



**GAVINTON, FOGO & POLWARTH  
COMMUNITY COUNCIL**  
Minutes of the Meeting held in Gavinton Village Hall  
Monday the 16th August 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 Carole Wright, Bryce Weir, Lorraine Tait, Amanda Stewart, Ann Lindsay, Suzy &amp; Sandy Donaldson and Victor Dempsey</li> </ul>	
2	<p><b>Apologies:</b> Cllr Mark Rowley &amp; Cllr John Greenwell</p>	
3	<p><b>Declarations of interest:</b> None raised</p>	
4	<p><b>Minutes of the meeting 14<sup>th</sup> June 2021</b> Minutes were approved with no amendments</p>	AS
5	<p><b>Matters arising from the minutes and not covered elsewhere in the agenda</b> None raised</p>	
6	<p><b>CC Membership &amp; Elections</b> Community councils should hold elections every 4 years, however elections due to be held in 2020 were postponed due to the pandemic. As we are now coming out of covid restrictions KD felt it would be appropriate to plan for elections in March of 2022. KD has been a community councillor for the past 9 years and served as chairman for the last 7 years and felt that it was now time for him to stand down and give the opportunity for someone else to take on the role of chairperson. KD will therefore not be standing for election as Chairman in the 2022 elections but will remain available to the committee for a period to assist in the transition. Should the CC wish, he is willing to continue to discharge commitments he currently undertakes such as attending Berwickshire Area Partnership meetings, BAP assessment panel and review group, SoSREP and Blackhill Windfarm Community fund. KD felt it was now time to recruit new members to the community council and suggested contacting some of the 50+ resilient community volunteers that came forward to support their neighbours during the covid crisis. KD requested the CC to try to identify potential new members from within the community.</p>	KD/All
7	<p><b>Treasurers Report</b> CW gave an update on the CC account</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Balance of the account – £2712.23</li> <li>£646.74 ringfenced for resilient community activities for the Covid-19 response</li> <li>£221.13 ringfenced for defibrillator costs</li> <li>£37.02 ringfenced for purchase of dog waste bags</li> <li>Balance for general expenditure £1807.34</li> </ul>	CW

	<p>Transactions since last meeting 14<sup>th</sup> June 2021</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>£630.00 annual support grant received on the 9<sup>th</sup> July 2021.</li> </ul>	
8	<p><b>Community Improvements and Maintenance</b></p> <p>a) <b>Review of SBC grass cutting and maintenance of vegetation on roadside verges.</b>  JG was unable to attend the meeting and therefore no update was given. BW commented that a recent SBC grass cutting team had cut only half of the grass on the green - the area around the children's play equipment – they did not cut the rest of the green and did not pick up any of the cuttings leaving a mess. AS to e-mail JG to ask to see the SBC schedule and plan for grass cutting for our area for the next month.</p> <p>b) <b>Update on problem of overhanging shrubbery in Gavinton.</b>  This issue has not yet been resolved. AS to contact JG for an update.</p> <p>c) <b>Improvements to parking area at the football pitches, Gavinton.</b>  AS contacted Gary Haldane to request the time scale for installation of verge markers. GH replied on 30<sup>th</sup> June to suggest that 6 weeks would be a reasonable time frame.  KD suggested that we should have another attempt to engage with the football club to find solutions to the problems of parking and that we could work with the football club to secure funding. VAD suggested that in addition to improving parking we should find funding to improve clubhouse facilities to allow community access and to upgrade the football fields to include for example facilities for cyclists, a running track, outdoor training equipment making the football fields not just a football training ground but a valuable resource for the community. This will be particularly important once the 50+ new houses have been built and there are more families and young people in the village.  BW queried the addition of play equipment at the football fields however the Gavinton village play park is on SBC shortlist for an upgrade originally estimated for 2023 – therefore such a facility may not be required elsewhere in the village.  VAD offered to contact Duns FC on our behalf to discuss future plans for the football fields and parking facilities. KD thanked VAD for his ideas and willingness to initiate discussions on a broad plan for sports facilities in the village.</p> <p>d) <b>Maintenance of Hedges at the football fields, Gavinton</b>  KD contacted Clare Simpson, secretary of the Duns Juniors football club and Thomas Darling of Ladyflat Farm and was assured that matters regarding the cutting of the hedge were 'in-hand' however as the trees have not yet been cut VAD should query this when speaking with representatives of the football club.</p> <p>e) <b>Maintenance of footbridge over Langton Burn</b></p>	<p>JG/BW/AS</p> <p>BW/JG/AS</p> <p>AS/KD/VAD</p> <p>KD/VAD</p> <p>BW</p>

	<p>BW informed the meeting that the area of mesh that presented a trip hazard has been removed and offered to check the site to see if the new anti-slip mesh had been installed.</p> <p><b>f) Removal of Japanese Knotweed at riverside in Gavinton</b> AS to contact JG to ask him to provide BW with a contact at SBC who can help with this issue.</p> <p><b>g) Issue of parking at entrance to The Glebe, Gavinton</b> AS contacted Gary Haldane to raise this issue. GH replied on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021 to say that enforced parking regulations at the entrance to The Glebe would require a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) in order to be enforceable by Police Scotland. Currently Gavinton does not have a TRO and therefore one would have to be written with this process taking approximately 6 months. GH offered to add our request to the list for consideration however as they are currently reviewing all TROs of which there are approximately 30 it may be some time before anything can be done at this location. BW to feed this information back to the resident who raised this issue.</p>	<p>BW/AS</p> <p>AS/BW</p>
9	<p><b>Planning</b></p> <p>KD prepared a planning summary prior to the meeting which was made available on the community webpage.</p> <p>KD noted that there were 4 new applications</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Alterations to driveway (part retrospective) to form double service layby at Hardens Hall registered 19<sup>th</sup> July 2021. It was unclear if the term “part-retrospective” implied that the current driveway was now deemed to be satisfactory. KD agreed to investigate further and submit our comments to the Planning Officer.</li> <li>2. Land South East of Hardens Hall, Hardens, erection of dwelling house registered by Duns Golf Club 4<sup>th</sup> August 2021.</li> <li>3. 2 applications were submitted for alterations and extension to dwelling house, Wellcroft, The Green, Gavinton.</li> </ol> <p>Details of all planning applications are available on the community webpage.</p>	<p>KD</p>
10	<p><b>Correspondence</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mid-Berwickshire police report June &amp; July 2021 forwarded to all CC prior to the meeting.</li> <li>• Police attendance at CC meetings – Area commander felt that it would be beneficial to re-establish police community engagement. AS forwarded the dates of future meetings and was informed that an officer will try to attend the GFPCC meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> September.</li> <li>• Covid-19 testing update – dates and locations of community covid testing sites forwarded to all CC.</li> </ul>	<p>AS</p>

11	<p><b>Councillor Update</b>  Cllr John Greenwell and Cllr Donald Moffat were unable to attend the meeting.  Mark Rowley could not attend the meeting but forwarded his update prior to the meeting.  MR wished to alert the CC to the upcoming Duns Blooming Marvellous Group who have arranged for 17 gardens in Duns to be open on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> August 12-5pm in support of local charities. MR also confirmed that the draft responses for the SoSREP action plan are being worked into a final paper which should be approved soon. Finally MR informed the meeting that he is trying to assess reaction or support to a Borderswide local spending card. MR would be interested to hear the thoughts of CC on this subject.</p>	<p>JG/DM  MR</p>
12	<p><b>Any Other Business</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community Map Survey – TJ wished to establish the level of interest by other CC and 3<sup>rd</sup> sector organisations in the use of interactive maps such as those used by our community webpage. An online survey was created and forwarded to CC and other interested 3<sup>rd</sup> parties. KD wished to encourage CC to take part in the survey.</li> <li>• South of Scotland Regional Economic Partnership (SoSREP) Draft Strategy – KD informed the meeting that following consultations a draft plan should be approved by the end of September 2021.</li> <li>• Ann Lindsay and Suzy &amp; Sandy Donaldson attended the meeting to ask the CC and local councillors for assistance and guidance. They are concerned that recent removal of the 40mph speed limit on the A6105 Duns/Greenlaw Road which has been replaced by a shorter 30mph zone followed by 60mph limit has made it unsafe and impossible for them to walk to Duns and difficult to drive in and out of their driveways. They feel that residents have been placed in serious danger.</li> </ul> <p>KD to contact SBC traffic engineers to determine:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Why it was necessary to replace the previous 40mph speed limit on this section of the A6105, with a derestricted 60mph speed limit and has the adverse effect of this action on safety been assessed.</li> <li>• To share the details of this safety assessment with the CC.</li> <li>• What action do we as a CC have to take to request a safety review of the whole section of the A6105, including the potential for a 40mph speed limit from Gavinton Main Street junction to the new 30mph section on the outskirts of Duns.</li> <li>• BW was approached by a member of the community and asked to query whether a property in Gavinton had conservation area planning permission for a change of windows and front door. BW to forward the details to KD so that he may enquire with the planning officer.</li> </ul>	<p>KD/TJ  KD  KD  BW/KD</p>

13	<b>Dates of Meetings</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Future meetings will be held at Gavinton Village Hall, at 7pm on Monday 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>	
14	<b>The meeting closed at 8.58 pm</b>	