



GAVINTON, FOGO & POLWARTH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Meeting held at Gavinton Village Hall
Monday the 18th April 2022 at 7pm**

Item	Comment	Action
1	Welcome and Introductions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chairperson Keith Dickinson welcomed, Cllr John Greenwell, Cllr Donald Moffat, Carole Wright, Bryce Weir, Lorraine Tait, Amanda Stewart, Neil Gilmour, John Hughes, Tony Huggins-Haig & Yvonne Huggins-Haig 	
2	Apologies: Cllr Mark Rowley	
3	Declarations of interest: None raised	
4	Minutes of the meeting 7th March 2022 Minutes were approved with no amendments	AS
5	Matters arising from the minutes and not covered elsewhere in the agenda None raised	
6	Plans for Jim Clark Rally Tom Wilkinson & Francis Renton, PR Manager for the Jim Clarke Rally kindly attended the meeting to discuss the upcoming rally, 27 th - 29 th May 2022. On Sunday 29 th May the Fogo rally stage will be held within our area. This route will begin at Bogend passing through Fogo and Cothill and finishing at Nisbet Hill. Road closures for this event will begin at 9.18am with the road scheduled to reopen at 4.18pm at the latest. A map of the route was provided to all CC along with a hotline number for any emergencies that may occur 'on the day' 07824471305. Thomas Darling of Ladyflat Farm is organising a field for parking and catering for spectators.	FR/TW
7	Treasurers Report Transactions since last meeting 7th March 2022 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cheque for £274.80 issued to Gavinton Village Hall to pay for new flagpole for the village green. Cheque for £3798.98 issued to Keith Dickinson to reimburse payment for generator. Cheque for £119.83 issued to Scottish Borders Web Design to cover annual cost of software. A credit of £3500.00 was received from the Blackhill Windfarm Fund as funding towards the purchase of a generator. Balance of CC account £1253.27 General funds £606.53 Covid support funds £646.74 CW has completed the accounts for the financial year 2021-22 which	CW

	<p>have been audited and signed. Copies of the accounts were handed out to CC.</p> <p>KD queried whether Covid support grant could be used to contribute towards the purchase of the generator in support of our resilient community strategy. Cllrs Greenwell & Moffat advised that KD should check with Shona Smith at SBC.</p>	KD
8	<p>Plans for CC Elections</p> <p>AS has received 6 CC nomination forms. We therefore have sufficient nominations to continue the community council but as there are 10 positions available on the CC there is no need to hold an election. We have the ability to co-opt members to the remaining 4 positions as necessary. AS to contact Cllr Mark Rowley, acting as returning officer on our behalf, to find out where the nomination forms must be sent within SBC.</p>	AS
9	<p>Community Improvements and Maintenance- Current</p> <p>a) Update on problem of overhanging shrubbery in Gavinton. JG has contacted Neil Pringle and is awaiting an update on this issue.</p> <p>b) Upgrade of Gavinton Play Park SBC have confirmed that £60,000 of funding has been set aside for this financial year for the upgrade of Gavinton play park. AS requested community feedback on which items of equipment were most wanted for the playpark through our community Facebook page and received a great response which allowed a list of desired play equipment to be compiled. A small sub-committee of residents interested in the play park has been formed and an initial meeting with James Purves, community engagement officer for SBC, was held on site in Gavinton play park on 31st March 2022. James Purves was given the priority list for play equipment and has offered to provide us with the layout drawings held by SBC for the types of equipment provided by different suppliers.</p> <p>c) Resilient Community – purchase of generator A joint application from Gavinton Village Hall and Resilient Community/Community Council to the Blackhill Windfarm Community Fund was successful and the generator has now been purchased and delivered. Donald Rae, John Hughes and Neil Gilmour will now plan for appropriate commissioning and a permanent location for storage. Neil Gilmour, who has agreed to become the resilient community co-ordinator, confirmed that an electrician will set up the generator and provide appropriate training for those who will volunteer to help with the generator when it is required. NG will also write a simple and concise resilient community plan detailing volunteers for each street to check on residents in an emergency, volunteers to set up the generator and volunteers to help in the Village Hall. NG will circulate a newsletter informing residents about the generator and the resilient community plan and requesting volunteers.</p> <p>KD confirmed that he has sent a request to SBC for CC</p>	<p>BW/JG/AS</p> <p>AS</p> <p>KD/DR/NG/JH</p>

	<p>Insurance to cover the generator and is awaiting a response. KD will also coordinate the transfer of all resilient communities' resources and information to NG.</p> <p>d) Maintenance of Information Signs-Fogo KD noted that information signs at Fogo Kirk and at Hunters Bridge had been damaged by storm Arwen and were generally in a poor state of repair. KD is currently working on this project.</p> <p>e) Vehicle Speed – Main St Gavinton AS requested, that a member of the community policing team attend the CC meeting to discuss concerns over vehicle speeds on Main Street, Gavinton and issues around abandoned vehicles. Alison Granger of Police Scotland confirmed that the police do not currently have the resources to attend CC meetings and passed our concerns on to PC Stuart Little who will be in touch to discuss ways to address these issues. JG noted that the issue of abandoned cars can be dealt with through SBC. A 7-day removal notice can be attached to cars following which SBC can remove the vehicle. JG to send details to AS of contact within SBC to deal with this. The CC still have concerns about the issue of vehicle speeds at the east end of Main Street in Gavinton, AS to contact Gary Haldane to request a 2-week traffic survey.</p>	<p>KD</p> <p>KD/MR/ AS/JG</p> <p>AS</p>
10	<p>Community Improvements & Maintenance – issues to be kept under review and discussed only when appropriate updates are available.</p> <p>a) Review of SBC grass cutting and maintenance of vegetation on roadside verges. JH raised the issue of grass cutting on the village green in Gavinton and volunteered to help with grass cutting if equipment was available. KD noted that the ride on lawnmower purchased by BWCF for use by Duns football club at the football fields in Gavinton was also to be made available to help with grass cutting in the village. John Hughes said he was willing to help cut the Green. KD to contact Duns FC to discuss this. BW wished to confirm that the grass on the village green in Gavinton was to be cut on a 20-day cycle (2 cuts per month) by SBC as agreed with Jason Hedley of SBC last year. JG offered to clarify with Neil Pringle and Jason Hedley the twice monthly cutting schedule and to make this schedule available to the CC so that any additional grass cutting could be co-ordinated with this schedule.</p> <p>b) Removal of Japanese Knotweed at Riverside in Gavinton BW raised the issue and confirmed that at the end of last summer the Tweed Foundation were meant to come and spray the areas of Japanese Knotweed but that this did not</p>	<p>KD/JH/JG</p> <p>BW/JG</p>

	<p>happen. JG offered to contact Jason Hedley for an update on this issue.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> c) Update on enquiries into the change of speed limit A6105 Duns/Greenlaw Road d) Replacement of Defibrillator cabinet-Gavinton e) Improvements to Gavinton football pitches 	
11	<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 5 new applications had been received:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2 applications relating to alterations and extensions to dwelling house, Farmhouse, Crunklaw, Duns. 2. 2 applications relating to installation of wall mounted electric vehicle charging point, Meadow View, The Green, Gavinton. 3. Replacement windows Ashlea, Main Street, Gavinton <p>KD invited comments from CC on any of these applications. YHH suggested that some of the information in the Table was out of date and KD agreed to check the data before the next meeting.</p> <p>Details of all planning applications are available on the SBC Planning website and can be accessed via GFPCC community webpages.</p>	KD
12	<p>Correspondence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mid-Berwickshire police report February & March 2022 forwarded to all CC prior to the meeting. • Consultation from MSP Murdo Fraser on fly-tipping circulated to all CC. • Request for scoping opinion on Dunside Wind Farm application forwarded to all CC. • Consultation on kerbside waste and recycling services circulated to all CC. • Letter of thanks to resilient groups from Netta Meadows- Chief Executive of SBC forwarded by KD to all resilient community volunteers. • Place making workshop for Berwickshire, invitation forwarded to all CC. KD attended this event and although this project is at an early stage KD felt there is great potential in having the community's priorities and aspirations fed directly into the Locality Plan for Berwickshire. <p>The above correspondence is available on the community webpage.</p>	AS
13	<p>Councillor Update</p> <p>Cllr John Greenwell informed the meeting that SBC were currently preparing for the upcoming local elections in May. In addition, JG wished to comment on recent complaints received regarding black waste bins not being emptied. There is a new health and safety directive from SBC regarding loose or not properly bagged ash in</p>	JG

	<p>black bins, this ash represents a health hazard for refuse collectors and will not be emptied.</p> <p>Cllr Donald Moffat has been receiving complaints from members of the public about potholes in the roads, the online reporting system is recommended. DM has also received complaints about members of the public struggling to contact SBC. DM confirmed that where possible issues should be logged online, alternatively SBC can be contacted by phone although it was acknowledged that getting through to SBC by phone can be difficult and that this is something SBC are working to resolve. SBC should reply to any issues raised within 2 weeks, if no response received then SBC councillors should be contacted to assist.</p> <p>Cllr Mark Rowley was unable to attend the meeting and sent his apologies along with an update. MR confirmed that Reston train station is due to open on May 23rd and that new Berwickshire Demand responsive buses should be available by then (awaiting confirmation). MR also confirmed that the Scottish Borders Tour of Britain stage will be ending in Duns.</p>	<p>DM</p> <p>MR</p>
14	<p>Any Other Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BW wished to extend thanks to SBC for fixing the hedges at the football fields in Gavinton. • BW wished to raise the issue of the poor state of the road edges in our area, in particular where roads are narrow. He wished our councillors to investigate whether there is an alternative substance that can be used to strengthen the verges. • BW raised the issue of poor broadband service in our area with fibre broadband not expected before 2024. Grant funding is available through the Scottish Government to support the provision of a broadband service of 30-50Mbps by nominated providers, if sufficient residents will sign up to the scheme. CC generally agreed that our broadband speeds are poor especially in outlying areas. KD confirmed that Briskona and Borderlink currently offer broadband speeds of 30+Mbps in our area but that if government funding could establish full fibre broadband then this would definitely be worth pursuing. • CW has been contacted by a member of the public and asked to raise the issue of the new notice board at Fogo church which they feel is too large and not in keeping with the look of the church. DM offered to find out if any planning permissions were required for this noticeboard. • CW was asked by a member of the community whether it would be possible for Fogo to have a defibrillator. CC to look into whether there might be any funding available. • AS was asked by a Gavinton resident whether SBC could site a mirror at the bottom corner of South Street to help prevent accidents on this sharp corner. JG confirmed that SBC do not provide roadside mirrors. 	<p>BW</p> <p>BW/MR/JG/DM</p> <p>BW/KD</p> <p>CW/DM</p> <p>CW</p> <p>AS</p>
15	<p>Dates of Meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Future meetings will be held at Gavinton Village Hall, at 7pm on Monday 6th June (AGM) 2022. Meetings may be held over Zoom when it is considered necessary. 	

16	The meeting closed at 9.23 pm	