



**GAVINTON, FOGO & POLWARTH  
COMMUNITY COUNCIL**  
Minutes of the Meeting held at Gavinton Village Hall  
Monday the 26th September 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 John Greenwell, Cllr Mark Rowley, Carole Wright, Bryce Weir, Neil Gilmour, John Hughes and Morag Naylor</li> </ul>	
2	<p><b>Apologies:</b></p> <p>Cllr Donald Moffat and Tony Huggins-Haig</p>	
3	<p><b>Declarations of interest:</b> None raised</p>	
4	<p><b>Minutes of the meeting 15<sup>th</sup> August 2022</b> Minutes were approved with no amendments</p>	MN
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 the last meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> August 2022</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Cheque £43.52 issued to N. Gilmour to cover the cost of jerry cans for the generator.</li> <li>● Cheque for £116 issued to Gavinton Village Hall of which £36 is for three months' hire of the hall and £80 for the defibrillator cabinet.</li> <li>● Cheque £15.99 issued to Mrs L. Casey to reimburse her for the purchase of bedding plants for planters at Fogo.</li> <li>● Cheque for £19.19 to K.Dickinson for the GFPC website domain renewal</li> <li>● Balance of the CC account £1552.22</li> <li>● General funds £1327.98</li> <li>● Covid support funds £224.24</li> </ul> <p>CW arranged for NG to sign paperwork to add him as a signatory for the CC account. TH-H to sign when available at next CC meeting</p> <p>AS reported that an invoice for insurance renewal due in February had been received from SBC. This was for £124 compared to £17 previously. She had queried this but had received no reply. Cllr Rowley offered to take this up on behalf of the CC. AS to forward email correspondence to him.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">CW</p> <p style="text-align: center;">CW</p> <p style="text-align: center;">MR/AS</p>

7	<p><b>Community Improvements and Maintenance- Current</b></p> <p>a) <b>Update on the problem of overhanging shrubbery in Gavinton.</b>          BW had met with David Renton of SBC. One property owner had cut back some overhanging shrubbery. The area around the building plot opposite was still a problem. Mr Renton undertook to contact the owner.</p> <p>b) <b>Resilient Community – purchase of generator</b>          Neil Gilmour, resilient community co-ordinator, advised that the generator had not yet been moved into the village hall as the stage had still to be removed from the storage area. He is recruiting stewards for each road in Gavinton, Fogo and Polwarth who, in the event of a power failure, would contact the residents in their designated street to ensure they knew that the generator was operating in the village hall. In the event of a householder being out when a road steward visits a leaflet will be left informing them that the village hall is operating. CW volunteered to be road steward for the Bogend area.</p> <p>NG had received a visit from a representative of Paxton Village Hall where there is interest in installing a generator. He will also be meeting the estate manager for Marchmont. The main house has a generator but the other properties on the estate do not.</p> <p>NG confirmed that JH had agreed to be his deputy in case of his absence. He also advised that he would be attending a Zoom meeting with Architecture for Scotland as there was the possibility of funding being available.</p> <p>c) <b>Vehicle Speed – Main St Gavinton</b>          AS contacted Phillippa Gilhouly of SBC regarding the broken vehicle speed indicator. AS to remind her about this together with the request for signage and roundel/road markings. A study by Edinburgh Napier had indicated that these road markings seem effective. AS to also ask about the possibility of the installation of speed monitoring tubes across the road to monitor times/frequency.</p> <p>AS had contacted Stuart Little, the community police officer to request that a 'pop-up-bob' be deployed in Gavinton but had heard nothing. JG advised that as part of his new portfolio he was responsible for 'pop-up bob' and would look into having this speed deterrent temporarily installed in Gavinton. He said that the duties of a community police officer had been</p>	<p>JG</p> <p>NG</p> <p>CW</p> <p>NG</p> <p>AS</p>

	<p>extended but undertook to send an email to the Divisional Commander regarding Gavinton's problem.</p> <p>JG advised that the two abandoned cars in Gavinton were not parked on SBC property, and this was a police matter – the police Scotland had previously stated that this was a matter for SBC. JG kindly undertook to follow this up – photographs and details of the two vehicles were given to him at the meeting.</p> <p>d) <b>Gavinton Full Fibre Broadband Project</b> AS has been advised that the feasibility study being undertaken by Go-Fibre and mentioned in the minutes of 15<sup>th</sup> August 2022, has concluded that it is not viable for the company to include Gavinton in its current project. It appears that the village may have to wait a further 2 years for BT 100 to complete the upgrade. AS contacted Go-Fibre to ask whether costs or infrastructure were the limiting factors for project feasibility.</p> <p>e) <b>Dog Warden, Gavinton</b> AS contacted Rose Hogg, SBC dog education officer, who at the request of GFPCCC surveyed Gavinton and acknowledged that there was a problem with dog fouling. RH arranged for further signage to be placed in problem areas and carried out pavement stencilling where dog mess had been left. AS to contact RH to request a stencil that could be used by CC.</p> <p>f) <b>Removal of fallen trees, Hunters Bridge, Fogo</b> NG reported that the landowner had arranged for the large fallen tree blocking the path to be removed, two further trees crossing the pathway but at a higher level were still there but that the path was now passable.</p>	<p>JG</p> <p>JG</p> <p>AS</p> <p>AS</p> <p>NG</p>
8	<p><b>Community Improvements &amp; Maintenance – issues to be kept under review and discussed only when appropriate updates are available.</b></p> <p>a) Review of SBC grass cutting and maintenance of vegetation on roadside verges.</p> <p>b) Removal of Japanese Knotweed at Riverside in Gavinton BW had previously met a representative from SBC and showed him the location of the knotweed – he has heard nothing further on this issue. JG to follow up.</p> <p>c) Update on enquiries into the change of speed limit A6105 Duns/Greenlaw Road</p> <p>d) Improvements to Gavinton football pitches</p> <p>e) Maintenance of Information Signs-Fogo</p> <p>f) Upgrade of Gavinton play park</p> <p>g) Maintenance of road edges. JG/MR urged CC members and residents to photograph potholes and upload to SBC 'report a pothole' online service – these reports go straight on to the SBC list of planned works</p>	<p>All</p> <p>BW/JG</p> <p>KD</p> <p>AS</p> <p>All</p>

	and can trigger a road inspection where multiple reports are made of road issues.	
9	<p><b>Issue of new notice board at Fogo Church</b></p> <p>MR reported the conclusion by planning officers at SBC - that the new signboard was not appropriate and a letter conveying this had been sent to the Parish Minister.</p>	DM/MR
10	<p><b>Proposals to develop Lees Hill Renewable Energy Park</b></p> <p>A request for assistance had been received from a property owner close to the proposed development. At the last meeting AS had asked the developers, Fred Olsen Renewables, for more information particularly regarding the visual aspects. It was suggested that the survey map on noise impact should be looked at. This would be a ZTV report on the SBC Planning website.</p> <p>A project exhibition will be held in Gavinton Village Hall on the 19th of October from 11am to 7pm and at other venues, including Duns and Longformacus.</p>	AS
11	<p><b>Hardens Hill Quarry</b></p> <p>AS enquired who she should write to 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. It was noted that Mrs Huggins-Haig has already written 2 letters to SBC on this issue.</p>	AS
12	<p><b>Enquiry regarding responsibility for gravestones in Gavinton Church cemetery</b></p> <p>MN received an enquiry regarding two family gravestones which had fallen over. The enquirer has subsequently contacted SBC and his local MP on the matter.</p> <p>JG advised that this matter falls within his portfolio. It is the responsibility of family members to maintain and repair gravestones, however, at the last inspection of Gavinton cemetery, of the 173 gravestones 25 failed the safety test of which 16 were laid flat and 9 socketed. He noted that it was a sensitive issue. He also commented that sometimes repairs made to gravestones are not always up to standard.</p>	MN
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. The application for alterations and extension to dwellinghouse at Choicelee Farmhouse, Duns had been approved.</li> <li>2. The application for the erection of a dwellinghouse on land west of Hardens Hall, Duns had been refused.</li> </ol>	AS

	<p>1 new application has been registered:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Replacement windows and doors at Nisbet Rhodes, Duns.</li> </ol> <p>Details of all planning applications are available on the SBC Planning website and can be accessed via GFPCC community webpages.</p>	
14	<p><b>Correspondence</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Mid-Berwickshire police report August 2022 forwarded to all CC prior to the meeting.</li> <li>● Latest SBC update on 20mph speed trial forwarded to all CC.</li> <li>● SBC Resilient Community equipment audit forwarded to NG.</li> <li>● James Purves, SBC community engagement officer, had sent leaflets displaying locations where food can be obtained for free in Berwickshire and requested that they be displayed in the community and distributed more widely.</li> <li>● GFPCC response to Lees Hill proposal sent to energy consents Scotland.</li> </ul> <p>The above correspondence is available on the community webpage.</p>	AS/MN
15	<p><b>Councillor Update</b></p> <p>Cllr John Greenwell noted that he had received enquiries as to why the Council was hiring Cook's vans. As part of its fleet management the Council was moving towards leasing rather than owning which would take some time to implement and this hiring of vehicles was an interim measure.</p> <p>Cllr Mark Rowley had nothing to report</p> <p>Cllr Donald Moffat was unable to attend the meeting and therefore no update was available.</p>	JG
16	<p><b>Any Other Business</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● AS had received a complaint about the flagpole outside the village hall including a query as to whether planning permission had been obtained for its erection. She had made enquiries and had been advised that as it's not a permanent structure, and can be taken down, no planning permission was necessary. It was agreed that a "flag protocol" should be drawn up with input from CC and the Village Hall.</li> <li>● AS had received complaints about parking outside the Village Hall during an event there. It was agreed that drivers were not</li> </ul>	AS  AS

	<p>aware that cars can be parked on the grass because of the matting underneath. It was suggested that signs be put up to indicate this.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● CW had had further interaction with Fogo residents regarding installation of a defibrillator. They intend to pursue this and may approach CC, among others, about a contribution to the funding.</li> <li>● BW described what he felt was a disappointing interaction with the local MP and MSP regarding green energy plans for Scotland. MR noted that it was not just a Scottish Government issue. With Scotland's resources we should be self-sufficient and have the cheapest power but we are still dependent on international energy feeds when there are shortages of supply.</li> </ul>	<p>CW</p> <p>BW</p>
17	<p><b>Dates of Meetings</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Date of next meeting, Monday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2022 – 7pm Gavinton Village Hall.</li> <li>● Future meetings will be held at Gavinton Village Hall, at 7pm on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2022 and 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 9.05pm</b></p>	