



## GAVINTON, FOGO & POLWARTH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Zoom Meeting  
Monday the 8th March 2021 at 7pm**

Item	Comment	Action
1	<p><b>Welcome and Introductions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chairperson Keith Dickinson welcomed Cllr Donald Moffat, Cllr Mark Rowley, Carole Wright, Bryce Weir, Elizabeth Brown and Amanda Stewart.</li> </ul>	
2	<p><b>Apologies:</b> Cllr John Greenwell</p>	
3	<p><b>Declarations of interest:</b> None raised</p>	
4	<p><b>Approval of minutes from last meeting 25<sup>th</sup> January 2021:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minutes were approved with no amendments</li> </ul>	
5	<p><b>Matters arising from minutes - not covered elsewhere in the agenda:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None raised</li> </ul>	
6	<p><b>Treasurers Report</b></p> <p>Due to technical problems CW was unable to give an update to the meeting. AS to contact CW to see if any action is required before the end of the financial year.</p>	CW
7	<p><b>Community Improvements and Maintenance</b></p> <p>a) <b>Review of SBC grass cutting and maintenance of vegetation on roadside verges.</b> Further discussion on this issue has been postponed until SBC staff involved are back in their usual pre-covid posts.</p> <p>b) <b>Update on problem of overhanging shrubbery in Gavinton.</b> JG was unable to attend the meeting and therefore an update was not available. AS to contact JG to find out if there has been any progress on this issue.</p> <p>c) <b>Improvements to parking area at the football pitches, Gavinton.</b> KD and AS had a brief meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> March with Claire Simpson, Secretary of Duns Juniors, Devrim Turkey, Chairman of Duns JFC and Kevin Simpson representing Duns seniors. AS explained that the issue of parking on both sides of the main street near to the football grounds in Gavinton caused issues for residents with the road becoming too narrow, causing difficulty for cars and pedestrians and especially agricultural vehicles. KD explained the options suggested by Gary Haldane of SBC which included traffic regulation orders or verge marker posts. There was also discussion of the use of cones which although not legally enforceable could be put out by the football club to control parking.</p>	<p>JG/BW</p> <p>JG/AS</p> <p>AS/KD</p>

	<p>KD suggested applying for funding to improve the vehicle access ramp into the football fields and the use of rubber matting to allow some parking on the field. Kevin Simpson suggested that there may have been funding for improvements to the access ramp available from the W. Gavinton development. KS will look into this and suggested that KD contact Mark Dickson for further information.</p> <p>DT and KS said they would raise these issues at the next meetings of both the senior and junior football committees and report back to us.</p> <p>d) <b>Maintenance of Hedges at the football fields, Gavinton</b> Maintenance of the Leylandii hedge was discussed at the meeting with Duns football club. KD explained the request from local farmer Thomas Darling for the hedges to be cut back to a safe height as they were now becoming overgrown and unstable. KD has been trying to establish whether responsibility for these hedges lies with SBC or the football club who rent the pitches but so far has had limited success. KS offered to discuss maintenance of the hedges at the next seniors committee meeting and report back to the CC.</p> <p>e) <b>Discussion of Greenlaw to Duns multi-use path</b> Proposal to look at various routes (including former railway line) to promote active travel and connections between communities between Tweedbank and Reston including the Greenlaw to Duns section. TJ to meet with Ann McNeil and Rachel Hardie- involved with local cycling groups and representatives from South of Scotland Enterprise and South of Scotland Destination Alliance to discuss opportunities for active travel through Sustrans.</p>	<p>KD</p> <p>KD/TJ</p>
8	<p><b>Planning</b></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"> <li>• KD circulated details of 2 new planning applications that required a response before the current CC meeting – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-alterations and extension to dwelling house, Cheviot View, South Street Gavinton</li> <li>-Siting of caravan for holiday let and erection of shelter and decking, Land South East of West Bastlebog House South Street Gavinton.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The CC submitted no objections to these applications.</li> <li>• A new application was received on 25/2/2021 for the erection of a dwelling house at Plot 2 Hardens View.</li> <li>• Application for replacement windows and door at Hillview, Main Street, Gavinton has been approved.</li> </ul> <p>Details of all planning applications are available on the community webpage.</p>	<p>KD</p>
9	<p><b>Correspondence</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mid-Berwickshire police report January &amp; February 2021 forwarded to all CC prior to the meeting.</li> <li>• Minutes of the SBC Meeting on Community Council Scheme Review, 21<sup>st</sup> Jan 2021 were forwarded to CC.</li> <li>• KD also commented that he is chairing the Berwickshire Area Partnership (BAP) subcommittee considering the future of the BAP and Berwickshire Community Fund. At a meeting of the</li> </ul>	<p>AS</p> <p>KD</p>

	Berwickshire Area Partnership on 4 <sup>th</sup> March all of the recommendations of the Review Sub-committee were endorsed, and they will go forward to the full council meeting on 25 <sup>th</sup> March.	
10	<p><b>Councillor Update</b></p> <p>Cllr John Greenwell was unable to attend the meeting and therefore his update was unavailable.</p> <p>Cllr Mark Rowley updated the meeting on plans for cycle lanes and traffic calming through Duns, current plans should be available early next week for consultation. MR commented that an additional 15 million pounds has been made available in the Scottish Government budget for active travel routes and he will report back on how this funding may affect plans for active travel routes in the Borders.</p> <p>Cllr Donald Moffat Cllr Moffatt informed the meeting of the spike in thefts of agricultural vehicles including quad bikes and asked CC to call 101 if they see anything suspicious. BW commented that he has heard from the victims of such thefts that they are not receiving sufficient feedback from the police on the progress of investigations. DM has a meeting with police on 9<sup>th</sup> March and offered to pass on these comments and request better communication with the victims of these crimes. DM also informed the meeting that Gavinton is to receive a flashing speed limit sign on Main Street. The CC will be contacted as part of the consultation on the best position for the sign.</p>	<p>JG</p> <p>MR</p> <p>DM</p>
11	<p><b>Any Other Business</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• KD is a member of the South of Scotland Regional Economic Partnership. There is a consultation process open now to help inform a regional economic strategy for the South of Scotland. KD forwarded a link to this consultation to all CC members prior to the meeting and encouraged them to participate. On 9<sup>th</sup> March KD will attend a workshop associated with this consultation and wished to hear the opinions of the CC on the questions being asked at the meeting to help inform his discussion:</li> <li>• <i>What do we want the South of Scotland economy to look like in around 20 years' time (2040/2045)?</i></li> <li>• <i>What is driving our economy?</i></li> <li>• <i>Why is it a great place to:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Live;</i></li> <li>• <i>Work;</i></li> <li>• <i>Visit;</i></li> <li>• <i>Learn;</i></li> <li>• <i>Operate; and</i></li> <li>• <i>Invest;?</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>In 2040</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>• <i>What makes use different and sets us apart and what is attracting people to our region in 2040?</i></li> </ul>	<p>KD</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>What defines our communities?</i></li> <li>• <i>How have we got here – what has made the difference?</i></li> </ul> <p>CC commented that although the Borders is a beautiful place to live there are issues to address</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- How to keep young people in the Borders – jobs and social life</li> <li>- Need for local businesses to take on young apprentices with support from local colleges to supply required trades in future</li> <li>- Home working makes the Borders a more attractive place to live but need internet connectivity to support this.</li> <li>- Need to incentivise great teachers to wish to work and stay in rural areas.</li> <li>- Quality job creation through renewable energy and environmental projects.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A local resident contacted BW to raise the issue of a Beech tree on the road to Caldra which is overhanging the road and unstable. AS to contact appropriate person at SBC to have tree included in next survey.</li> <li>• BW wished to comment that SBC had been sending out a pothole squad to deal with the issue of potholes and that this work was being done to a good standard.</li> <li>• BW noted that we are getting through a large volume of dog waste bags and asked if the committee were happy to keep funding this expense. CC felt that dog fouling was still a problem and that supplying dog bags was an appropriate use of funding.</li> <li>• EB commented that dog fouling was a problem on the village green, BW offered to put up a sign beside the dog bag dispenser.</li> </ul>	<p>BW/AS</p> <p>BW</p> <p>BW/All</p> <p>EB/BW</p>
12	<p><b>Dates of Meetings</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Future meetings will be held at Gavinton Village Hall if possible, at 7pm on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> April and 7<sup>th</sup> June (AGM), 16<sup>th</sup> August, 27<sup>th</sup> September, 8<sup>th</sup> November and 13<sup>th</sup> December 2021. 24<sup>th</sup> January, 7<sup>th</sup> march, 18<sup>th</sup> April and 6<sup>th</sup> June (AGM) 2022. Meetings may be held over Zoom when it is considered necessary.</li> </ul>	
13	<p><b>The meeting closed at 8.19 pm</b></p>	