



**GAVINTON, FOGO & POLWARTH  
COMMUNITY COUNCIL**  
Minutes of the Zoom Meeting  
Monday the 13th December 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 John Greenwell, Cllr Mark Rowley, Carole Wright, Bryce Weir, Lorraine Tait, Amanda Stewart, Donald Rae &amp; Neil Gilmour.</li> </ul>	
2	<p><b>Apologies:</b> None received</p>	
3	<p><b>Declarations of interest:</b> None raised</p>	
4	<p><b>Minutes of the meeting 8<sup>th</sup> November 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>Treasurers Report</b></p> <p>Transactions since last meeting 8th November 2021</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cheque for £7.96 issued to BW to cover cost of paint.</li> <li>• Balance of CC account £2560.08</li> <li>• General funds £1655.19</li> <li>• Ringfenced for defibrillator £221.13</li> <li>• Covid support funds £646.74</li> <li>• Ringfenced for dog bags £37.02</li> </ul>	CW
7	<p><b>Community Improvements and Maintenance- Current</b></p> <p>a) <b>Update on problem of overhanging shrubbery in Gavinton.</b> JG contacted officers from the parks department to determine if a letter had been written to the resident concerned, they offered to look into this and send a copy of any letter that was sent. As yet no further response has been received although work was delayed by storm Arwen. JG has now asked for an urgent update.</p> <p>b) <b>Improvements to Gavinton football pitches.</b> VAD continuing to develop a plan and programme for this project.</p> <p>c) <b>Issue of parking at entrance to The Glebe, Gavinton</b> Phillipa Gilhouly responded to our enquiry into painting a white line on one side of the road at the entrance to the</p>	<p>BW/JG</p> <p>AS/KD/VAD</p> <p>AS</p>

	<p>Glebe – a white line is a possibility but would not be enforceable. Instead, she suggested contacting residents directly in the first instance to ask for more responsible parking. AS to contact our community police officer to review parking in this area and contact residents where a vehicle is causing obstruction.</p> <p><b>d) GP Services in Duns</b>  KD thanked DM and JG for advising him on routes to help seek advice and resolution on issues being faced by local residents. KD contacted Chris Myers, Chief Executive SBC Health and Social Care and Ralf Roberts CEO of NHS Borders and Cllr David Parker, on behalf of residents. Responses received were passed on to community members involved. Although not all issues are yet resolved, those in authority are now aware of issues.</p> <p><b>e) Upgrade of Gavinton Play Park</b>  JG noted that Cllr David Parker has taken the lead on the upgrade of community play parks. DM &amp; JG lobbied to have both Gavinton and Greenlaw included on the list of parks to be upgraded. It was noted that prior to the upgrade of a park in Coldstream, residents had made a plan for their new park and this was well received and helped get funding for the upgrade. DM offered to obtain a copy of the Coldstream park plan to help us make a plan for Gavinton park</p> <p><b>f) Services available from the SBC Dog Education Officer</b>  CC received information from Rose Hogg, SBC Dog Education Officer outlining services which included organising dog fouling surveys, clean-ups, posters and ground stencils with follow up surveys to determine impact. CC felt that it would be worth asking RH to assess dog fouling at the football fields and have appropriate signage added, if possible, she could assess dog fouling in Gavinton and be made aware of dog bag dispenser locations and give advice on keeping this issue under control. AS to contact RH to arrange this.</p> <p><b>g) Online Community Polling</b>  AS assessed the Vimeo community polling system on behalf of CC. The software looked very effective allowing residents to view a map of their area and click on relevant areas and issues to bring up polling and leave comments. It would require residents to create an account and log-in to access community polling which may be an issue for some. AS created a test poll on the community Facebook page asking the question – should streetlights be turned off between 11 pm and 6 am to determine the level of community engagement, 24 people voted with 16 votes in favour of dark skies and 8 votes against. KD felt this was a good test and Facebook polls may be used in future alongside other methods of community engagement to find a method of allowing all residents to give their views on community issues. KD asked all CC to give suggestions on an appropriate communication strategy for the CC. JG offered to ask the SBC sustainability committee whether it was possible with current infrastructure to turn out the lights at predetermined times.</p>	<p>KD</p> <p>AS/KD/DM</p> <p>AS</p> <p>AS/All</p> <p>JG</p>
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	<p><b>h) Resilient Community Response to Storm Arwen</b></p> <p>KD noted that Gavinton was one of the first villages in the Scottish Borders to become a ‘resilient community’. KD took over as lead on the resilient community response when the Covid pandemic began. There was a great volunteer response to Covid-10 with 50+ volunteers available covering Gavinton and the wider CC area. This Covid volunteer system worked well with local people connected with their neighbours making up sub-groups. This system relied on good communications which sadly were knocked out for an extended period following storm Arwen. Residents in our CC area had no power, phone, mobile signal and roads were blocked for up to 6 days. As soon as communications were restored KD contacted volunteers, many of whom had been looking after vulnerable neighbours during the aftermath of the storm. There were clearly issues in the resilient community response highlighted by the recent storm CC discussed ways that the system could be improved.</p> <p>It was felt that the village of Gavinton requires a resilient community co-ordinator who is resident in the village – this individual must be a known point of contact for all residents in an emergency situation.</p> <p>In addition, funding should be found to purchase a generator for the village hall so that it may be used as a hub to support the community with heat, warm food and charging points available.</p> <p>MR commented that this was an exceptional storm with issues around, weather, power, snow, communications and physical access. MR noted that there would be an independent investigation into SPEN response to storm Arwen, looking at the time taken to restore power and prioritisation given to larger settlements. Investigations will include the false messaging given to residents on how long the power would be off preventing residents from making important decisions as to whether to leave or try to move elderly/vulnerable residents. MR asked the CC to help assess compensation payments given to residents to ensure that everyone receives the compensation they are entitled to.</p> <p>AS commented that in the absence of home phones and mobile signals it is essential that Gavinton retains the BT phone box for emergencies.</p> <p>KD felt that it was necessary to develop the ideas for improvements to RC further working with the village hall committee – AS to organise a meeting in the new year with KD, DR &amp; NG.</p>	KD/DR/NG/AS/All
8	<b>Community Improvements &amp; Maintenance – issues to be kept under review and discussed only when appropriate updates</b>	

	<p><b>are available.</b></p> <p>a) <b>Review of SBC grass cutting and maintenance of vegetation on roadside verges.</b> DR asked whether SBC would return to spraying for weeds along the long stretch of pavement beside Langton House in Gavinton, this has not been done since Covid began, DR has been carrying out this work himself but wished to know if SBC would resume spraying in 2022. JG suggested contacting Jason Hedley of SBC – AS to e-mail JH.</p> <p>b) <b>Removal of Japanese Knotweed at Riverside in Gavinton</b></p> <p>c) <b>Update on enquiries into the change of speed limit A6105 Duns/Greenlaw Road</b></p> <p>d) <b>Maintenance of hedges at the football fields, Gavinton.</b></p>	<p>JG/BW/All</p> <p>BW</p>
9	<p>Planning</p> <p>KD prepared a planning summary prior to the meeting which was made available on the community webpage.</p> <p>KD noted that 3 applications had been approved.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Alterations to driveway, Hardens Hall, Duns.</li> <li>2. 2 applications associated with replacement windows, Eden House, South Street, Gavinton.</li> </ol> <p>2 new applications were registered,</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Replacement windows and doors, 4 Maitland Row, Gavinton</li> <li>2. Erection of dwelling house on land west of Hardens Hall, Duns – comments to KD by 10<sup>th</sup> Jan 2022.</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 November 2021 forwarded to all CC prior to the meeting.</li> <li>• Request from Emma Harper MSP for help in identifying abandoned and derelict buildings in the Scottish Borders – forwarded to all CC.</li> <li>• Offer of help in promoting responsible dog ownership from Rose Hogg, SBC Dog Education Officer.</li> <li>• Information on Scottish Governments Investing in Communities Fund with link to information webinar on 30<sup>th</sup> November and 8<sup>th</sup> December 2021- forwarded to all CC.</li> <li>• 20mph Community Council Information Update, forwarded to all CC. KD noted that vehicle speeds in Gavinton had been reduced by an average of 4.5mph over the period of the trial and that the CC were in favour of the 20mph speed limit being retained in the village.</li> </ul>	<p>AS</p> <p>KD</p>

11	<p><b>Councillor Update</b></p> <p>Cllr John Greenwell noted that councillors have been involved in reviewing the common good registers. If there are any assets in the village in community ownership these should be added to the register. JG also informed the meeting that the controversial Scottish Government Health &amp; Wellbeing survey will not be introduced into SBC high schools until the questions have been reviewed and approved by SBC.</p> <p>Cllr Mark Rowley wished to emphasise the need to check that all residents receive the correct compensation from SPEN for recent power outage caused by storm Arwen. He wished the CC to gather evidence on duration of power loss in different parts of the CC area. SPEN data on restoration of power was patchy and therefore compensation payments offered may not be correct. AS offered to ask for this information from residents via the community Facebook page.</p> <p>Cllr Donald Moffat had to leave the meeting early and was therefore unable to give an update.</p>	<p>JG</p> <p>MR</p>
12	<p><b>Any Other Business</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• KD discussed the upcoming Berwickshire Area Partnership meeting and noted that the assessment panel recommendations for the community fund will be presented to the meeting on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> December in order to get information out to successful applicants who will receive funding. In relation to Place Planning, this will be discussed at the January meeting, KD is working with James Lamb to prepare papers for this meeting.</li> <li>• KD informed the meeting that the South of Scotland Regional Economic Partnership has now produced a strategy which is available to view online.</li> <li>• KD informed the meeting that JG helped to secure a meeting with the Chief Executive of SBC to discuss Scottish Borders Community Mapping, with the aim of rolling out the community mapping project across the Borders and the rest of Scotland.</li> <li>• BW noted that with the return to working from home the broadband speeds in Gavinton &amp; our CC area must be improved – faster fibre broadband is required. MR noted that fibre broadband is being connected in the Borders but that the system needs to be more resilient and that better mobile connectivity is also a priority.</li> </ul>	<p>KD</p> <p>KD</p> <p>KD</p> <p>BW</p>
13	<p><b>Dates of Meetings</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Future meetings will be held at Gavinton Village Hall, at 7pm on Monday 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	<p><b>The meeting closed at 8.57 pm</b></p>	