

# GAVINTON, FOGO & POLWARTH COMMUNITY COUNCIL



Meeting held at Gavinton Village Hall  
On Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2014 at 7.30pm

- 1. Welcome and Introductions:** Keith Dickinson (KD) (Chair) opened the meeting and welcomed Jean Coleman (JC) (Vice Chair,) Pete Gibbens (PG) (Secretary), Tim Jackson (TJ) (Planning Officer), Lorraine Tait (LT), Kirsten Arthur (KA), Carole Wright (CW) Cllr Frances Renton (FR)
- 2. New co-opted member:** Carole Wright was confirmed as co-opted member, proposed by KD, seconded by KA. After 3 meetings or 6 months CW will qualify for full voting rights.
- 3. Apologies for absence:** Kerry Renton (Treasurer), Ellen Curran, Philippa Small, Cllr Donald Moffat. Phillipa Small was put forward for co-option but has withdrawn until further notice for personal reasons.
- 4. Declarations of Interest:** None
- 5. Minutes of the meeting of 3 November 2014:** These were approved. FR said all minutes and agendas in future should be forwarded to Pauline Bolson at SBC.
- 6. Matters arising:** None
- 7. Choice of representatives at Final Decision Meeting at SBC re West Gavinton.**

Process has gone through and views have been given. FR advised that it may be better to have one speaker for the full allotted 6 mins rather than sharing this time between up to three objectors. KD volunteered to represent GFPCC as he could give a balanced view. KD would draw on the CC observations submitted to SBC following the public meeting on 26 October. LT said that villagers must be informed. At the ballot in 2011 the Crimson Hill site was rejected and West Gavinton site favoured, even though at an earlier stage SBC had stated that it was "in no way to be built on". The meeting date for consideration of the application has not yet been announced, but members of the public who have lodged written objections will be notified by SBC and advised of the opportunity to speak. It was suggested that a flier could be posted on notice boards and on the Website (see Appendix 1). It should be noted that the opportunity for public speaking at the decision meeting is at the discretion of the Planning and Building Standards Committee Chairman.
- 8. Planning Applications** TJ circulated a summary of current applications
  - West Gavinton transport issues not resolved and traffic impact consultation not done.
  - New build at Polwarth. TJ reported that work had been done by KA in collating objections. There had been no opportunity for these to be discussed at a GFPCC meeting, so CC members were consulted for their opinions by email and a CC response submitted to SBC. The new build at Polwarth has subsequently been withdrawn by the applicant who was advised to withdraw the application to avoid rejection.

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- Windfarms: TJ has been in contact with neighbouring Community Councils with a view to presenting a co-ordinated approach. A meeting with Mark Rowley, David Long, Rebecca Fraser, and Peter Leggate to be arranged. 5 CCs are currently sharing up to £30,000 p.a. from the Blackhill Wind Farm Community Fund. With new turbine developments this could reach £500,000 p.a. KD asked that ideas for projects could be on next meeting's agenda. Prof. Donald Ritchie (Chairman of Blackhill Windfarm Community Fund) could be invited to speak at a future meeting.
9. **Resilient Communities:** JC said work was in hand to update the asset register. Volunteers on the register should contact SBC to be registered for SMS bad weather alerts.
  10. **Treasurers Report:** KR was not present, but PG confirmed that the balance remained at £813 and that RBS have yet to accept new signatories
  11. **Police Report:** PC Hollywood was not present. CC surprised and disappointed that no report has been received. PG agreed to follow up with PC Hollywood.
  12. **Correspondence:** All circulated electronically. KD suggested that John Robertson could set up a "dropbox" for all CC documents and provide a short guide on its use. In the meantime, KD to circulate our Constitution, Code of Conduct and Standing Orders.
  13. **Any other Business:**
    - TJ brought up the matter of access and improvements to the Polwarth Thorn. Ian Bradley who owns the land has agreed to a defined access from the road and would welcome support from the CC. It was agreed that TJ could set up a sub group involving Ian & Corrine Bradley, David & Janie Seed, and Lady & John McEwen. Sir John Swinton, representing Berwickshire Naturalists, could be consulted. The Thorn itself should be examined by tree specialist
    - TJ also brought up a suggestion from John McEwen that a bus shelter be installed on the A6105 at the Polwarth turn off, primarily for schoolchildren. FR said that the waiting list for this would be long and perhaps a request to the Blackhill Windfarm fund could be made for financial assistance
  14. **Dates of Next Meetings:**

7.30pm on Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup> January
7.30pm on Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> March

Pete Gibbens (Secretary)

## **IMPORTANT NOTICE**

**At a meeting of the Gavinton, Fogo and Polwarth Community Council on December 16th, a decision was made over our representation at a forthcoming SBC Planning Meeting concerning the West Gavinton Development.**

**It was decided that Keith Dickinson (Chair) should represent the GFPC. The date of the meeting has not yet been fixed. Members of the public who lodged a written objection will be contacted by SBC in due course with details of the date and time of the meeting and the SBC "Public Speaking at Meetings Protocol"**

**Please look at Item 7 on the minutes below for more details. The minutes will also be published on our website, [www.gavinton.net](http://www.gavinton.net)**

Pete Gibbens (Secretary GFPC)