



**GAVINTON, FOGO & POLWARTH  
COMMUNITY COUNCIL**  
Minutes of the AGM held in Gavinton Village Hall  
on Monday, the 11<sup>th</sup> June 2018 at 7pm

Item	Comment	Action
1	<b>Welcome and Introductions:</b> Chairperson Keith Dickinson welcomed Cllr Donald Moffat, Amanda Stewart, Bryce Weir, Carole Wright, Terry O’Gorman, Julie Chalmers-McKenzie, Nigel McKnight	
2	<b>Apologies:</b> Lorraine Tait, Cllr John Greenwell, Cllr Mark Rowley, David Ward.	
3	<b>Declarations of interest:</b> None	
4	<b>Approval of Minutes from AGM, 5<sup>th</sup> June 2017:</b> Minutes approved with no amendments.	
5	<b>Chairman’s Report</b> A copy of the chairman’s report was circulated to all CC members prior to the meeting. A copy of this report is attached to the minutes and available on the CC website - Gavinton.net.	KD
6	<p><b>Treasurers Report</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual accounts have been completed and signed by the auditor Gus McMillan, CW and KD.</li> <li>• Current balance of the account - £1656.18</li> </ul> <p>2017-18 Income £1717.70 Expenditure £827.25 Surplus £890.45</p> <p>Income consists of £700 SBC grant and £1017.70 in donations to the Gavinton defibrillator. Expenditure includes £613.05 spent on the defibrillator. Of the current balance £404.65 is ring fenced for maintenance of the defibrillator.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In return for his services £15 was spent on a bottle of whisky for the auditor.</li> <li>• A £15 gardening voucher was purchased for Moira McMillan for maintaining the flower planter at Fogo.</li> <li>• Confirmation was received from RBS on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2018 that the list of signatories to the CC account had been updated.</li> <li>• AS to give CW contact details for Emma Lindsay of the village hall committee to arrange payment of rent.</li> </ul>	CW
7	<b>Proposals for amendment of the CC constitution</b> No amendments were proposed	
8	<b>Election of office bearers</b> No CC members wished to contest the positions and current office bearers were	



	<p>receive a reply within the next week. Richard Dobson, chair of Duns FC Juniors has not been in touch with KD with any plans to improve the parking situation in Gavinton. J-CM has offered to enquire with Duns FC Juniors on their progress on this issue and report back to the GFPCC. AS to forward J-CM a copy of the report from the meeting between KD and AS and the committee of Duns FC (Juniors).</p> <p>c. Update on potential funding for play equipment, Gavinton Village Green Cllr Greenwell was absent from the meeting and so this report was unavailable. AS to contact JG to determine if there has been any progress on this matter.</p> <p>d. Update on issue of vehicles crossing the village green to access parking Cllr Greenwell absent from meeting, AS to contact for update.</p> <p>e. Update on re-surfacing of South Street, Gavinton. Donald Scott of SBC contacted AS to confirm that SBC are committed to delivering the works as discussed, inclement weather in February and March greatly impacted the delivery of the planned works programme for the early part of the new financial year, an update on a start date for the works will be provided once programming can be confirmed. Cllr Donald Moffat has offered to enquire on behalf of the GFPCC if there is any progress on setting a date for these much-anticipated works.</p>	<p>JG/AS</p> <p>JG/AS</p> <p>AS/DM</p>
15	<p><b>Discussion of data from traffic survey, Main Street, Gavinton</b> The data from this traffic survey was circulated to CC members prior to the meeting. The data indicates that speeding traffic in Gavinton is not significant enough to be a priority for SBC. However, there are vehicles speeding through Gavinton, data indicates that 2 cars per day travel through Main Street at speeds in excess of 45 mph. BW and NM believe that such offenders drive through between 1.30-2.30 pm. Cllr Moffat suggested contacting Graham Jones at SBC to request community police officers are deployed to monitor traffic speeds at these times and catch the culprits. AS noted that more than 250 cars per week travelled through Gavinton at speeds in excess of 35mph which is a great concern to those residents who have young children. KD to contact Gary Haldane to determine if there is any data on the timing of vehicles travelling through Gavinton at excessive speeds.</p>	KD/DM
16	<p><b>Correspondence</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Police reports for the GFPCC area for May and June 2018 were forwarded to all CC members prior to the meeting. No incidents for the GFPCC area were noted in these reports.</li> <li>• CC members were made aware of consultations on licencing and local democracy and invited to participate. Details of consultations were made available to CC members prior to the meeting.</li> </ul>	AS
17	<p><b>Planning</b></p> <p>a) KD circulated an updated table of all current planning applications within our local area to CC members prior to the meeting.</p> <p>b) It was noted that a recent application for planning permission for a new dwelling house at Langton Birches had been refused by SBC.</p> <p>c) NM queried whether solar panels were banned in conservation areas such as Gavinton. The CC were unsure as to whether there was an out-right ban and advised speaking directly to the planning officers at SBC.</p>	<p>KD</p> <p>NM</p>

18	<p><b>Any Other Business</b></p> <p>BW raised the issue of grass cutting. Grass used to be cut by SBC once every 10 days and this policy has been changed to every 26 days in summer. Additionally, the grass cutting that has been done is of poor quality and no strimming has been carried out. DM confirmed that this has been the result of a change in SBC policy and that his FB page has received in excess of 2000 complaints relating to the lack of grass cutting. DM has been encouraging people to complain directly to SBC either online or by writing.</p> <p>CC agreed that the lack of grass cutting was now a serious issue affecting not just the aesthetics of the village but also the function of public spaces. The benches on the village green and Fogo road are now unusable because of grass and weeds growing through. The protective rubber tiles beneath play equipment in the play park has nettles and grass growing through. Some items of play equipment can no longer be accessed because of the long grass and ball games are impossible. The play park at Gavinton is therefore dysfunctional. Long grass particularly at road junctions also poses a threat to road safety, it was noted that at the junction between Nisbet Rhodes and the Duns Road, cars turning cannot see oncoming traffic because of the long grass.</p> <p>The CC formally requested Cllr Donald Moffat to take our views on their new policy on grass cutting to the next SBC Council meeting.</p> <p>AS and KD to draft a letter expressing our views and explaining the extent of the issue with regard to the poor standard of grass maintenance in the GFPCC area. This letter is to be sent to the Chief Executive of SBC Tracy Logan.</p>	<p>BW</p> <p>DM</p> <p>AS/KD</p>
19	<p><b>Dates of Meetings</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Future meetings will be held at Gavinton Village Hall at 7pm on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> August, 1<sup>st</sup> October and 10<sup>th</sup> December 2018 and 21<sup>st</sup> January, 18<sup>th</sup> March, 29<sup>th</sup> April and 10<sup>th</sup> June (AGM) 2019.</li> </ul>	
20	<p><b>The meeting closed at 8.50 pm</b></p>	

## **GAVINTON, FOGO & POLWARTH COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**AGM: Gavinton Village Hall - 7.00 pm Monday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2018**

### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

#### **CC Membership**

It has been very pleasing that the Community Council has been operating at full strength, with 10 members, for much of the year. However over recent months a number of members have retired from the Community Council so if you are interested in becoming a Community councillor please get in touch.

Steve Hunter retired from the CC, due to illness, in early in 2018 and I am sad to report that he passed away on the 7th April 2018. Steve was always willing to help, getting involved in many CC projects to try and make a positive difference to our community. He will be sadly missed.

Jean Coleman, who served the CC for many years and has been a leading person in the Resilient Communities activities retired from the CC in late 2017, whilst Kirsten Arthur- Vice Chair for many years decided to retire in April 2018. I would like to record my thanks to all members of the Community Council for their individual contribution, with special thanks to both Jean and Kirsten on their retirements.

Our three SBC councillors, Mark Rowley (Con), Donald Moffat (SNP) and John Greenwell (Con) have attended many of our meetings and provided helpful guidance as well as useful contribution to our discussions. I would like to thank them all for their support over the past year.

#### **Meetings held**

Since the last AGM the CC has met eight times - June, August, September, November, December, January, March and April. Minutes of all our meetings are available on our website <http://www.gavinton.net/community-council/minutes-of-meetings/minutes-of-meetings-2010-present/>

#### **Annual Planning Summary – to June 2018**

It has been a relatively quiet year for planning applications. In summary, we have tracked just 9 new Planning Applications since May 2017. Of these 5 have been approved, 2 refused and 2 are awaiting a decision. All can be viewed via the Gavinton.net website at <http://www.gavinton.net/community-council/planning/details-of-past-and-current-planning-applications/>

We still await work commencing on the Road Junction at Gavinton (High Street/A6105) which we understand needs to be completed before the West Gavinton Development can commence.

#### **Road maintenance and potholes**

Last year SBC responded to CC requests and agreed to the re-surfacing of South Street, Gavinton. We have held a public meeting to allow Gavinton residents to review the plans for this work with the intention to begin preparatory works during March. However, severe weather has affected the programme and works are yet to start.

In September our local SBC Councillors voted in favour of funding from the Small Schemes budget for the construction of two passing places on the single-track road between Gavinton and Nisbet Rhodes. The funding for this work has now been approved but due to the bad inter weather the construction has been delayed. We look forward to this being completed soon.

Road maintenance and potholes have been a source of continued frustration over the year and the Community Council has made major efforts to improve the situation. Steve Hunter prepared a map of our CC area showing the location of potholes. As a result, Darren Silcock, who is in charge of organising temporary and emergency road repairs, has been through our list of potholes and many have now been treated with the SBC jetpatcher. Unfortunately, potholes remain an issue.

I would like to record our thanks to Steve Hunter and other committee members for their efforts in these areas over the past year.

### **Gavinton defibrillator**

With the assistance of the British Red Cross and generous donations by many residents and others we now have a defibrillator mounted at the Gavinton Village Hall. We held familiarisation on Saturday the 21st April 2018, led by Craig Prentice from Scottish Fire & Rescue. The CC would like to thank to John Fraser and Kevin Sewell of SBC for getting it from the British Red Cross. Thanks also to Amanda and all who helped raise and contribute to the funding of the Defibrillator and its installation.

### **Community Resilience Scheme**

Jean Coleman has done a great job with our Resilient Communities planning. We have a plan in place, stores and equipment now held at various locations throughout the CC area and co-ordinators have signed up to **SB Alerts**. Unfortunately, as Jean has now retired, we are looking for more helpers so please contact us 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.

In November Robert McCulloch-Graham, Chief Officer Integration Joint Board attended the CC meeting to discuss concerns of GFPCC members over consultations and plans for integration of NHS and social care services. Robert gave a clear over-view on the current progress made on integration of health and social care which resulted in a very useful discussion.

### **Website and Facebook**

Late in 2016 a newly developed Gavinton.net website became live at <https://www.gavinton.net/> Jonny Nicholson has agreed to host the new website at no cost other than an acknowledgement of this on the website. Over the next year I have agreed to update the website and I would be pleased to receive news items for posting on the site.

Gavinton Community has also set up a Facebook page which has been managed by Amanda Stewart and David Ward. If you follow us on Facebook you should receive alerts to cinema screenings and much more. Please get in touch if you have any items you wish to post.

The Community Council is extremely grateful to all who have helped in these developments.

### **Amendment to the GFPCC constitution**

Following consultations with SBC it was agreed that we needed to make a small amendment to section 2.7 and 4.1 of our standing orders. Section 4.1 now reads: *"The Standing Orders may be amended at any meeting of the Council provided that previous notice of the motion to that effect has been given in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 2.1"*. It was also necessary to make changes to the GFPCC Constitution. Paragraph 16.1 of the constitution now reads *"All business of the Council shall be conducted in accordance with the Standing Orders as prepared and approved by the Council"*.

**Keith Dickinson**  
**Chair, Gavinton, Fogo & Polwarth Community Council**  
**8<sup>th</sup> June 2018**