest to our CC.

14. AOCB

- BAVS are looking for volunteer drivers
- Kathy Allman, who cares for the plants at the Fogo entry signs, is moving to Duns so someone is needed to take over this task. Those at Gavinton now have individuals looking after them.
- JM: Gavinton is looking scruffy. SBC is not cutting the grass as regularly and doing fewer weed treatments. DM asked for any complaints about graveyard maintenance to be referred to him. JM suggested the village enter competitions next year, in order to spur people into taking action.
- JM: CCs which are represented on the Blackhill Wind Farm fund are concerned about how it is working. They plan to meet after the BAF next week to discuss this.
- JM: A litter-picking drive is needed in key areas which are subject to bad litter-dropping. We could work with Greenlaw CC on the Gavinton-Greenlaw road. Timing: March. SBC's Darren Silcock can provide high-viz jackets and pickers.

15. Dates of future meetings were agreed:

- 14 October
- 25 November
- 13 January 2014

Janet O'Kane, Minutes Secretary