



## GAVINTON, FOGO & POLWARTH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Zoom Meeting  
Monday the 26th April 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, Cllr John Greenwell, Carole Wright, Bryce Weir, Lorraine Tait and Amanda Stewart.</li> </ul>	
2	<p><b>Apologies:</b> Elizabeth Brown</p>	
3	<p><b>Declarations of interest:</b> None raised</p>	
4	<p><b>Approval of minutes from last meeting 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minutes were approved with one amendment – wording of item 7e to be amended to ‘proposal to look at various routes (including former railway line) to promote active travel and connections between communities between Tweedbank and Reston including the Duns to Greenlaw section’</li> </ul>	AS
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>CW gave an update on the CC account</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Balance of the account £2132.14</li> <li>3 cheques were issued - £90.45 to KD for items of stationery, £91.98 issued to AS for dog bags and £31.90 to Neil Gilmour for paint used for improvement of benches in Gavinton.</li> <li>Payment of £81.39 made in respect of annual software subscription</li> <li>£646.64 ringfenced for resilient community activities for the Covid-19 response</li> <li>£221.13 ringfenced for defibrillator costs</li> <li>Balance for general expenditure £1264.27</li> </ul>	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 felt that this issue has been outstanding for too long and will raise it with SBC officers on our behalf. If a further site visit is required JG to contact BW for assistance in identifying problem areas.</p>	JG/BW  JG/BW

	<p>c) <b>Improvements to parking area at the football pitches, Gavinton.</b>  Following a meeting with representatives of Duns Juniors football club on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021 to discuss problems of parking we received a message from Devrim Turkay (Chairman) stating "In relation to the parking, we decided that we will issue a reminder to parents and guardians about sticking to parking on the one side of the road or to park in the spaces in the village. We do not have the authority to do any more than this and hope that encouraging considerate parking will make a difference." The CC did not feel that this will make any meaningful improvement to parking issues as this reminder to parents has been issued before with limited success and when tournaments with other clubs are held there is no way for visitors to understand these parking restrictions. It was noted that at least one car repeatedly parks on the wrong side of the road while football training is on. AS to contact Gary Haldane to request that verge markers be installed and to enquire as to whether we could obtain a sign to restrict parking.</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 and the club offered to take responsibility for reducing the height of the trees and contact Thomas Darling regarding on-going maintenance. KD to contact TD to ask if Duns FC have been in contact. BW noted that David Seed had offered to help with this issue if required.</p> <p>e) <b>Information on 20mph speed limit trial</b>  SBC information for community councils on 20mph speed limit trial was circulated to all CC prior to the meeting. KD noted that there had been a 5mph reduction in average speed since the beginning of the trial, down from 28.6 to 23.6 mph. As part of the trial Gavinton will soon have an electronic speed limit sign installed on Main Street. BW enquired as to whether there were plans to reverse the 20mph speed limit, JG and DM explained that there were certain routes where the 20mph limit was not felt to be appropriate and therefore 'buffer zones' with 30mph limit may be established outside of the 20mph zones.</p> <p>f) <b>Overhanging Beech Tree on the Road to Calder</b>  AS contacted Darren Silcock to ask if this tree could be surveyed to ensure the safety of road users. DS offered to pass this issue over to the SBC assets team and ask them to inspect the tree. JG and DM asked AS to forward this enquiry to Neil Pringle as a more appropriate contact and copy them in to this communication so that they could follow this up if necessary.</p> <p>g) <b>Maintenance of footbridge over Langton Burn</b>  NG notified KD that the chicken wire placed over the bridge was in poor repair and needed to be replaced with a better-quality anti-slip material. BW inspected the bridge following the enquiry by NG and reported that the chicken wire was in poor repair, rusted and with areas sticking upwards that may be a trip hazard. DM noted that the bridge was originally constructed by the criminal justice team with materials paid for by SBC. JG recalled that there had been a very similar issue that he had been involved with in Coldstream and that he thought Craig Blackie had dealt with this. JG to confirm whether CB is the best contact at SBC for this issue.</p>	<p>AS/KD</p> <p>KD</p> <p>KD</p> <p>JG/BW</p>
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	BW to ask NG for advice on a more suitable material for the anti-slip coating for the bridge as NG has dealt with this issue in the past.	
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 a new planning application and asked the CC to comment- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-application for erection of a dwelling house on land west of Hardens Hall.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>It was suggested that the land in question had originally been allocated as 2 building plots, the current application requests that the 2<sup>nd</sup> plot be split to allow an additional dwelling. It was noted that a double garage at the site had been converted into a separate dwelling and that 2 cabins had been erected on the site which were both occupied. Issues were raised regarding access to water and sewage at the site along with issues of additional water run off causing problems on the neighbouring golf course. KD to send an e-mail to ensure that the planners are made aware of this.</p> <p>Details of all planning applications are available on the community webpage.</p>	KD
9	<p><b>Correspondence</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mid-Berwickshire police report March 2021 forwarded to all CC prior to the meeting.</li> <li>Information on Covid-19 community testing in the Borders forwarded to all CC. It was noted by CC that these testing sites did not seem to be well attended.</li> <li>Information on free online courses offered by the Open University for community councillors was shared with all CC.</li> <li>SBC information for community councils on 20mph speed limit trial including survey 2 was circulated.</li> <li>SEStran Regional Transport Strategy Consultation was forwarded to KD to complete on behalf of the CC as only 1 submission was requested from each community council. KD focused his comments on access to public transport and essential services and development of active travel routes.</li> <li>Public involvement request on NHS Borders healthcare services forwarded to all CC. KD completed the online response to this request but has not yet heard back.</li> </ul>	AS       KD  KD
10	<p><b>Councillor Update</b></p> <p>Cllr John Greenwell wished to inform the meeting of the consultation on SBCs anti-poverty strategy, this consultation is open until 16<sup>th</sup> May and JG encouraged CC to participate. JG reported that there had been an increase in people in rural areas claiming benefits and that everyone should look out for those in our community that may be struggling. JG can provide contacts for agencies that can help.</p> <p>Cllr Donald Moffat agreed with JG that it can be difficult to identify those in our communities who are struggling and who are often too proud or embarrassed to ask for help.</p> <p>DM informed the meeting that he had received complaints regarding</p>	JG       DM

	<p>excessive waiting times for a response on the police 101 number, he wished CC to know the crime stopper number could also be used – 0800 555 111.</p> <p>Cllr Mark Rowley had to leave the meeting early to attend another meeting and was therefore unavailable for an update.</p>	MR
11	<p><b>Any Other Business</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CW wished to inform the meeting that although the community centre is currently closed, citizens advice are offering telephone advice and can arrange food parcels to those in need. KD asked CW to send information on this service to TJ for the community website.</li> <li>• BW raised the issue of SBC testing of gravestones. He felt that it should be SBC policy to tip gravestones that are considered dangerous onto the grave in such a way that the writing can be seen out of consideration for the loved ones of the deceased. KD queried if this is current SBC policy. JG offered to take this issue to the appropriate council officer and report back to the CC.</li> <li>• KD wished the CC to know that the Berwickshire Area Partnership had revised the community fund process and that the fund was now open for applications.</li> </ul>	<p>CW</p> <p>BW/JG</p> <p>KD</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 14<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	<b>The meeting closed at 8.16 pm</b>	