



## GAVINTON, FOGO & POLWARTH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held at Gavinton Village  
Hall on Monday the 23rd of January 2023 at  
7pm

Item	Comment	Action
1	<b>Welcome and Introductions:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Chairperson Amanda Stewart welcomed Cllr Donald Moffat, Cllr Mark Rowley, Carole Wright, Bryce Weir, Neil Gilmour, John Hughes, Morag Naylor, Evelyn Duncan, Paul Whitfield and Barry Van Der Boer.</li></ul>	
2	<b>Apologies:</b>  Cllr John Greenwell and Tony Huggins-Haig.	
3	<b>Declarations of interest:</b> None raised	
4	<b>Minutes of the meeting on 12th December 2022</b> Minutes were approved with no amendments	MN
5	<b>Matters arising from the minutes and not covered elsewhere in the agenda</b> None raised	
6	<b>Co-option of further CC members</b>  Once voter roll numbers are supplied for Bryce Weir and Yvonne Huggins-Haig the official paperwork will be attended to.	MN

7	<p data-bbox="313 212 574 243"><b>Treasurer's Report</b></p> <p data-bbox="313 275 1081 306">Transactions since the last meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2022</p> <p data-bbox="362 342 1260 373">Cheque for £24.00 was issued to Gavinton Village Hall for hire of hall.</p> <p data-bbox="313 409 1250 474">Cheques for £20.00 and £8.29 were issued to BW for a jockey wheel and accessories for the generator.</p> <ul data-bbox="378 548 1019 646" style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Balance of the CC account is £1175.62 of which General funds are £1051.10 and Covid 19 support funds £124.52</li></ul> <p data-bbox="313 709 1273 808">CW reminded everyone that the annual accounts for the CC would be prepared at the end of March and to keep this in mind for the next meeting if claims are to be made.</p> <p data-bbox="313 873 1273 1073">AS had previously 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. There was nothing further to report as yet.</p>	CW
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<p>8</p>	<p><b>Community Improvements and Maintenance- Current</b></p> <p><b>a) Update on the problem of overhanging shrubbery in Gavinton.</b>  AS had received a complaint from the resident opposite the house in question. He had received a warning letter from SBC which had obviously been sent to the wrong addressee as he had no foliage on his property boundary. BW said that although some overhanging shrubbery had been cut back, it was still not sufficient. MR said the responsible SBC member would be in Duns the next day and he'd ask him to make a site visit and advise the CC.</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. Eight emergency foil thermal wraps had been purchased. NG had enquired about Fogo Kirk's generator, and it seems that it is a sufficient size to cope with the Kirk's needs.</p> <p><b>c) Vehicle Speed – Main St Gavinton</b>   It was noted that power had been connected to the speed sign and it was now operational. As it had been decided to make Gavinton a 20mph zone AS would contact Philippa Gilhooly of SBC regarding the speed tubes.</p> <p><b>d) Glass Recycling in Gavinton</b>   It had been suggested at the last meeting that the CC explore glass recycling in Gavinton. The Scottish Deposit Return Scheme was supposed to be coming into effect in August, but nobody was sure how this would operate. MR explained there were several issues having a recycling site. NG asked that the item be removed.</p>	<p>MR</p> <p>MN/AS</p> <p>AS</p>
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<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> <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 has spoken to Jamie Stewart of the Tweed Forum – who have a team to deal with Knotweed. BW to show location spring/summer.</p> <p>c) Maintenance of Information Signs-Fogo</p> <p>d) Upgrade of Gavinton play park  AS reported that the contract for the upgrade had been awarded to Kompan. MR said that the company concerned had done a good job with the Longformacus playpark and had completed on time and in budget. He encouraged CC members to have a look at the work done there. Once the plans for Gavinton are available, they will be shared with the CC. AS to liaise with James Purvis &amp; Craig Blackie.</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 continue to monitor.</p> <p>f) Maintenance of road edges.  JG/MR have previously encouraged CC members and residents to photograph potholes and upload to SBC’s ‘report a pothole’ online service – these reports go straight on to the SBC list of planned works and can trigger a road inspection.</p>	<p>All</p> <p>TH-H/ JG</p> <p>BW</p> <p>AS</p> <p>AS</p>
<p>10</p>	<p><b>Issue of new notice board at Fogo Church</b>  MR reported that a compromise had been recommended and the matter was now resolved. This item can be withdrawn.</p>	

<p>11</p>	<p><b>Proposals to develop Lees Hill Renewable Energy Park and Dunside Wind Farm</b></p> <p>AS had contacted SBC’s Planning unit as its website omitted reference to GFPCC, even though most of the Lees Hill project was in the CC’s catchment area. This has been corrected but it was noted that the project, because of its size, would be considered by the Energy Consents Unit of the Scottish Government and not SBC. GFPCC has been recorded as a consultee to this unit as well as to SBC. There was discussion as to what was expected of the CC in this role. MR advised that the CC should “test the water” as to local opinion but not run a referendum. DM advised that the CC should encourage individuals to express written views which would be more effective than a for/against petition.</p> <p>JH was concerned that the power generated by the Lees Hill Park would go straight to the national grid and not benefit local users. He was also concerned that there were still no visuals available so that the aesthetics of the full project can be assessed. MR advised that the developer’s environment impact report would contain this but it would include view sites that would be more skewed to the developers than locals. It was agreed that the CC should identify where the view sites should be to cover Gavinton, Fogo, Polwarth, Cothill, Hardens Hall and Bogend.</p> <p>PW also advised that the developers had proposed installing noise monitoring devices, including near to Old Langtonlees, by last November but nothing had happened. He had also received no reply to his enquiries about the next round of presentations/exhibitions.</p> <p>The developers have promised a monthly update to the CC and that the next exhibition would possibly be in June. It appears that the application date has been put back.</p> <p>AS to continue to monitor.</p>	<p>AS</p> <p>AS</p>
<p>16</p>	<p><b>Councillor Update</b></p> <p>As DM had to leave the meeting early, he gave his update.</p> <p>He had pinned a sign on the Village Hall noticeboard which encouraged anybody struggling with the cost-of-living crisis to contact SBC for help.</p> <p>On the subject of the suggested twinning with Villeneuve au Chemin, speaking from the experiences of Coldstream’s twinning started a number of years ago, he said that there had been many benefits. To mention a few there had been school exchanges, there were the cultural and social interactions between the communities, it had opened opportunities for local shopkeepers and businesses, and it had the potential to be socially inclusive where residents who had never travelled abroad had the opportunity with the possibility of transport grants. There was the option of themed visits and visits further afield to e.g. Abbotsford, historical Borders, Edinburgh. It was noted that this wasn’t an SBC matter but rather a community decision.</p>	<p>DM</p>

<p>11</p>	<p>BW raised the issue of improving the communication/interaction with SBC. He felt that sometimes issues dragged on and there wasn't a timely resolution. There should be a better front end system to deal with matters. MR said that some things, like pothole repairs, worked but BW pointed to issues like abandoned cars, knotweed and foliage. DM noted historic problems like staff/budget cuts, staff changes and retention, and extended job responsibilities. MR advised that there was a new pilot system being trialled which, if adopted, would improve the interaction with SBC.</p> <p>DM left the meeting.</p> <p><b>Proposals to develop Lees Hill Renewable Energy Park and Dunside Wind Farm (continued)</b></p> <p>Dunside Wind Farm is being developed by EDF near to the Fallago Rig Wind Farm. It is at a more advanced stage to that of the Lees Hill Park project, and apparently will lodge its application in May. AS had enquired if it would be appropriate to ask a representative from EDF to come to a CC meeting. It was agreed that more information was needed particularly as the proposed turbines may be as high as 260m, not seen before. It would be interesting to see the visuals. The plan was to feed the power into the Crystal Rig distribution station. MR suggested that the CC ask for viewpoint details near to our area. It was agreed to ask that a representative come to the next CC meeting.</p>	<p>AS</p>
<p>12</p>	<p><b>Hardens Hill Quarry</b></p> <p>Mrs Huggins-Haig had written to SEPA, the government body responsible for the safe policing of the site, about the number of lorries going to and from the quarry sometimes at unsocial hours. She had received a reply that it was not a matter for SEPA. It had been suggested at the last CC meeting 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. MR said that it wasn't a license issue but rather a planning consent one.</p>	

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. One comment (negative) had been received. It was agreed that further discussion be had with the Gavinton Village Hall Committee. As Duns was twinned with Zagan in Poland AS to contact Duns CC to ask about cost implications etc. It would be discussed again at the next meeting.</p>	AS
14	<p><b>Planning</b></p> <p>A planning summary was circulated prior to the meeting. Since the last meeting there had been no new applications.</p> <p>The application for replacement windows and door at Nisbet Rhodes, Duns had been approved subject to conditions.</p> <p>Details of all planning applications are available on the SBC Planning website and can be accessed via GFPC community webpages.</p> <p><b>Correspondence</b></p>	AS
15	<p>Mid-Berwickshire police report for part of December 2022 had been 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. It was noted that the feasibility study had been completed and showed an estimated cost of 37mn.</p> <p>The above correspondence is available on the community webpage.</p>	MN

16	<p><b>Councillor Update (continued)</b></p> <p>MR advised that a new Coast to Coast cycle route is to be launched</p> <p>The SBC budget consultation/survey had been published and he encouraged CC members and the public to give their views. It was open until 31<sup>st</sup> January.</p> <p>He had already noted the application dates for the two wind farm projects.</p> <p>There was no update from Cllr Greenwell and Cllr Moffat had given his earlier.</p>	MR
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17	<p><b>Any Other Business</b></p> <p>NG, in his capacity as Resilient Officer, had submitted the final yearly report to Black Rig Wind Farm Community Fund in respect of the generator grant. As previously noted, he had visited Fogo Church to look at its generator and facilities.</p> <p>NG had reported a pothole in Main Street which has now been repaired although, initially, only part of the job had been done and the workmen had to be called back to complete it. The roadside edges at Crimson hill needed attention and he had followed up again with SBC. It was noted at SBC was purchasing another road repair machine.</p> <p>JH enquired if there were any plans to celebrate King Charles's Coronation. AS to liaise with the Village Hall Committee.</p>	AS
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18	<b>Dates of Meetings</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Date of next meeting, Monday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2023 – 7pm Gavinton Village Hall.</li><li>● Future meetings will be held at Gavinton Village Hall, at 7pm on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April and 5<sup>th</sup> June (AGM) 2023.</li></ul>	
19	<b>The meeting closed at 8.40pm</b>	