



**GAVINTON, FOGO & POLWARTH
COMMUNITY COUNCIL**
Minutes of the Meeting held at Gavinton Village Hall
on Monday the 6th of March 2023 at 7pm

Item	Comment	Action
1	Welcome and Introductions: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Chairperson Amanda Stewart welcomed Cllr John Greenwell, Carole Wright, Bryce Weir, Morag Naylor, Paul Whitfield, Lesley Thompson and Richard Fisher	
2	Apologies: Cllr Donald Moffat, Cllr Mark Rowley, Neil Gilmour and Tony Huggins-Haig.	
3	Declarations of interest: None raised	
4	Minutes of the meeting on 23rd January 2023 Minutes were approved with no amendments	MN
5	Matters arising from the minutes and not covered elsewhere in the agenda. None raised	
6	Co-option of further CC members The voter roll number for Yvonne Huggins-Haig has been received and after clarification Bryce Weir's should be forthcoming. The motions to appoint have already been passed and any official paperwork will be attended to.	MN

7	<p data-bbox="313 212 578 243">Treasurer's Report</p> <p data-bbox="313 275 1243 306">There were no transactions since the last meeting on 23rd January 2023</p> <ul data-bbox="363 342 1008 443" style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="363 342 1008 443">• Balance of the CC account is £1175.62 of which General funds are £1051.10 and Covid 19 support funds £124.52 <p data-bbox="313 506 1255 705">CW again reminded everyone that the annual accounts for the CC would be prepared at the end of March and to keep this in mind if claims are to be made. AS mentioned the red phone box which had been purchased at Polwarth. She would enquire if it needed repainting and if so the distinctive/appropriate paint could be purchased before the financial year end.</p> <p data-bbox="313 768 1276 1068">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. A subsequent email has been received asking that the amount be ringfenced for this financial year pending resolution. CW confirmed this was the case. SBC has confirmed that the full premium has been paid so the insurance has been in place for 2022/2023.</p>	CW
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8	<p>Dunside Wind Farm</p> <p>Lesley Thompson and Richard Fisher (RF) of EDF, the developers of the windfarm had been invited to attend the meeting to give information about the plan to develop a new wind farm site adjacent to the existing Fallago Rig Wind Farm, also run by EDF. It would use the existing access road and extend to Dunside. He was asked about getting the bigger turbine parts through Westruther but said this had been explored. RF said that they were completing the EIA report and couldn't supply visualisations at this time but once completed visualisations would be by way of a 3D model. It was hoped that these would be available at the next CC meeting on the 17th April. He explained that EDF had started the project planning from a "worst case" scenario as regards the impact on the locality i.e., 20 wind turbines at 260m in height. This has been adjusted down to 15/16 turbines at 220m in height. He acknowledged this was considerably higher than the Fallago Rig turbines. 15 turbines would generate between 108 and 110MW of power. As regards visibility Lees Hill would provide screening for Gavinton but areas in the southern part of the CC's area will have more visibility. RF explained that part of the EDF application involved habitat management, ditch blocking for peat bog restoration, tree planting etc. The energy would be tapped into the grid going north rather than south. The only residents are employees. EDF's application would probably be made end May/beg June. In reply to an enquiry RF said that there was no plan at present to have battery storage, but this would be included as "in principle" in the application. Unlike other neighbouring schemes this project was not interested in having solar panels. AS enquired if the GFPCC is eligible for a share of the Community Fund if Dunside got the go ahead. RF confirmed that the CC would.</p> <p>Lesley Thompson recommended a current TV documentary series presented by Guy Martin dealing with wind power.</p> <p>Lesley and Richard were thanked for travelling from Glasgow and Edinburgh respectively to present to the CC.</p>	
9	<p>Community Improvements and Maintenance- Current</p> <p>a) Update on the problem of overhanging shrubbery in Gavinton. BW had spoken to the resident opposite the site under discussion who had been understanding about the mistaken correspondence. At the last meeting 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. Nothing further had been heard.</p> <p>b) Resilient Community – purchase of supplies for if/when an electricity outage occurs. A letter has been sent to the Duns Co-op, but no reply received. A follow up would be made. It was agreed a similar letter would be sent to Tesco.</p>	<p>MR</p> <p>AS/MN</p>

c) Vehicle Speed – Main St, Gavinton

AS had been advised that speed tubes would not be supplied. She had been in touch with Philippa Gilhooly of SBC and has requested a second electronic speed monitoring sign at the East end of Main Street, Gavinton. It is expected to arrive late summer. It has been confirmed that the roundel and dragon's teeth markings would be installed at both ends of the village. Cllr Greenwell had been in touch with Sgt. Grainger who oversees the Community Police and who confirmed that the Community Officer Little would be visiting with the speed gun and the "pop up bob" sign.

<p>10</p>	<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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>BW advised that knotweed was not yet started to produce new growth, but he has spoken to Jamie Stewart of the Tweed Forum which has 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</p> <p>AS presented the plans for the play park following a community site meeting. The equipment has been ordered and hopefully everything will be in place by the school summer holidays. Once up and running Cllr Greenwell advised that the playpark comes under his portfolio so if there are any problems, they should be referred to him.</p> <p>e) Gavinton Full Fibre Broadband Project</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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 where multiple reports are made of road issues.</p>	<p>All</p> <p>TH-H/JG</p> <p>BW</p> <p>AS</p> <p>AS</p>

11	<p>SBC’s Scrutiny & Petitions Committee. Request for proposals from CCs for review</p> <p>BW commented that there seemed to be no “harmony” between SBC and CCs in dealing with CC problems. Cllr Greenwell advised that there was a new SBC internal system being devised whereby projects were sent direct to the officer concerned. He agreed that he would investigate if the system could extend linkage to CCs. It was suggested that there be a nominated CC member to be part of this interaction with the system.</p>	
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12	<p>Proposals to develop Lees Hill Renewable Energy Park</p> <p>At the last GFPCC meeting, concern had been raised that no visuals had yet to be supplied so that the aesthetics of the full project can be assessed. MR had 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. AS had sent the developers What3Words location identifiers for Gavinton, Polwarth, Cothill, Ladyflat, Woodend Farm, Bogend and the Hardens area. She was told that the project was still at an early stage and the developers were not yet in a position to run visualisations for the viewpoints requested. Further down the line they would be able to visit individual properties with an iPad which can run a visual from the property.</p> <p>PW advised that the proposed installation of noise monitoring devices by last November had not yet happened, but he understood that approval has now been given for two properties. He had also received no reply to his enquiries about the next round of presentations/exhibitions. The developers have promised a monthly update to the CC and that the next exhibition would be in June. The application date has been put back.</p> <p>PW also noted that Crystal Rig Wind Farm was going to apply to instal solar panels on its site</p> <p>AS to continue to monitor.</p>	AS
13	<p>Hardens Hill Quarry</p> <p>At a previous meeting TH-H had advised that, from his enquiries, 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 had said that it wasn’t a license issue but rather a planning consent one. Nothing further had been reported</p>	TH-H

14	<p>Twinning Proposal</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 and had previously expressed interest in twinning with Gavinton. As Duns was twinned with Zagan in Poland AS contacted Duns CC to ask about cost implications etc. It appears that this had come about because of the accommodation of Polish soldiers during the wartime. AS was referred to Lady McEwan who had chaired the committee on the twinning with Zagan. An enquiry had been made of a local resident as to other possible local Cockborn connections. Cllr Greenwell advised that Coldstream's twinning was run by a separate committee who dealt with arranging accommodation and activities etc. A lot of work was involved. Further research was needed.</p>	AS/MN
15	<p>Planning</p> <p>A planning summary was circulated prior to the meeting. Since the last meeting there had been one new application to site a static caravan on a plot East of Langton Field, Duns.</p> <p>An application to erect a dwellinghouse on a paddock West of Hardens Hall, Duns, had been refused.</p> <p>Details of all planning applications are available on the SBC Planning website and can be accessed via GFPC community webpages.</p>	AS
16	<p>Correspondence forwarded to CC prior to the meeting.</p> <p>Mid-Berwickshire police report for the period 24th December 2022 to 31st January 2023.</p> <p>Details of Coast-to-Coast Cycle Route webinar on 9th March 2023.</p> <p>Invitation to be part of BBC Scotland's Debate Night's audience at Kelso on 22nd February 2023.</p> <p>Notice of the next round of applications for the Community Ownership Fund from 15th February to 14th April 2023.</p> <p>SBC's draft financial plan 2023/2024 for services and major projects.</p>	MN

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The above correspondence is available on the community webpage.

Councillor Update

Cllrs Donald Moffat and Mark Rowley were unable to attend the meeting and there were no updates from them.

Cllr Greenwell said that at a recent meeting in Greenlaw he had received representations on behalf of residents at a housing association property in Polwarth who were not receiving Government support towards electricity costs. He had raised this with SBC's Anti-Poverty unit and been subsequently told that there was a new Government scheme to give financial assistance to people living in these supported residential properties, but people must apply as automatic payments will not be made as is being done for the current household scheme. Although there were no such properties in the GFPCC area he urged members to get the word out to apply if they knew of residents in Duns, or elsewhere.

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He also noted that there had been a reinspection of Berwickshire High School and the follow up had reported an immense improvement.

Any Other Business

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AS reported that she had been asked to complete a SEPA survey for CCs to highlight issues of concern in the area. She had noted healthcare and education.

Dates of Meetings

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The date of the next meeting is Monday, 17th April 2023 – 7pm Gavinton Village Hall.

Future meetings will be held at Gavinton Village Hall, at 7pm on Monday 5th June (AGM), 17th July, 28th August, 9th September, 27th November 2023, 15th January, 4th March, 15th April and 3rd June(AGM) 2024.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm.

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