



**GAVINTON, FOGO & POLWARTH
COMMUNITY COUNCIL**
Minutes of the Zoom Meeting
Monday, the 28th September 2020 at 7pm

Item	Comment	Action
1	<p>Welcome and Introductions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chairperson Keith Dickinson welcomed Cllr John Greenwell, Cllr Donald Moffat, Cllr Mark Rowley, Bryce Weir, Ann Lindsay, Tim Jackson and Amanda Stewart. 	
2	<p>Apologies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lorraine Tait 	
3	<p>Declarations of interest: None raised</p>	
4	<p>Approval of minutes from last meeting 10th August 2020:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minutes were approved with no amendments 	
5	<p>Matters arising from minutes - not covered elsewhere in the agenda:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KD gave an update on the resilient community covid response. KD was contacted by Norrie Tait – lead for the Berwickshire Hub co-ordinating covid-19 activities – inviting Keith to take part in a debrief meeting to discuss the community response to covid-19 along with representatives of other community councils and SBC officers. The intention is to build upon the work of the Hubs in supporting the community by bringing together representatives from social work, NHS, youth services, third sector and community groups. KD will continue to co-operate with this group to feedback the views of our community. • MR commented that the Hub model worked well bringing health, social care and education together to respond to the Covid-19 crisis and future community needs. He felt that it was impressive the way that the community and community councils have been involved with the Hubs. 	<p>KD</p> <p>MR</p>
6	<p>Treasurers Report</p> <p>CW was unable to attend the meeting but circulated a summary of the accounts prior to the meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Balance of the account £2344.04 • 2 cheques noted at the previous meeting have now been cashed and no further cheques have been issued. • £1000 received from SBC in support of resilient community activities for the covid-19 response remain ringfenced for this purpose. • £345.24 remains ringfenced for defibrillator costs • Balance for general expenditure £998.80 • SBC have confirmed that the support grant for this year will be £630 – awaiting confirmation that the funds are on the way. 	<p>CW</p>

7	<p>Co-opting Ann Lindsay on to the Community Council Ann Lindsay's address and electoral role number were included in the agenda for this meeting. All community councillors were happy for Ann Lindsay to be co-opted and KD formally welcomed Ann to the community council.</p>	KD
8	<p>Community Website KD welcome Tim Jackson to the meeting to give an update on the community webpage.</p> <p>History and Costs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TJ took over as website administrator in January 2019 • website is hosted free of charge by Jonny Nicolson (JN, Scottish Borders Website Design) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ previously cost £90pa ○ now approaching 10Gb server content ceiling for free hosting (93% at present); media content is the main culprit (graphics, photos and videos); almost all map content is on another GIS server, so not relevant • new look upgrade launched on 28 Mar 2019 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ £545 upgrade cost by JN • annual costs (up to £310pa): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ £15pa for domain name ○ £70pa for event calendar plugin, essential for recurring events and flagging upcoming events on home page; this mostly benefits the village hall, so perhaps they should contribute? ○ £100pa provisional allocation for technical support from JN ○ £125pa would be future cost for unlimited server content <p>Upgrade Details</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • more informative and attractive front/home page with sliding header photos and a prominent link to the community Facebook page • revised menus, including new pages on maps, walks, cycle trails, local amenities, and places of interest • an improved calendar and an online booking form for the village hall <p>Website Use</p> <p>(from upgrade in March 2019 to 17 September 2020)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • almost ten thousand-page views, an average of 18-page views a day • the calendar, village hall and map content have attracted the most attention • maps for Covid response, walks, and local places of interest have been popular, an average of two-page views of maps each day • a map showing the location and status of current planning applications is prepared for each CC meeting, and is well used 	KD TJ

	<p>Interactive Maps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • created using Ordnance Survey maps and data through a special licence available to all CCs free of charge <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ excellent maps, zoomable down to street level • the maps have popup links to further information making them much more useful than static maps <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ for example, the planning application maps include links to SBC's planning portal • with KD support, Tim's intention has been to encourage other CCs to do likewise, ideally with government assistance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ some interest from SBC's emergency planning officer and the Scottish Government Improvement Service; discussions are ongoing ○ we could help pioneer 'community mapping' in Scotland, starting in Berwickshire • Covid response maps have helped three resilient community groups in Berwickshire (Gavinton, Reston and Chirnside), and attracted the attention of SBC's emergency planning officer <p>Value for Money</p> <p>The website</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provides an important means of sharing news and information with our community residents and beyond, along with Facebook (which TJ co-edits with AS) • provides a convenient reference to past records of meetings, news items, events, documents, photos, maps and other relevant data about the area • is well used for routine CC meetings (agendas, minutes, planning applications, documents, etc), and retained for reference • has improved the use and revenue for the village hall through the online booking form and an effective calendar of events • TJ does not wish the website to be constrained by the free 10Gb server storage limit, and wishes the CC to consider an upgrade to unlimited capacity at a cost of £125pa. <p>KD thanked TJ for all his hard work keeping the webpage up to date. KD suggested that funds from the Covid-19 emergency grant could be used to fund the upgrade in order to help keep the community connected. KD was supportive of the work that TJ is doing and felt that this work could be expanded to benefit other areas and community councils.</p> <p>JG agreed that keeping the community connected through the webpage was a good use of Covid-19 funding.</p> <p>The community council were in agreement that the storage should be upgraded using Covid funding and KD asked TJ to provide him with a summary of all associated costs.</p>	<p>KD</p> <p>JG</p> <p>KD/TJ/All</p>
9	<p>Planning</p> <p>KD prepared a planning summary prior to the meeting which was available on the web-page and e-mailed to CC.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There were no new planning applications for our CC area. 	<p>KD</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 previous applications were approved - application for replacement windows at Victoria Lodge, Main Street, Gavinton and external renovations to outside gates and doors to dwelling, Langton House, Main Street, Gavinton. • KD did not receive any objections from CC to the application for development of an occupational health/PTSD therapy centre, plot 1, land south of Langton Edge, Duns. KD has therefore informed SBC planning officers that the CC has no objections to this application. <p>Details of all planning applications are available on the community webpage.</p>	
10	<p>Transport</p> <p>20mph speed limit trial</p> <p>A road safety initiative funded by Sustrans through a "Spaces for People" fund for temporary infrastructure projects to encourage walking and cycling during Covid-19 and easing of lockdown has received £1.2 million to carry out a trial reduction in speed limits from 30mph to 20mph for a period of 18 months in locations all across the Borders. Gavinton village has been selected to take part in this trial. KD noted that speed monitoring tubes had been laid across Main Street in Gavinton to note traffic speed prior to the trial. KD noted that where there has been a measurable effect in traffic speed the new reduced speed limits would be retained beyond the period of the trial.</p> <p>MR informed the meeting that the speed limit signs in the village were about to be changed.</p> <p>DM noted that road speeds would be checked before the trial, during and then after to test the effectiveness of the new speed restrictions.</p> <p>Funding to assist cycling and walking</p> <p>SBC have approached the CC asking for ideas for proposals that would assist walking and cycling in the post COVID world. Such projects would be funded by Sustrans. Several members of the community have approached KD regarding access to the old railway track from Duns to Greenlaw over recent months. In discussion with former Cllr Renton KD was told that in the past there had been consideration of upgrading the path. KD therefore mentioned this to the SBC Access and Transport team and they liked the idea of investigating a walking, cycling, horse riding track along the line of the old railway. The SBC officers and countryside rangers interested in upgrading paths said that they would approach Sustrans with a view to Sustrans funding a feasibility study. If such funding is secured there will be a need for wide consultation within the communities of Gavinton, Fogo and Polwarth, as well as Duns and Greenlaw CCs, prior to the development of any detailed proposal.</p> <p>DM noted that there had been some previous work upgrading the old railway line between Gordon and Earlston. It might be possible in future to link up many of these old railway lines to produce a network of routes for walking and cycling benefitting not just locals but also tourism and the wider economy.</p>	<p>KD</p> <p>MR</p> <p>DM</p> <p>KD</p> <p>DM</p>
11	<p>Councillor Update</p> <p>Cllr John Greenwell and Cllr Mark Rowley had to leave the meeting early to attend other commitments and therefore their update was unavailable.</p> <p>Cllr Donald Moffat</p>	<p>DM</p>

	Cllr Moffat informed the meeting that he is now back on the SBC planning committee and will be in a better position in future to advise the CC on matters of planning.	
12	<p>Any Other Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KD informed the meeting that he has been selected as one of the 2 CC leaders for the newly formed South of Scotland Regional Economic Partnership. KD has so far attended 2 meetings and can help put our views forward in developing policy for the development of the Scottish Borders. • DM confirmed to the meeting that Gavinton play park is on the list of smaller parks due for upgrade by SBC. SBC should contact the CC 6months/1 year prior to the start of works to seek community input. • BW noted that driving down South Street in Gavinton is becoming particularly difficult due to the number of cars and difficulty passing parked cars. • BW wished the community improvements and maintenance list to be returned to the CC agenda – the CC agreed, and this will be added to the next agenda. • BW felt that the issue of the frequency of grass cutting especially on the village green and at road ends has still not been addressed. Although made worse this year by redeployment of SBC staff for Covid related duties it is time to plan for more frequent grass cutting next year. DM informed the meeting that we should ask our Councillors to press this issue before the next council budget is decided in Jan-Feb 2021. AS was asked to alert MR and JG that we will wish to discuss budgets for grass cutting at our next meeting. • BW met with Neil Pringle from SBC on 7th Feb 2020 - the issue of overhanging shrubbery on Main Street, Gavinton was discussed however this issue has still not been dealt with. Cllr Greenwell had previously offered to chase this issue on behalf of the CC and we hope will have an update ready for the next CC meeting. • BW felt that the 20mph road speed trial was a good idea for Gavinton but felt that the scheme had been rolled out across the Borders without much planning on where a 20mph speed limit would be appropriate. DM informed the meeting that funding for the trial was dependant on all villages being included, 80 towns and villages were selected. KD noted that every village had been included in the trial without assessing individual needs, 18 month period will then be used to analyse the effects. 	<p>KD</p> <p>DM</p> <p>BW</p> <p>BW</p> <p>BW</p> <p>KD</p> <p>AS</p> <p>BW/JG</p> <p>BW</p> <p>DM</p> <p>KD</p>
20	<p>Dates of Meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Future meetings will be held at Gavinton Village Hall if possible, at 7pm on Monday 2nd November and 7th December 2020, 25th January, 8th March, 26th April and 7th June (AGM) 2021. Meetings may be held over Zoom when it is considered necessary. 	
21	The meeting closed at 8.05 pm	

