

	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>GAVINTON, FOGO &amp; POLWARTH COMMUNITY COUNCIL</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Minutes of the Meeting held at Gavinton Village Hall on Monday the 12th of December 2022 at 7pm</b></p>
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Item	Comment	Action
1	<p><b>Welcome and Introductions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chairperson Amanda Stewart welcomed Bryce Weir, Neil Gilmour, John Hughes, Tony Huggins-Haig, and Morag Naylor.</li> </ul>	
2	<p><b>Apologies:</b></p> <p>Cllr Donald Moffat, Cllr John Greenwell, Cllr Mark Rowley, and Carol Wright.</p>	
3	<p><b>Declarations of interest:</b> None raised</p>	
4	<p><b>Minutes of the meeting on 7th November 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>Notice of Motion – Co-option of further CC members</b> MN proposed Bryce Weir and was seconded by NG</p> <p>NG proposed Yvonne Huggins-Haig and was seconded by JH</p> <p>Once voter roll numbers are supplied the official paperwork will be attended to.</p>	MN

7	<p><b>Treasurer's Report</b></p> <p>There were no transactions since the last meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2022</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Balance of the CC account is £1227.91 of which  General funds £1075.10  Covid 19 support funds £152.81</li> </ul> <p>AS reported that an invoice for the insurance renewal due in February, received from SBC, for £124 compared to £17 previously was being investigated following Cllr Rowley's intervention. An email dated 6 December had been received from SBC to say that there are inconsistencies and that no invoices would be issued until these were clarified.</p>	<p>CW</p> <p>MR/AS</p>
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8	<p><b>Community Improvements and Maintenance- Current</b></p> <p><b>a) Update on the problem of overhanging shrubbery in Gavinton.</b>          BW reported that no warning letter had been sent and, although some overhanging shrubbery had been cut back, it was still not sufficient. AS to contact Cllr Greenwell.</p> <p><b>b) Resilient Community – purchase of supplies for if/when an electricity outage occurs</b>          It was agreed that supplies of tea, coffee, hot chocolate, milk, squash and cup a soup should be sourced/purchased. Where possible, donations should be explored. CW had advised that supplies could be funded from the COVID fund. It was also suggested that a number of emergency foil thermal wraps be obtained. NG advised that Longformacus and Westruther had small generators. Gavinton has a large one. An enquiry to be made regarding Fogo's generator.</p> <p><b>c) Vehicle Speed/Abandoned Vehicles – Main St Gavinton</b>          Both abandoned cars have been removed. This can now be removed from the agenda. AS to advise Cllr Greenwell.</p> <p>AS has been in contact with Philippa Gilhooly of SBC regarding the speed sign and been advised that Gavinton is on the priority list for replacement. AS to follow up with Cllr Greenwell on the speed tubes.</p> <p><b>d) Renewal of the sign for the Ann Smith Memorial</b>          NG offered to repaint the sign. He referred to the GFPCC minutes in April 2001 which noted a donation had been made to repair the sign and subsequently part of the funds had been used to surround the memorial with gravel. He suggested a Spring clear up job. AS suggested that as access to the memorial was quite difficult it might be moved closer to the Main Road. AS to investigate. It was noted that Lady Ann Pringle of Langton House had arranged the installation of the memorial for Ann Smith who had been a family retainer for 40 years</p> <p><b>e) Glass Recycling in Gavinton</b>          NG suggested a possible site near to the Church Hall. There are several issues including noise, parking, and mess e.g., the site in the Duns Industrial Area. It was agreed this item be carried forward to the next meeting when comment can be heard from a Cllr.</p>	<p>AS</p> <p>MN/AS</p> <p>NG</p> <p>AS</p> <p>AS</p>
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**f) Dog Warden, Gavinton**

AS handed over a dog fouling stencil and spray can to BW which had been funded by a donation from T H-H for which he was thanked.

9	<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. TH-H commented on the overhanging vegetation on the road from Hardens Hall to Duns. It was suggested that photographs be taken and forwarded to SBC and Cllr Greenwell</p> <p>b) Removal of Japanese Knotweed at riverside in Gavinton. BW had previously met a representative from SBC and shown him the location of the knotweed, but he has heard nothing further. Cllr Rowley had sent through a link to the Tweed Forum. AS to forward to BW.</p> <p>c) Maintenance of Information Signs-Fogo</p> <p>d) Upgrade of Gavinton play park  AS is following up on the plans for the park. Recent update from Craig Blackie - delays in tendering for a contractor mean that plans for the playpark are not yet available. The contract is going out to tender early December with the hope of appointing a contractor early in the new year. Once the company carrying out the work is identified he will request that the plans be shared with the CC as soon as possible.</p> <p>e) Gavinton Full Fibre Broadband Project AS advised that the Village Hall Committee has decided to stream movies and live events and are seeking funding to do this but, in the meantime, have approached Go Fibre asking if the company would be prepared to connect the Hall as part of its broadband rollout. AS to monitor.</p> <p>f) 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 and can trigger a road inspection where multiple reports are made of road issues.</p>	<p>All</p> <p>TH-H/JG</p> <p>AS/BW</p> <p>KD</p> <p>AS</p>
10	<p><b>Issue of new notice board at Fogo Church</b> Historic Scotland had inspected the site and suggested that the notice board be moved further away from the historic lychgate.</p>	MR

11	<p><b>Proposal to develop Lees Hill Renewable Energy Park</b> AS had contacted the developers to ascertain the next steps for the project. A reply was received from Julie Aitken who is now the Senior Project Manager. With the comments from the public and the findings of their environment and technical studies an updated layout will be prepared and submitted for further public consultation in a series of meetings and exhibitions before a formal planning application is submitted. AS to continue to monitor.</p>	AS
12	<p><b>Hardens Hill Quarry</b></p> <p>Mrs Huggins-Haig has written three letters to SEPA, the government body responsible for the safe policing of the site, on this issue and has not received a reply. It was suggested that TH-H write again, with the previous correspondence, advising them of the next CC meeting and cc JG/DM/MR. It appears from his enquiries that the quarry has a historic license which allows the use of the quarry when necessary e.g. road building, or if the windfarm gets the go ahead. There will be less activity during the winter months.</p>	TH-H

13	<p><b>Twinning Proposal</b></p> <p>AS and MN had attended a meeting with Mr Les Whyte, the representative of the Mayor of Villeneuve-au-Chemin, M. Gilles de Cockborne who has an historic family connection with Gavinton. A note of the meeting had been circulated to CC members and put on the community webpage. It was agreed that further discussion be had with the Gavinton Village Hall Committee. As Duns was twinned with Zagren in Poland AS to contact Duns CC to ask about cost implications etc.</p>	AS/ MN
14	<p><b>Planning</b></p> <p>A planning summary was circulated prior to the meeting.</p> <p>Since the last meeting:</p> <p>Two applications had been approved.</p> <p>Erection of dwelling house with associated access road - land west of Langton Birches, Duns - approved subject to conditions</p> <p>Change of use, alterations, and extension to form dwelling house from derelict building - North of Cheviot View, Polwarth - Approved.</p> <p>A new application had been received for Erection of dwelling house - paddock west of Hardens Hall, Duns.</p> <p>Details of all planning applications are available on the SBC Planning website and can be accessed via GFPCC community webpages.</p>	AS
15	<p><b>Correspondence</b></p> <p>Mid-Berwickshire police reports for October and November 2022 forwarded to all CC prior to the meeting.</p> <p>Details of a local walk between Greenlaw and Duns, part of the Borders Greenway project, was circulated by Tim Jackson to CC members with a project progress report.</p> <p>AS reminded the meeting that the Gavinton Christmas walk from Gavinton to Fogo along the disused railway line would take place on the 18<sup>th</sup> December followed by mince pies and mulled wine at the Christmas tree in the square. All were welcome.</p> <p>The above correspondence is available on the community webpage.</p>	MN

16	<p><b>Councillor Update</b></p> <p>None of the Councillors were able to attend the meeting. Cllr Rowley sent an email dealing with three issues.</p> <p>Duns Nursery: a local group are making progress putting a business plan together to take over the nursery on a community ownership model. Any support would be welcome.</p> <p>The SBC budget would be coming out in the next day or two. The Councillors are aiming to agree a cross party budget recognising that it will be the hardest budget in a decade with the pay awards, no likely increases in funding and massive inflation having effects. SBC would like to hear rural communities' priorities come through.</p> <p>Finally, there was a council proposal to support Duns Swimming Pool reduce its carbon emissions, become more sustainable and help it cut energy costs substantially.</p> <p>There were no updates from Cllr Moffat or Cllr Greenwell</p>
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17	<p><b>Any Other Business</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BW commented on the state of the road edges and NW advised it has been reported. In addition, NG had reported a pothole in Main Street which has now been repaired. He encouraged everyone to send photographs of potholes to the SBC "report a pothole" online service.</li> </ul> <p>It was noted that a new NHS dental practice would be opening shortly in Murray Street, Duns.</p>
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18	<b>Dates of Meetings</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Date of next meeting, Monday 23rd January 2023 – 7pm Gavinton Village Hall.</li> <li>• Future meetings will be held at Gavinton Village Hall, at 7pm on Monday 6th March, 17th April, and 5th June (AGM) 2023.</li> </ul>	
19	<b>The meeting closed at 7.58pm</b>	