

GAVINTON, FOGO & POLWARTH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting held at Langton Kirk Hall on Monday 27th January 2014 at 7pm

1. Present were: John Marjoribanks (JM) (Chair), Margaret Bishop (MB), Jean Coleman (JC), Lorraine Tait (LT), SBC Cllr Donald Moffat (DM), SBC Cllr Frances Renton (FR) Kerry Renton (KR), Ellen Curran (EC), Pete Gibbens (PG) (Treasurer)
2. Apologies for absence were received from Keith Dickinson, SBC Cllr John Greenwell.
3. Declaration of interests: none.
4. Police matters: the police were not in attendance. It was reported later in the meeting that Inspector John Scott had been appointed in Duns with responsibility for East Berwickshire.
5. Minutes of the meeting of 25 November 2013 were approved and signed
6. **Matters arising:**
 - Footpath to Fogo Bridge – PG reported that the grant application to Blackhill Windfarm Community Fund for repairs was rejected. Euan Calvert (SBC) has indicated that SBC will undertake repairs imminently but only so far as the path is safe. Drainage work will not be undertaken.
 - Street lighting in Gavinton. JM reported that some street lights of the new LED type were not working. FR said that this work is in hand and the work will take place after dark
 - Recruitment of Secretary: JM suggested that we look throughout the CC area and that we could ignore the subdivisions. FR pointed out that if we were to offer payment, this would have to come from CC funds, not SBC
7. **Planning applications:** Two new applications, both uncontentious. JM commented that it had taken 4 years for the application S of St Leonards, Polwarth to be approved and that there had been no activity on the proposed West Gavinton project since July last year.
8. **New windfarm projects:** LT had said previously that it was misleading that the proposed windfarm of 14 no 132m turbines was stated as being SW of Raecleugh Head Farmhouse instead of Kettlesheil. JM pointed out that the 132m turbines are far bigger than those at Soutra and that there is another application pending for 19 similar turbines immediately adjacent across our CC boundary. The visual impact would be considerable and very careful assessment is needed. Should the projects go ahead the community funds made available could be very substantial if well negotiated by the Community Councils concerned.
9. **Floral Gateway:** JM reported that 8 households had shown an interest. It was agreed that a sub committee could be formed. The categories of villages have been changed, but we should plan on entering.
10. **Litter picking** JM has emailed the secretary of Greenlaw C.C. with a view to co-operation but no reply yet. (The secretary has apparently resigned). SBC will supply plastic bags and litter picking tools.
11. **Treasurer's report.** : The bank balance is £882.50. The previous balance of £367 was incorrect as it did not include the balance brought forward from 2012/13. There are no outstanding items apart from hall rents and expenses. PG reminded CC members to claim for any out of pocket expenses incurred on CC business.
12. **Correspondence received.** The following items were displayed:
 - Scottish Civic Trust My Place Awards:
 - SB local Development Plan Consultation (doesn't affect us):
 - SBBCN Chairman (Network):
 - Scottish Rural Development plan consultation (this is on web):
 - New C.C Liaison Officer (Clare Malster being promoted):
 - Scottish Fire and Rescue Service draft plan consultaion:
 - Scottish Rural Parliament Action Group:
 - Climate Challenge Fund ideas Bank::
 - Survey of Local Authority Community Councils:
 - Victim Support day (Galashiels 21 Feb):
 - Third National Planning Framework and Safe Borders News.

13. AOCB

- C.C review coming out soon. 2 new C.C.s have applied to be established. No mention yet of doing away with our existing internal boundaries.
- KR raised the matter of supply of dog fouling bags. FR pointed out that the Berwickshire Community Safety Panel supply was running down and that dog owners should be encouraged to buy their own.
- PG mentioned that there were building con-men active in the area. Community should be very wary at all times.
- Margaret Totty died recently and her family would like to donate a memorial tree. The CC will look for a suitable site.
- KR expressed concern that the 8 week closure of the A6112 in March might affect Gavinton. FR confirmed that the diversion would be via the A697 to Greenlaw
- There will be a review of the generic plan for Resilient Communities. A shortened version is being prepared.

14. Dates of future meetings

- 3 March 2014
- 21 April 2014
- 19 May 2014 (AGM)
- 9 June 2014

Pete Gibbens (Acting Minutes Secretary)