



GAVINTON, FOGO & POLWARTH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**Minutes of the AGM held in Gavinton Hall
on Tuesday the 24th May 2016 at 7.30pm**

Item	Comment	Action
1	Welcome and Introductions: Councillor Frances Renton (Returning Officer) welcomed Councillor Donald Moffat, Keith Dickinson, Jean Coleman, Kirsten Arthur, Ellen Curran, Carole Wright, Kerry Renton, Tim Jackson, Terry O’Gorman, Steve Hunter, Amanda Stewart, David Ward & Bryce Weir	
2	Apologies: Lorraine Tait and Councillor John Greenwell	
3	Declarations of interest: None	
4	Appointment of Chairman: Keith Dickinson- proposed by Jean Coleman, seconded by Carole Wright	
5	Appointment of Vice-Chairman: Kirsten Arthur- proposed by Stephen Hunter, seconded by Terry O’Gorman	
6	Appointment of secretary: Amanda Stewart- proposed by Kirsten Arthur, seconded by David Ward	
7	Appointment of Treasurer: Carole Wright- proposed by Jean Coleman, seconded by Kirsten Arthur	
8	Chairman’s Report: Keith Dickinson presented the chairman’s report for 2015-16. Full report attached below as Appendix 1 and to be available through gavinton.net at http://www.gavinton.net/ .	
9	Treasurers Report: Kerry Renton presented the treasurers report for 2015-16 which is attached. Copies of the audited accounts and expenditure details were circulated. Keith Dickinson proposed that the accounts were approved and this was seconded by Steve Hunter. The treasurer’s report and audited accounts will be made available through the web and forwarded to SBC.	
10	Appointment of Auditor: Keith Dickinson proposed that Angus MacMillan be appointed as auditor for 2016 and this was seconded by Steve Hunter.	
11	Agreement to abide by the SBC Code of Conduct for Community Councils Keith Dickinson proposed that the CC formally agree to abide by the SBC code of conduct and all members present agreed. He also agreed to circulate copies of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GFPCC Constitution • CC’s Code of Conduct • GFPCC Standing Orders • SBC CC Handbook 	
12	Minutes of the AGM- Tuesday 5th May 2015 Approval of the minutes was proposed by Jean Coleman, seconded by Kerry Renton.	

13	<p>Minutes of the CC Meeting 21st April 2016 Approval of the minutes was proposed by Caroline Wright, seconded by Ellen Curran.</p>	
14	<p>Community Councillor Roles and Responsibilities There was a brief discussion regarding future Community Councillor roles and responsibilities related to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gavinton.net web design and maintenance • Planning in general • Major wind-farm planning applications • Community Broadband activities • Resilient Communities planning <p>It was agreed to return to a number of these questions at the next meeting.</p>	
15	<p>Thanks: Chairperson Keith Dickinson thanked Kerry Renton, Ellen Curran and Tim Jackson for their contributions to the CC. Tim Jackson offered to continue to assist the CC with broadband improvements – the members agreed that Tim would be an asset to this project. Ellen Curran has kindly offered to continue to assist Jean Coleman on the resilient communities' project.</p>	
16	<p>The meeting closed at 9pm.</p>	
17	<p>Date of the next meeting: It was agreed that the Chair would contact CC members asap to identify a suitable date for the next meeting.</p>	

Appendix 1 - CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

CC Membership

There have been significant changes in your Community Council during the past year. In May 2016 two longstanding members of the Community Council, our former Treasurer, Mrs Kerry Renton, and Ms Ellen Curran stood down after eight years' service. Mr Tim Jackson, who has led on planning matters for several years also resigned from both the CC and his planning post. I would like to record the CC's thanks to all three for their valuable contribution over many years. It has been much appreciated.

In May 2016 we sought nominations for a new Community Council and it is very pleasing to report that we are now at full strength with 10 members. I would like to welcome all the new members and those members returning to the Community Council.

Since October 2014 I have taken on the role of Chair and Secretary with the help of and Lorraine Tait who has been Minutes Secretary. Jean Coleman has remained Vice Chair (and Resilient Communities Co-ordinator with Ellen Curran). Kerry Renton has been Treasurer, while Tim Jackson has taken the lead on planning matters, with the help of Kirsten Arthur, including our activities associated with major windfarm applications and the co-ordination of Community Broadband across several CC areas. Carole Wright, who joined us in December 2014, has continued as a co-opted member pending her successful recent elections to the CC. I would like to thank all members of the CC for their continued support throughout 2015-16.

Meetings held

Since the last AGM the CC has met eight times - June, August, September, October, December, January, March and April. Our three councillors, Frances Renton (LD), Donald Moffat (SNP) and John Greenwell (C) have attended many of our meetings and provided helpful guidance as well as useful contribution to our discussions. Minutes of all our meetings are available on our website <http://www.gavinton.net/>).

Annual Planning Summary - 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016

See attached: Planning summary 2015-16 pdf (table)

The CC has reviewed 19 new planning applications during the year, including a pre application notice for the Black Rig windfarm, a meteorological mast, telecommunications infrastructure, civil works for the building development in West Gavinton, and other building developments. A proposed new house in Polwarth has reverted to an application consented in 2013 after a protracted planning process.

There were seven applications pending at the start of the year, of which three are still pending after 27 to 64 months since their submission. SBC has requested development contributions for two of these longstanding applications for new houses at Hardens Hall and Hardens Road (Langton Field),

both near Duns. The third application for renovation of a derelict cottage at Langton Lees Farm remains pending after 52 months.

A total of 16 applications were approved during the year, which included the application for 54 new houses on land to the west of the conservation area in Gavinton.

Following a public exhibition in Duns in January 2016, an application for development of the Black Rig windfarm is expected to be submitted to SBC in early summer 2016. SBC will present observations on the Inch Moor windfarm application to the Scottish Government in September 2016. This windfarm is contiguous with Black Rig and located in Gordon & Westruther CC. SBC is expected to object to the Inch Moor application, which will trigger a public enquiry. The CC continues to consult with neighbouring CCs regarding a coordinated response to both these large windfarm proposals.

I would like to record our thanks to Tim Jackson for his efforts in this area over the past year.

Community Resilience Scheme

Jean Coleman and Ellen Curran have done a great job in preparing our Resilient Communities Plan. We now have a plan in place, stores and equipment now held at various locations throughout the CC area and all co-ordinators have signed up to **SB Alerts**. We are still looking for more helpers so please contact Jean or Ellen if you would like to get involved.

Consultations

We continue to represent the views of the community on a wide variety of topics both directly to SBC and other statutory bodies, and indirectly through the Berwickshire Area Forum and Scottish Borders Community Councils Network. Recent examples have included:

- Proposed Community Broadband Project with Community Broadband Scotland.
- Proposed Community Action Plan with Sarah Howard of Community Enterprise.
- Commenting on the Second Draft of Strategic Plan for Health & Social Care Integration

Website

Late in 2015 John Robertson our Webmaster indicated that he wished to give up his work maintaining our website. Since then we have, with the help of an Edinburgh Napier University Student Danny Airley, been working on the development of a new Gavinton.net website. We are extremely grateful that John agreed to maintain the existing site until the new Gavinton.net site is operational later this year and for the quick and effective way he gets new material onto the site.

Keith Dickinson
Chair,
Gavinton, Fogo & Polwarth CC
21st May 2016