



GAVINTON, FOGO & POLWARTH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Zoom Meeting
Monday the 25th January 2021 at 7pm**

Item	Comment	Action
1	<p>Welcome and Introductions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chairperson Keith Dickinson welcomed Cllr Donald Moffat, Cllr John Greenwell, Carole Wright, Lorraine Tait, Bryce Weir and Amanda Stewart. 	
2	<p>Apologies: Ann Lindsay and Cllr Mark Rowley</p>	
3	<p>Declarations of interest: None raised</p>	
4	<p>Approval of minutes from last meeting 7th December 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"> None raised 	
6	<p>Treasurers Report CW gave an update on the CC account:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Balance of the account £2724.04 Two cheques were issued - £64.50 for dog waste bags and £80 to Gavinton Village Hall as payment for hall fees for last year's GFPC meetings. £921.22 ringfenced for resilient community activities for the covid-19 response. £345.24 remains ringfenced for defibrillator costs Balance for general expenditure £1457.58 <p>KD has found a cheaper deal to pay for Zoom meetings with an annual subscription which works out at £8.90 per month rather than the £14.39 we currently pay. This will cover subscriptions until early January 2022 at which time we can decide if Zoom is still required. CW will give KD a cheque to cover the cost of Zoom subscription.</p> <p>CW reported to the meeting that switching of the GFPC bank account seems unlikely at this time. Although RBS informed CW that we were eligible for these switching schemes the Co-op bank informed CW that we were not eligible and Metro bank have currently suspended the opening of new accounts due to high demand. We can continue with the RBS account and CW has offered to look into this again if the Metro bank restart opening accounts.</p> <p>CW reminded the meeting that our next meeting will be the last before the end of the financial year and that we should submit any expenses incurred. AS to order consumables required for the defibrillator and submit</p>	<p>CW</p> <p>KD</p> <p>CW</p> <p>CW</p> <p>CW/AS</p>

	<p>invoices to CW.</p> <p>CW enquired as to cost of upgrade to server storage for webpage previously agreed by the CC. KD to contact TJ and Johnny Nicholson to ask for an invoice for this work.</p>	CW/KD
7	<p>Community Improvements and Maintenance</p> <p>a) Review of SBC grass cutting and maintenance of vegetation on roadside verges. JG felt that this was the wrong time of year to discuss grass cutting and informed the meeting that many of the parks department workforce have been redeployed on Covid related work. JG felt it would be best to put pressure on these departments when workers are back to their normal jobs. JG has contacted Craig Blackie of SBC to get the schedule for grass cutting set for the coming year. BW felt happy to leave this issue for now so long as SBC are aware of the issues and are getting plans in place. BW also requested that JG ensure that Craig Blackie was aware of issues around grass cutting at the junction of Main Street and the main Greenlaw/Duns road. BW has been cutting back the grass to maintain sight lines for traffic but felt that this job should be carried out by SBC.</p> <p>b) Update on problem of overhanging shrubbery in Gavinton. BW reported to the meeting that the issue of overhanging shrubbery on Main Street has not been resolved. JG has raised this issue with Craig Blackie of SBC.</p> <p>c) Improvements to parking area at the football pitches, Gavinton. AS contacted Craig Blackie to request cones for the football club to control parking and this request was passed on to Gary Haldane. GH felt it would be difficult to take action on parking as vehicles would still need to park somewhere and that no waiting cones are only enforceable when placed by the council and the Duns depot does not have sufficient stock to supply cones for the football club when required for events. GH suggested that we consider a more permanent solution of verge marker posts to prevent damage to the verges. KD had a discussion on this matter with GH and explained that cars could park in a more appropriate area in Gavinton, he felt that verge marker posts could be useful and will look into this. Ann Lindsay has provided AS with contact details of the Chair & Secretary of Duns FC Juniors and KD and AS to arrange a meeting to discuss whether the football club could take more responsibility for parking and advise parents dropping children off to park responsibly on only one side of the main road and whether the CC could provide cones that the football club could use to control parking. BW suggested that SBC should put up a sign on the side of the road opposite the football club saying 'No Parking'. KD to discuss this with GH. AS and KD to discuss with Duns FC juniors whether funding could be found to improve off road parking. KD wondered whether there was any money from the developer's contribution for the W. Gavinton housing development that may be available for this</p>	<p>JG/BW</p> <p>AS/KD</p>

	<p>purpose. JG suggested that KD should ask David Robertson, Chief Finance Officer at SBC about the agreed developer contribution. DM suggested that if some funding was found for this project we could apply for the remainder of the funding from SBC as a community project.</p> <p>d) Maintenance of Hedges at the football fields, Gavinton KD contacted Craig Blackie 2 months ago to discuss the issue of the maintenance of these hedges and received no response. More recently KD contacted Neil Hastie and copied JG into the email enquiry and received an apology and promise to look into this issue asap. KD felt that we need clarity on who is responsible for the maintenance of these hedges, SBC or football club. Thomas Darling is happy to maintain the field side of the hedges but feels the trees are now too high and he is afraid to cut them in case they become unstable.</p>	
8	<p>Planning</p> <p>KD prepared a planning summary prior to the meeting which was available on the webpage and e-mailed to CC.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There was one new planning application for our CC area. John Fuller of Hillview, Main Street Gavinton has submitted an application for replacement windows. Planning permission is required as the house is within the conservation area and the CC raised no objections to this application. <p>Details of all planning applications are available on the community webpage.</p>	KD
9	<p>Correspondence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mid-Berwickshire police report December 2020 forwarded to all CC prior to the meeting. BW commented that the report shows that Border Bikes in Duns was broken in to for a third time and that he hoped progress was being made to prevent such crimes. CC insurance renewal form was forwarded to KD who completed this on behalf of the CC. Insurance premium is usually paid by SBC however the CC pay a supplement for insurance for the defibrillator, we will receive an invoice for this amount. 	AS KD
10	<p>Councillor Update</p> <p>Cllr John Greenwell has been receiving emails from members of the public concerned about the closure of Duns Medical Practice which currently has 3000 registered patients. NHS have been carrying out an online consultation on the future for this practice however JG felt that this had not been well publicised and that many patients were unaware of the consultation. JG offered to forward the consultation to KD.</p> <p>Cllr Mark Rowley was unable to attend the meeting however he asked KD to update the meeting on an opportunity in conjunction with Sustrans to look at innovative ways to improve cycling and pedestrian traffic around Duns. MR wished KD to participate in a meeting to discuss improvements to walking and cycling routes to local schools and this may involve routes from Gavinton-Duns. KD was happy to participate in this event and report back to the CC.</p> <p>Cllr Donald Moffat Cllr Moffat was pleased that JG had covered the issue of Duns Medical</p>	JG MR/KD DM

	Practice as this is something he is also concerned with. DM informed the meeting that he had received complaints from the public during recent spells of wintry weather concerning the state of the roads, DM confirmed that one of the gritters covering the Duns area and one pavement gritter had been out of action but were now working again.	
11	<p>Any Other Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KD is participating in the South of Scotland Regional Economic Partnership meetings. He wished to inform the meeting that there is likely to be an online consultation in the near future, KD to forward this consultation to CC when it becomes available. • KD informed the meeting that there is to be a review of the Berwickshire Area Partnership which is involved in development of locality plans and distribution of the community fund. KD will participate in this review and report back to the CC. • BW wished clarification on the role of the councillors in supporting the CC. Should CC be contacting SBC officers directly or raising issues at CC meetings and have our elected councillors contact the relevant SBC officer. <p>DM felt that CC and councillors must work together to help the community. JG encouraged use of the SBC online portal to report issues to SBC and where issues remain then councillors can get involved. JG also commented that councillors represent many CC areas and sometimes may lose sight of a particular issue. KD felt that having a direct conversation with appropriate council officers was often very helpful. KD felt that CC should do all they can in the 1st instance to resolve an issue keeping a paper trail of dated e-mails showing communication and progress and copying our councillors into emails so that they are aware of issues and can step in to help when we become frustrated by a lack of progress.</p>	<p>KD</p> <p>KD</p> <p>BW</p>
12	<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 8th March, 26th April and 7th June (AGM) 2021. Meetings may be held over Zoom when it is considered necessary. 	
13	The meeting closed at 8.18 pm	