



**GAVINTON, FOGO & POLWARTH
COMMUNITY COUNCIL**
Minutes of the AGM held in Gavinton Village Hall
on Monday, the 10th June 2019 at 7pm

Item	Comment	Action
1	Welcome and Introductions: Chairperson Keith Dickinson welcomed Cllr Donald Moffat, Ian Porter, Amanda Stewart, Bryce Weir, Carole Wright, Nigel McKnight, Lorraine Tait.	
2	Apologies: Cllr John Greenwell, Cllr Mark Rowley.	
3	Declarations of interest: None	
4	Chairman's Report 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 these minutes (Appendix 1)	KD
5	<p>Treasurers Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual accounts have been completed and signed by the auditor Gus McMillan, CW and KD. • Current balance of the account - £2052.24 <p>2018-19 Income £1220 Expenditure £803.94</p> <p>Income consists of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £700 SBC grant • £120 from SBC environmental fund for plants (2 years grant) • £400 from the Blackhill Windfarm Community Fund for website update. <p>Expenditure includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £590.37 on dog poo bag dispensers and bins • £30 donation to Macmillan Cancer • £10 subscription to the CC forum • £70 rent for use of the Gavinton Village Hall • £41.49 was spent on the defibrillator • £19.19 for website • £12.89 spent on plants and soil. • In return for his services £15 was spent on a bottle of whisky for the auditor. • A £15 gardening voucher was purchased for Moira McMillan for maintaining the flower planter at Fogo. <p>Ring fenced funds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £363.13 - maintenance of the defibrillator. • £545.00 – website • £150.00 – installation costs for dog waste dispensers` • Balance of account available to CC- £994.08 	CW
6	Proposals for amendment of the CC constitution	

	No amendments were proposed	
7	<p>Election of office bearers</p> <p>No CC members wished to contest the positions and current office bearers were happy to continue in their positions. The committee welcomed the appointment of DW as Vice-Chairperson.</p> <p>KD -Chair – proposed by AS, seconded by LT</p> <p>CW -Treasurer – proposed by LT, seconded by DW</p> <p>AS -Secretary- proposed by KD, seconded by BW</p> <p>DW- Vice-Chair – proposed by AS, seconded by CW</p>	
8	<p>Appointment of auditors</p> <p>Angus McMillan was appointed as auditor</p>	
9	<p>Agreement to abide by the Scottish Borders Code of Conduct for Community Councillors</p> <p>All members agreed to abide by this code of conduct.</p>	
	Other General Business	
10	<p>Minutes of the GFPCC Meeting 29th April 2019</p> <p>Minutes approved with no amendments</p>	AS
11	<p>Matters arising from the minutes and not covered elsewhere on the agenda</p> <p>None</p>	
12	<p>Police Report</p> <p>Ian Porter (Community Policing) was kind enough to attend the meeting to discuss the GFPCC police report for May 2019. Each police report outlines current campaigns both local and national. Ian highlighted a recent campaign on security in rural environments. In recent weeks there have been a number of house break-ins in Berwickshire (none in our GFPCC area) police are making progress but Ian Porter wished to draw our attention to the crime prevention advice on the Police Scotland webpage. Another current campaign deals with 'romance fraud'. These crimes often target vulnerable people. Ian Porter encouraged CC to contact police on 101 and report any suspected crimes of this nature.</p> <p>There were 3 reported incidents in our GFPCC area, only one of which had any bearing on the community. There was a report of a white van driving slowly around Gavinton with cable ties being placed on lamp posts near residences with dogs. There have been no further reports of this nature and insufficient information to follow this up. The CC appreciate being made aware of this report, NMCK volunteered to remove all cable ties from lamp posts so that we may be vigilant for this in future.</p> <p>BW queried the incidence of drug crime. There have been no incidents in our area but recent police enquiries led to the apprehension and prosecution of drug dealers in Galashiels and Eyemouth.</p>	IP
13	<p>Community Improvements and Maintenance</p> <p>a. Assessment of potentially dangerous trees at the football pitches in Gavinton.</p> <p>KD spoke to DS and confirmed that the trees will be reviewed in the autumn of 2019.</p> <p>b. Update on potential funding for play equipment, Gavinton Village Green</p> <p>DW and AS did not attend the recent Berwickshire Area Partnership Meeting as planned. DW contacted 2 companies for plans and quotes for upgrading the play park however this information was not available in time for the meeting. Additionally, before requesting funds at the Berwickshire Area Partnership meeting it is necessary to complete a</p>	KD

	<p>fully budgeted application to the Community Fund – without the final plans and quotes it was impossible to complete this application. DW to continue to contact companies to form a complete plan with costings. Cllr Moffat suggested contacting Claire Penney of SBC for advice on sources of funding. Cllr Moffat informed the meeting that SBC were investing 135 thousand pounds on upgrading Duns park to a 'destination park' but that SBC were removing playparks at Ainslie Terrace and Trinity Park in Duns. SBC have no plans to remove village play-parks such as the park in Gavinton.</p> <p>c. Update on stone chippings for the middle section of the footpath to Ford, Gavinton. Cllr Rowley absent from meeting, AS to contact for update.</p> <p>d. Review of SBC grass cutting. BW commented that SBC had done an atrocious job of cutting the grass on the village green. The grass was allowed to grow so long that the children could not play there and then when cut the waste grass was left lying on the green making such a mess that the area still could not be used. The CC agreed that the grass cutting was inadequate and the mess of the green reflected poorly on the village. KD reflected that last summer he wrote on our behalf to the Chief Executive of SBC Tracey Logan to complain about the frequency and quality of grass cutting and was reassured that this issue would be resolved. John Greenwell had suggested to SBC that as the village green was considered a 'high amenity' area, a 10-day grass cutting cycle would be appropriate rather than the 26-day cycle that was recently introduced. AS to forward photos of the village green to Cllr Moffat who will take our concerns to SBC.</p>	<p>DW/AS/DM</p> <p>NMcK/MR</p> <p>All</p>
14	<p>Planning GFPC were asked for comments on a recent planning application for replacement windows at Polwarth Mill Farm, Greenlaw. Details of this application were forwarded to all CC prior to the meeting. CC confirmed that we have no objection to this application.</p>	<p>KD</p>
15	<p>75th Anniversary of VE Day SBC forwarded a communication to the CC regarding next years 75th anniversary of VE day – encouraging community groups to organise celebrations and street parties to commemorate this event. AS forwarded this information to KD and to Ann Roberts of the Gavinton Village Hall Committee. AR was keen to celebrate and commemorate the end of the last war in Europe. KD felt it would be good to have a joint event with the Village Hall and Community Council. BW felt that a commemoration at the war memorial in Gavinton would be appropriate and suggested a piper/choir. The CC felt that if the Village Hall Committee wished to plan this event that we would be happy to contribute and support the event.</p>	<p>AS/KD/AR</p>

16	<p>Correspondence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Police report for GFPC area - May 2019 has been forwarded to all CC members prior to the meeting. • Fit for 2024 – Scottish Borders Rural Transport Conference 2019 – invitation forwarded to all CC members prior to the meeting. KD has applied for a place to attend this conference. • Consultation on the proposed return of the Jim Clark Rally was forwarded to all CC members prior to the meeting. KD expressed frustration at his unsuccessful attempts to contact the Chief Executive of SBC and the Jim Clark Rally organisers (via the web-page). KD felt that as a CC through which the rally is running, we should be consulted so that we can be satisfied that criteria for safety have been met. Cllr Moffat enquired at the recent localities meeting for the contact details of the Jim Clark Rally organisers and will pass this information to KD when it becomes available. • Community Councils Equality Statement. All CC agreed to the equality statement which was signed by KD on our behalf. AS to forward this document to SBC. 	AS
17	<p>Any Other Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KD encouraged CC to attend local meetings such as the Berwickshire Area Partnership meetings. KD will circulate the meeting papers for future meetings to CC members. • KD commented on the Localities Bid Fund- administered by SBC. KD registered and cast his vote for funding applications. However, a system error required him to reconfirm his information to allow his vote to be counted – KD was away and therefore unable to complete this process and his vote was not counted. Cllr Moffat was aware of the problems and commented that additional time had been given for people to cast a traditional paper vote. He offered to enquire with Claire Penney of SBC as to how many people had registered but been unable to cast their vote due to this system error. • NMcK informed the meeting that he wished to step down from the community council. The CC members were sorry to see him go and KD expressed thanks for his contributions to the committee. • BW informed the meeting that the flower containers in Gavinton are nearly all planted and that receipts will be submitted as soon as possible. • CW raised a query over how CC funds are spent. Are certain amounts kept for each area? KD confirmed that we are one community council covering 3 areas and funds are spent according to need. • AS requested that SBC repair the sign for Hunter Bridge at Fogo which has been knocked down. Cllr Moffat offered to bring this to the attention of Darren Silcock. 	<p>KD</p> <p>KD/DM</p> <p>NMcK/KD</p> <p>CW/KD</p> <p>AS/DM</p>
18	<p>Councillor Update</p> <p>Cllr Moffat wished to inform the meeting about a campaign to reduce crime related to works vans. On 11th June 2019 at Travis Perkins at the trading estate in Kelso there will be demonstrations of how to increase van safety and security including the use of motion detectors. Further sessions will be carried out in Galashiels and Hawick.</p>	DM

19	Dates of Meetings a) Future meetings will be held at Gavinton Village Hall at 7pm on Monday 19 th August, 30 th September, 11 th November and 16 th December 2019 and 27 th January, 9 th March, 27 th April and 8 th June (AGM) 2020.	
20	The meeting closed at 9.07 pm	

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Appendix 1

GAVINTON, FOGO & POLWARTH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

AGM: Gavinton Village Hall - 7.00 pm Monday 10th June 2019

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

CC Membership

Over the past year the Community Council has been operating below full strength, with 7 elected members. It is pleasing, however, to record that we have been joined by Nigel McKnight who was co-opted to the CC in August 2018. I would like to thank all my Community Council colleagues for all their help over the past year. If you are interested in becoming a Community Councillor, or know someone who is, please get in touch.

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 seven times - June, August, October, December, January, March and April. Minutes of all our meetings are available on our website at <https://www.gavinton.net/community-council/minutes-of-meetings/minutes-of-meetings-2010-present/>

Annual Planning Summary – 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019

It has been another relatively quiet year for planning applications. In summary, we have tracked just 11 new Planning Applications since April 2018. Of these 9 have been approved, 1 decided, and 1 withdrawn. An additional 2 from a previous year are awaiting a decision. All can be viewed via the Gavinton.net website at <https://www.gavinton.net/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/AGM-2018-19-planning-table-v2.pdf>

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 held a public meeting to allow Gavinton residents to review the plans for this work with the intention to begin preparatory works during March 2018. However, severe weather affected the programme and works were delayed. Fortunately, by December 2018, after numerous delays, the re-surfacing of South Street, Gavinton was completed. The CC can report that residents were happy the road re-surfacing work and the work on replacing/repairing the cobbled areas.

In September 2017 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 at Langton Field between Gavinton and Nisbet Rhodes. Again, although approved this work was delayed due to the bad winter weather the construction was however completed in April 2019.

I would like to record our thanks to Bryce Weir and other committee members for their efforts in helping progress these projects over the past year.

Consultations

Attendance at several Berwickshire - Invitation to the Area Partnership Meeting 6th June, 6.30pm at

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 Partnership and Scottish Borders Community Councils Network. We would encourage members of the community to take advantage of the many opportunities to give their views on a range of issues. The Scottish Borders Council website - Citizen Space - pages, are a good way into current consultation opportunities <https://scotborders.citizenspace.com/>.

Website and Facebook

Late in 2016 a newly developed Gavinton.net website became live at <https://www.gavinton.net/>. Although successful it was felt that improvements could be made especially with regard to the Home page and the inclusion of various interactive maps.

£400 funding for improvements to Gavinton.net webpage was obtained from the Blackhill Wind Farm. Johnny Nicholson and Tim Jackson have now created a new updated home page for the CC website with more prominent links to our Facebook page and prominent live news items. A new online booking system for the village hall has been included along with interactive community maps.

Jonny Nicholson has agreed to host the new website at no cost other than an acknowledgement of this on the website. Tim Jackson has agreed to maintain and update the CC website. He will also use the webpage to show-case his interactive maps showing local walks, planning applications, local amenities and places of interest.

Finally, there are plans for our Gavinton Community Facebook page, which has been managed by Amanda Stewart and David Ward, to be combined with that of the Village Hall Committee. A combined Facebook page will allow all local information is distributed through a single source. 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 wonderful developments.

Other significant activities

Dog fouling continues to be a source for concern in Gavinton. As a result, the CC has purchased a number of Poo Bag Dispensers for Gavinton. Following discussion on the number of dispensers required and the best locations it was decided that 3 dispensers were needed to be placed; On the village green beside litter bin; At the football pitches; At the bottom of Main Street/Crimson Hill beside the litter bin. There were 4 bins in Gavinton. However, a further bin has been purchased and placed beside the dispenser at the football fields.

We would like to thank Bryce Weir for purchasing the posts and concrete required for fixing the dispensers and bin and then for undertaking the installation work himself.

Keith Dickinson
Chair, Gavinton, Fogo & Polwarth Community Council
1st June 2019