



## GAVINTON, FOGO & POLWARTH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Meeting held at Gavinton Village Hall  
Monday the 15th August 2022 at 7pm**

Item	Comment	Action
1	<p><b>Welcome and Introductions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chairperson Amanda Stewart welcomed, Cllr Donald Moffat, Cllr John Greenwell, Carole Wright, Neil Gilmour, Tony Huggins-Haig, Yvonne Huggins-Haig</li> </ul>	
2	<p><b>Apologies:</b> Cllr Mark Rowley, John Hughes, Morag Naylor &amp; Bryce Weir</p>	
3	<p><b>Declarations of interest:</b> None raised</p>	
4	<p><b>Proposals to develop Lees Hill Renewable Energy Park (Fred Olsen Renewables)</b> Miles McConville (project manager) &amp; Kirsty Leiper (head of communications) were invited to join the meeting to discuss this proposal. The proposal is at a very early stage and Miles &amp; Kirsty were keen to consult and work closely with the community to develop the most appropriate plan for the site. The proposal being considered includes up to 7 wind turbines of maximum height 200m to tip, 60MW of solar energy generation and up to 60 MW of battery storage. The CC felt that we wished to understand better how a 200m turbine would look in the landscape – some visual representations of the proposed site will be available at the project exhibition to be held at Gavinton Village Hall 19<sup>th</sup> October 2022. If consented the renewable energy park will provide a community fund initially benefitting projects within a 10km radius of the site – further discussions will be held on how this fund will be allocated. Public consultations and exhibitions are expected to continue into early 2023 with an application expected to be submitted March 2023. Cllr Moffat left the meeting for the duration of this discussion due to his position on the SBC planning committee.</p>	AS
5	<p><b>Minutes of the meeting 6<sup>th</sup> June 2022</b> Minutes were approved with no amendments</p>	AS
6	<p><b>Matters arising from the minutes and not covered elsewhere in the agenda</b> None raised</p>	
7	<p><b>Treasurers Report</b></p> <p>Transactions since the last meeting 6<sup>th</sup> June 2022</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cheque £135.56 issued to A. Stewart to cover £70.56 for dog waste bags and £65 gift vouchers for retiring CC members.</li> <li>• Cheque £30.99 issued to CW to reimburse £15.99 gift for auditor and £15 for planters at Fogo.</li> <li>• £670 credit received from SBC which includes £630 annual</li> </ul>	CW

	<p>support grant and £40 for hire of the village hall.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Balance of the CC account £1746.72</li> <li>• General funds £1099.98</li> <li>• Covid support funds £646.74</li> </ul> <p>CW noted that we now have only 2 signatories for the CC account – T H-H and NG kindly volunteered to become signatories.</p>	
8	<p><b>Community Improvements and Maintenance- Current</b></p> <p>a) <b>Update on problem of overhanging shrubbery in Gavinton.</b>  JG advised that we should restart the process of tackling this issue as no progress has been made. JG suggested that Neil Pringle should re-assess the site and then contact the resident in question. A copy of any correspondence should be sent to the CC so that we may follow the progress of this issue.</p> <p>b) <b>Upgrade of Gavinton Play Park</b>  A meeting of the ‘play-park subcommittee’ and Craig Blackie and James Purvis was held in Gavinton park on 5<sup>th</sup> July 2022. Discussions focused on an appropriate surface for the play area, new play equipment and items to be assessed by SBC to see if refurbishment is possible. The committee explained that the balance beam in the park was dangerous, and this has now been removed by SBC. Craig Blackie explained that the work will go out to tender in September, plans should be available in November with the aim to complete the work in spring 2023.  It was suggested at the meeting that a fence around the play area would be required as many of the children are afraid of dogs – it was felt that additional funding should be obtained after the park is completed to add an appropriate fence for the play park.</p> <p>c) <b>Resilient Community – purchase of generator</b>  Neil Gilmour, resilient community co-ordinator, confirmed that an electrician has completed upgrading the wiring at the village hall to allow the generator to be safely connected. Three additional residents have now completed training on safely using the generator. At the end of August 2022 the generator will be moved into the village hall where it will be permanently stored. NG provided a list of equipment that will be required, including fuel storage cans, funnel and battery charger – the CC agreed that NG should purchase these items and CC would reimburse costs.  The electricians bill for upgrading the village hall electrics for the generator was higher than expected at 926.08, BAVS provided £500 funding towards this and it was suggested that the shortfall in funding should be divided equally between the village hall and community council, CC were in agreement that this was a fair arrangement.  The village hall committee confirmed that they can add the generator to their insurance policy at a cost of £15.83 per year – the CC agreed to cover this cost.</p> <p>d) <b>Vehicle Speed – Main St Gavinton</b></p>	<p>JG</p> <p>AS</p> <p>NG</p>

	<p>Details of the 2 vehicles currently abandoned in Gavinton with no MOT, tax and insurance were passed on to JG for action by SBC. The vehicles have not been removed and JG offered to investigate this issue on our behalf.</p> <p>AS to contact Stuart Little our community police officer to request that a police presence is shown around the east of Main Street Gavinton perhaps once per month to deter speeding motorists. AS to request that 'pop-up-bob' be deployed in Gavinton. Narrowing the road at the east end of main Street to deter speeding was discussed – DM kindly offered to investigate this option.</p> <p>The flashing 20mph speed sign in Gavinton has still not been repaired since damaged during storm Arwen – AS to contact Phillipa Gilhouly to determine when this might be repaired.</p> <p><b>e) Gavinton Full Fibre Broadband Project</b></p> <p>Go-Fibre have been laying fibre cable up to Nisbet cottage at one end of Gavinton and to Woodend Farm at the Greenlaw end of Gavinton. AS contacted Go-Fibre to ask whether this cable could be extended into the village to allow full fibre to home connections. This would resolve the issue of many properties within the village that have been missed by BTs upgrade to full fibre to cabinet connections. These homes receive 2-3 Mb/s with no plans for their connections to be improved before 2024. A meeting was held on the 30<sup>th</sup> June 2022 with Go-Fibre representative Chris Dickson and available members of the CC and village hall committee. Connecting homes in Gavinton to full fibre was discussed along with possibilities for improving connections in Cothill, Fogo, Polwarth, Hardens Hill &amp; Bogend.</p> <p>Go-Fibre are currently pushing through a feasibility study for a project involving some of the smaller areas around Gavinton – if successful they are hoping to have an initial cable run completed in the next 2-3 months which will involve going through Gavinton towards Woodend. Go-Fibre are keen to hold a community drop-in session in the village hall in September to show plans, potential costs and timescales.</p>	<p>JG/AS</p> <p>DM</p> <p>AS</p>
<p>9</p>	<p><b>Community Improvements &amp; Maintenance – issues to be kept under review and discussed only when appropriate updates are available.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Review of SBC grass cutting and maintenance of vegetation on roadside verges.</li> <li>b) Removal of Japanese Knotweed at Riverside in Gavinton MR suggested making a report to the Tweed Forum.</li> <li>c) Update on enquiries into the change of speed limit A6105 Duns/Greenlaw Road</li> <li>d) Improvements to Gavinton football pitches</li> <li>e) Maintenance of Information Signs-Fogo</li> </ul>	<p>All</p> <p>AS/BW/MR</p>
<p>10</p>	<p><b>Issue of new notice board at Fogo Church</b></p> <p>Cllr Donald Moffat has involved the planning enforcement officer in this issue - an application for retrospective advertising consent must be submitted to SBC.</p>	<p>DM/CW</p>

11	<p><b>SBC 20mph Speed Trial</b></p> <p>Information on the 20mph trial and plans to make these new speed limits permanent in the Scottish Borders were circulated to all CC prior to the meeting. It was noted that additional funding was available for road markings and signage – AS to contact Phillipa Gilhouly to request an upgrade to 20mph road markings and signs at the east end of Main Street, Gavinton. The report also stated that reduced speed limits can be considered where a road is less than 100m from sports facilities – AS to request a review of the 60mph limit on the road next to the football fields in Gavinton.</p>	AS
12	<p><b>Hardens Hill Quarry</b></p> <p>DM kindly looked into the licence for this quarry and found that it has an older licence unlikely to specify any operating hours. AS to write to the quarry operators on behalf of residents living along the road used by the quarry vehicles to request that operations do not begin before 8am on a Sunday morning.</p>	AS
13	<p><b>Planning</b></p> <p>A planning summary was circulated prior to the meeting.</p> <p>Since the last meeting:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 2 applications relating to installation of a wall mounted electric vehicle charging point at Meadow View, Gavinton have been approved.</li> <li>2. Application for replacement windows at Ashlea, Gavinton has been refused.</li> </ol> <p>2 new applications have been registered:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Alterations and extension to dwellinghouse, Choicelee farmhouse, Duns.</li> <li>2. Change of use alteration and extension to form dwellinghouse, building north of Cheviot View Polwarth, Marchmont Farms.</li> </ol> <p>Views of CC on any of these applications are requested by 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2022.</p> <p>Y H-H informed the meeting that planning permission for a dwelling house has now been granted to Duns Golf Couse.</p> <p>Details of all planning applications are available on the SBC Planning website and can be accessed via GFPCC community webpages.</p>	AS
14	<p><b>Correspondence</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mid-Berwickshire police report May, June &amp; July 2022 forwarded to all CC prior to the meeting.</li> <li>• Storm Arwen OFGEM report forwarded to all CC members and information on resilient community co-ordinators meeting and training forwarded to NG.</li> <li>• SBC Resilient Community equipment audit forwarded to NG.</li> </ul>	AS

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information on Carers needs assessment from health and social care partnership – forwarded to all CC.</li> <li>Proposal for the extension of Eccles substation circulated to all CC.</li> </ul> <p>The above correspondence is available on the community webpage.</p>	
15	<p><b>Councillor Update</b></p> <p>Cllr John Greenwell informed the meeting that his portfolio now includes roads and wished to explain that the SBC fleet of vans and bin lorries is ageing and require maintenance with some vehicles no longer viable to repair. Instead, council officers are leasing vehicles including bin lorries as a more cost-effective solution.</p> <p>JG noted that SBC had purchased a ‘pot-hole pro’ with plans to purchase another machine next year to repair A &amp; B roads – this will free up the Jet-patcher to repair C &amp; D roads.</p> <p>Cllr Donald Moffat agreed that the new pot-hole pro should make a vast improvement to the roads in the Borders. DM informed the meeting that he would be travelling (at his own expense) to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the British Legion in the Paris region of France.</p> <p>Cllr Mark Rowley was unable to attend the meeting and therefore no update was available.</p>	<p>JG</p> <p>DM</p>
16	<p><b>Any Other Business</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Neil Gilmour has been pursuing the issue of 2 large trees that fell across the path from the Hunters bridge to Fogo church during storm Arwen. NG has been in touch with Denise Brydon at SBC – the trees are on private land owned by the Trotter family – DB has been trying to contact the landowners to arrange removal of the trees.</li> <li>NG noted that there were 2 wheelie bins at the football clubhouse in Gavinton that had not been emptied for months and were filled with dog poo bags creating a very bad odour. NG contacted SBC to have these bins emptied and removed.</li> <li>CW queried funding for a defibrillator for Fogo – AS to forward information from SBC community engagement officer on this issue.</li> <li>CW requested that newsletters produced by the village hall be made available for residents at Bogend – NG offered to obtain a dozen newsletters to give CW.</li> </ul>	<p>NG</p> <p>NG</p> <p>CW/AS</p> <p>CW/NG</p>
17	<p><b>Dates of Meetings</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Date of next meeting, Monday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2022 – 7pm Gavinton Village Hall.</li> <li>Future meetings will be held at Gavinton Village Hall, at 7pm on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> November and 12<sup>th</sup> December 2022. 23<sup>rd</sup> January, 6<sup>th</sup> March, 17<sup>th</sup> April and 5<sup>th</sup> June (AGM) 2023.</li> </ul>	
18	<p><b>The meeting closed at 8.41pm</b></p>	