



GAVINTON, FOGO & POLWARTH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Meeting held in Gavinton Village Hall
on Monday, the 19th December 2016 at 7pm**

Item	Comment	Action
1	Welcome and Introductions: Chairperson Keith Dickinson welcomed, Councillor John Greenwell, Carole Wright, Amanda Stewart, David Ward, Bryce Weir, Steve Hunter, Kirsten Arthur and John Marjoribanks	
2	Apologies: Cllr Donald Moffat, Cllr Frances Renton, Lorraine Tait, Jean Coleman	
3	Declarations of interest: None	
4	Minutes of the GFPCC Meeting 7th November 2016 Circulated to CC – no issues raised	
5	<p>Proposed Twinning of Gavinton with Villeneuve-au-Chemin</p> <p>John Marjoribanks, acting as village historian in 2012, uncovered a historical link between the Cockburn family of Choicelee and the Mayor of Villeneuve-au-Chemin, Monsieur Gilles de Cockborne. Since then he has worked to encourage a relationship between the two communities. John kindly accepted the invitation from the CC to brief the meeting on the village and people of Villeneuve-au-Chemin and to present his proposal for a formal twinning arrangement with Gavinton. His proposals included-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That GFPCC supports the development of a twinning arrangement with Villeneuve-au-Chemin with the purpose of encouraging reciprocal visits between the members of the two communities • That this arrangement should be pursued either on a formal or informal basis, as circumstances dictate • That John Marjoribanks is authorised, on behalf of the GFPCC, to continue discussions with the Municipal council of Villeneuve-au-Chemin for the purpose of arranging reciprocal visits between the two areas and to negotiate with potential donors such as EACEA to support any visits which may be arranged, always provided that any such arrangements are brought before the GFPCC for ratification before finalisation <p>The CC agreed to Johns proposals and were keen for the twinning project to be advanced to the next stage with Gavinton hosting visitors from Villeneuve-au-Chemin as early as next summer, perhaps during Reivers week. John agreed to take this project forward forming a twinning committee if possible to arrange future reciprocal visits and pursue other potential benefits including connections with French language high school students from the GFPCC area. John will enquire to SBC to see if twinning signs may be provided for Gavinton. John will advise the CC Secretary of progress and in due course be invited to a further meeting of the CC.</p>	JM
6	<p>Treasurers Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The application for the RBS business cheque account is proceeding with the new cheque book expected within the next 5 days. The current CC deposit account will be closed once the new account is active and the funds have been transferred. • The current balance of the CC account is £1045.52 • Cheques have been cashed to cover expenses for gifts for Andrea Marjoribanks and former CC members. • KD has paid the £101.50 annual fee for the internet site Gavinton.net and will be reimbursed once the new cheque book has been received 	CW

7	<p>Communications</p> <p>a. Jonny Nicholson has agreed to host the CC website, he has been in contact with both John Robertson and Danny Airlie and is now in a position to take on this role on our behalf. Jonny Nicholson will host this website for free providing his work is acknowledged on the website. Jonny doesn't have sufficient time to update the website but will help KD to perform this role.</p> <p>b. KD has requested CC members to give feedback on the new website with particular attention paid to the accuracy of the historical information contained within the site. CC members should notify KD of any errors so that they may be rectified.</p> <p>c. KD hoping that the website will 'go-live' in early January of 2017</p> <p>d. SH suggested that the CC should communicate its work to the community in a range of ways. Although the new web-site should be central to this strategy, we should make effective use of social media, local press, posting of minutes on notice boards, and possibly produce a quarterly newsletter. SH will be our link with the Berwickshire News. A meeting will be scheduled in January of 2017 including SH, AS, DW & KD to discuss the use of social media in the CC communications strategy.</p>	SH KD All KD SH AS DW
8	<p>Community Improvements and Maintenance</p> <p>a. Despite assurances from Cllr Frances Renton following her meeting with Deputy Chief Executive Philip Barr and from Cllr Donald Moffat following his meeting with Matthew Matheson of SBC that South Street & Maitland Row would be on the SBC programme of works with repairs expected within this financial year and patching works to be completed within 4-8 weeks – the CC noted great disappointment that the roads remain in a state that is considered dangerous for both traffic and pedestrians due to the lack of even basic maintenance. SH spoke to Darren Silcock of SBC prior to the meeting and was informed that Gavinton is not on any schedule of planned works at present. SH will pursue this matter further on our behalf and try to get an estimated date for work to be carried out. Additionally, Cllr John Greenwell will express our concerns to SBC.</p> <p>b. Update on the bus shelter at Polwarth unavailable as FR not present.</p>	SH JG FR
9	<p>Keep Berwickshire Tidy Award</p> <p>Commendation plaque from Berwickshire Civic Society is currently being engraved, Judy Torrance will deliver to AS when ready. Plaque will be displayed at the Gavinton village hall, an unveiling ceremony will be organised inviting Lady Bridget McEwan as president of the Berwickshire Civic Society.</p>	AS
10	<p>Update on areas of community land that may be maintained by the CC</p> <p>The area from Marchmount station to Cothill was identified as an area the CC may maintain. SH will obtain a map of core paths within the CC area to help identify other land that we may maintain.</p> <p>Bryce Weir has been maintaining paths within Brownlees Wood behind Gavinton church as a voluntary project. The CC acknowledge that this path is well used and enjoyed by the community. A community action day may be organised in the spring to help Bryce with path maintenance. The CC may apply for an SBC grant for materials required if necessary.</p>	SH BW
11	<p>Update on maintenance of the Redbrae Path</p> <p>Update unavailable as Cllr Donald Moffat was unable to attend the meeting. It was noted by BW and AS that the branches that had been obstructing the path had been cleared by SBC.</p>	DM

12	<p>Update on Winter Preparedness Meeting Update unavailable as Jean Coleman was not able to attend the meeting.</p>	JC
13	<p>Planning Current Planning Summary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No new planning applications since last meeting • SH informed the meeting that Inchmoor Wind Farm have withdrawn their planning application. 	SH
14	<p>Any Other Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BW queried the CC and SBC current view on care for the elderly. Cllr John Greenwell has offered to enquire with SBC and advise us on the most recent policy document. AS will then circulate this to CC members. • SH raised the issue of dwindling field margins and noted an RSPB campaign to encourage farmers to allow more room for nature. SH will enquire to David Seed for guidance on field margin requirements for agricultural grants. 	<p>JG AS</p> <p>SH</p>
15	<p>Dates of Meetings Next meeting Monday 30th January 2017. Future meetings will be held at Gavinton Village Hall at 7pm on 13th March and 24th April 2017.</p>	
16	<p>The meeting closed at 8.50 pm</p>	

