

GAVINTON, FOGO & POLWARTH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Meeting held at 7.00pm at Gavinton Village Hall on Monday 23rd June 2014

1. **Present:** John Marjoribanks (JM) (Chair), Ellen Curren (EC), Jean Coleman (JC), Kerry Renton (KR), Keith Dickinson (KD), Pete Gibbens (PG) (Treasurer), Lorraine Tait (LT), Tim Jackson (TJ), Margaret Bishop (MB), Cllr Donald Moffat (DM) and Cllr Frances Renton (FR) and one member of the public, Bridget Darling (BD).
2. **Apologies for absence** were received from Cllr John Greenwell and PC John Holywood
3. **Declaration of interests:** None
4. **Police Report:** None received
5. **Minutes of the meeting of 28th April:** These were approved with a spelling correction.
6. **Matters Arising:** JM said that a litter picking initiative was carried out on May 24th, but the turnout was very poor. Even so 3 bags of litter were collected.
7. **Treasurers Report:** SBC Grant of £630 and Hall Rebate of £88 have been paid in. GFPCC have paid Website fee of £250 and environmental expenses of £180. This leaves a current account balance of **£861**. PG to follow up the absence of the Environmental Grant of £60 and the reimbursement of £49.96 to GFPCC for Fogo planters.
8. **Planning Applications** TJ circulated a list of recent applications with only two new ones.
 - Alterations to Whinkerstones Farm Cottage, Charterhall to which there were no objections.
 - Changes to the application for 54 houses at West Gavinton: Affordable units down from 14 to 7, detail changes to parking and garden sizes, Removal of tree from village square with West-East connection only, North-South connection to be removed. Alterations to the sub-standard junction of the feeder road for Gavinton and the A6105 to be resolved. SEPA is requesting modification to the SUDs involving roof drainage into garden soak-aways and porous driveways and parking areas. JM pointed out that a very careful watch will have to be kept on all changes, and a public meeting convened at the consultation stage.
 - No new action on the 19 and 14 (total 33) × 162m adjacent windfarms at Kettleshiels and Langtonlees, but it was discussed and DM clarified some of the application procedures. KD pointed out the visually apparent distortion of photo montage in the application which may make the windfarm appear less obtrusive than it really is.
9. **Scotland's Floral Gateway:** BD gave her report. 14 residents volunteered following a meeting on 15 March. Two grants were sourced, £440 from SB Local small schemes and £200 from GFPCC for bedding plants. (JM to follow up with Daren Silcock re payments for expenditure incurred under SB grant.) Daren Silcock identified pothole repairs and spraying tasks. 4 large wooden tubs were purchased from Euart Thorburn, 2 for the Green and 2 for the Glebe. Ron Cook has painted the bench on the Green, and the Wellhead on South Street and repaired the bench at the south end. The stone tubs have been planted and various flower beds planted. There are 3 blackspots, and the residents concerned will be approached by JM. Judging is on Tuesday August 5 at 11am. Next meeting of volunteers will be on 21st July
10. **Berwickshire Area Forum** JM reported £2,400 had been budgeted for an angled curb onto the Village Green. NHS Borders have a new clinical strategy. Setting up of Trusts for Halls, libraries etc (nothing in our area – the Library and Southfield in Duns, are the only two that would impact on us). Big pressure on Roads Budget which is now a 'management of decline'
11. **Jim Clark Rally** Some years ago, after a request from the CC, due to cases of theft from cars and antisocial behaviour, barriers were moved to the west of the village. Following an extremely irate resident's complaint, JCR to be approached to issue letters and passes direct to residents.
12. **September Elections.** It was agreed that an election of community councillors would be held on 1st September 2014. SBC meeting on 26 June is expected to approve the removal of existing GFPCC sub areas and a reduction in the number of community councillors from 12 to 10. Co-opted members JC and TJ will be up for election. MB and JM announced their intention to stand down with effect from 31 August 2014. 3 vacancies for new community councillors will therefore arise for election on 1st September. JM to liaise with Pauline Bolson to arrange the election. FR kindly agreed to be returning officer.

13. Correspondence received.

- Duns Police station will be open 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday.
- SBCCN Minutes of 15/5/14: note that their Annual Conference will be on October 1st . Letter confirming Annual Insurance cover. PG to clarify details
- Launch document for the Border Network of Conservation Groups (a lobby group to monitor windfarm developments)
- Circular stating schools will start their Asymmetric Timetable in August with the pupils school week reduced to 4½ days going home Friday lunchtime. To help parents of primary children, KR pointed out that on Friday pm both the Duns Swimming Pool and the Guy Roberts Room will be open and staffed. There will be a charge of £2.50 for 1hr or £3.50 for 2hrs (Members free) for both venues.

14. **AOCB** A visitor informed us via Gavinton.net that there is a small collapse of the wall behind the Richard Hilary Memorial. JM to contact the Charterhall Estate about repair.

15. Date of Future Meetings

- 8 September 2014
- 27 October 2014
- 15 December 2014
- 2 February 2015
- 23 March 2015
- 11 May 2015 (AGM)

Pete Gibbens (Treasurer and Acting Minutes Secretary)