



GAVINTON, FOGO & POLWARTH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held at Gavinton Village Hall
on Monday the 17th of April 2023 at 7pm

Item	Comment	Action
1	Welcome and Introductions: Chairperson Carole Wright welcomed Cllr John Greenwell, Cllr Donald Moffat, Bryce Weir, Neil Gilmour, John Hughes Morag Naylor and Paul Whitfield.	
2	Apologies: Amanda Stewart, Cllr Mark Rowley, Tony Huggins-Haig and Yvonne Huggins-Haig.	
3	Declarations of interest: None raised	
4	Minutes of the meeting on 6th March 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 numbers for Yvonne Huggins-Haig and Bryce Weir have been recorded and their co-option to the Community Council is confirmed.	MN

7	<p>Treasurer's Report</p> <p>Transactions since the last meeting on 6th March 2023</p> <p>Cheque for £20.00 was issued to Morag Naylor for the purchase of 8 emergency foil thermal wraps.</p> <p>Cheque for £70.56 was issued to Amanda Stewart for dog waste bags.</p> <p>Cheque for £100.60 was issued to Scottish Borders Website Design for the annual software subscription.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Balance of the CC account is £984.46 of which: General funds are £879.94 and Covid 19 support funds £104.52</p> <p>CW advised that she had prepared the annual accounts for the CC to the end of March 2023 and these were now with the auditors.</p> <p>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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Community Improvements and Maintenance- Current

a) Resilient Community – purchase of supplies for if/when an electricity outage occurs.

MN

Letters have been sent to the Duns Co-op and to Tesco in Berwick upon Tweed, but no replies have been received. A follow up would be made. CW reminded the members that there were Covid funds that could be used for purchases of supplies. Agreed if there were no responses then purchases should be made.

b) Vehicle Speed – Main St, Gavinton

AS

AS, in an update to the CC, advised the following:

PC Stuart Little, at the request of the CC, had deployed “pop up bob” on 3rd April on Crimson Hill, Gavinton and hopes to repeat this. NG had been on hand during this exercise and observed that only about 50% of the drivers coming in from the Duns side had taken note. He felt that with PC Little using a speed gun and culprits being charged was the only effective way to reduce speeding incidents.

There had been a request for speed checks using the speed gun. The guns are currently being serviced and calibrated but once available PC Little hopes to use one on Crimson Hill. He had requested information on problem times to help with this. At the suggestion of BW and NG these should be 7.30am to 8.30am and 4pm to 5.30pm.

Phillipa Gilhouly, of SBC, advised that the additional electronic sign requested by the CC for the east end of Main Street should be available late summer 2023.

The dragons teeth and speed limit roundels should be added late spring/summer 2023 once the weather improves. Ms Gilhouly had noted that Gavinton has been given priority for the addition of signing and lining due to the requests from the CC and Community Policing.

Cllr Moffat advised of a pilot programme to train members in a limited number of communities to use/record/report with a speed gun. Details would be forwarded to the police and action would be taken against miscreants. It was agreed that such action could create strife among neighbours within a community.

BW wanted rumble strips laid in the stretch of road in Crimson Hill going towards Duns. He said they should be left for approx. 3 days to collect evidence for police action.

	<p>Cllr Greenwell said he would follow up on the matter with Ms Gilhouly and suggested that the CC ask for evidence/details of the last “pop up bob” trial. He recommended that the CC send a strongly worded letter to her stating that the CC was under criticism as it was perceived that it was doing nothing about this serious issue. NG pointed out that one of the five priorities of the Berwickshire Police Force is road safety. Cllr Greenwell asked that he get a copy of the CC’s letter to Ms Gilhouly.</p> <p>c) Parking around Gavinton Village Green</p> <p>There had been complaints from residents that the roads around the Green became impassable when there was an event on at the Village Hall, particularly on the corner closest to the entrance of the Hall. Cllr Moffat commented that mesh had been laid on the side of the green to enable parking but, as this was done some time ago, people had forgotten about the facility. NG suggested buying six “No Waiting” cones to be put out before an event in the Village Hall however NG has prepared an information leaflet on parking to be sent out when the Village Hall is being booked and it was agreed to initially see if this made a difference.</p>	NG
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<p>9</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>BW reported that the verges have been cut.</p> <p>b) Removal of Japanese Knotweed at riverside in Gavinton</p> <p>BW had previously advised that knotweed had 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. Nothing further had been heard so BW to follow up.</p> <p>c) Maintenance of Information Signs-Fogo</p> <p>CW to follow up on this.</p> <p>d) Upgrade of Gavinton play park</p> <p>AS, in her update note, advised that work would commence the week beginning 24th April. The contractor, Kompan, would remove the old playpark equipment to save time. 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 had previously 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.</p> <p>CW advised that Bogend had had a visit from agents for BT doing a survey regarding the “R100 Project”. Apparently Bogend will be fully connected by Sept. 2024.</p>	<p>All</p> <p>BW</p> <p>CW</p> <p>AS</p>
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10	<p>Proposed Wind Farm Updates</p> <p>The CC has not received any further updates from Fred Olsen Renewables regarding the Lees Hill Renewable Energy Park. Paul Whitfield advised that noise monitoring devices were going to be installed for 4/8 weeks and that the company's application date had been put back towards the end of the year.</p> <p>EDF's Renewables Dunside Wind Farm update for April 2023 has been circulated. The design has been finalised but not yet published. The proposal is for 15 turbines with tip height of 220m. They are still working on the environmental impact report and visualisations. The company was anticipating planning application submission in June 2023. There will be another round of public exhibitions at the same time.</p> <p>Cllr Greenwell observed that there was a move away from projects being named "wind farms" to "energy parks". PW had enquired how the Lees Hill energy was going to be sent through to the grid, for example, by pylons but had not received an answer. BW commented that the Scottish Government does not seem to have a plan for the integrated energy service. AS to continue to monitor.</p>	AS
11	<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 was not a license issue but rather a planning consent one. Nothing further had been reported.</p>	TH-H
12	<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. It was agreed that a separate committee would be needed if this was going to be pursued and would involve a lot of work as previously indicated by Cllr Moffat. An enquiry had been made of a local resident as to other possible local Cockborn connections. AS to follow up.</p> <p>Cllr Moffat said that 60 people were coming to Coldstream from France this year as part of its twinning arrangement.</p>	AS

13	<p>SBC Funding for Coronation event</p> <p>AS, in her briefing note, advised that she had made an application to the King's Coronation Fund on behalf of the GFPCC and the Gavinton Village Hall. The plan is to use the Village Hall cinema to live stream the Coronation concert on Sunday the 7th May. There will be a free community event with bouncy castle on the village green, snacks, soft drinks, ice cream and a Coronation cake. She had had confirmation that GBP475 had been allocated for the event.</p>	AS
14	<p>UK Government Emergency Alerts Test</p> <p>NG advised that at 3pm on the 23rd April there would be a national test of the national alert services. This would send out a test signal to all mobiles to warn if there is a life-threatening emergency nearby.</p>	NG
15	<p>Planning</p> <p>A planning summary was circulated prior to the meeting. Since the last meeting:</p> <p>The application to site a static caravan on a plot East of Langton Field, Duns has been approved subject to conditions.</p> <p>There were 5 new applications:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.Erection of temporary accommodation, access, parking and timber outbuilding (retrospective) land west of Hardens Hall (plot 2). Application registered and any responses to application to be submitted by 2nd May 2023 2.Extension to dwellinghouse, Polwarth Rhodes Cottage, Greenlaw, Duns. Application registered. 3.Erection of dwellinghouse on land northeast of Woodend Farmhouse, Duns. Application registered. 4.Removal of Condition 5 of planning permission pertaining to visibility splay land east of Thistle Brae, The Hardens, Duns. Application registered. This was discussed at the meeting. Cllr Moffat advised that an official complaint had been made to SBC and would be considered by the Chief Planning Officer. 	AS

16	<p>5.Internal alterations to dwellinghouse, Farmhouse, Crunklaw, Duns 23/00575/LBC. Responses to be given by 12th May 2023.</p> <p>Details of all planning applications are available on the SBC Planning website and can be accessed via GFPC community webpages.</p> <p>Correspondence forwarded to CC prior to the meeting.</p> <p>Mid-Berwickshire police reports for February and March 2023.</p> <p>SBCCN Minutes for its January 2023 meeting and agenda for March Meeting</p> <p>Healthcare Improvement Scotland: Gathering views on planned care waiting times.</p> <p>EDF Renewables: April 2023 update on Dunside Wind Farm</p> <p>The above correspondence is available on the community webpage.</p>	MN
17	<p>Councillor Update</p> <p>Cllr Mark Rowley was unable to attend the meeting.</p> <p>Cllr Greenwell said that he had been representing SBC at the reopening of the Union Chain Bridge which had been renovated over the last 2 years. He commended the renovation and recommended viewing.</p> <p>He noted the progress on the Gavinton Play Park and had seen reference to fencing round the area. He recommended getting a quote for this and sending it through to SBC.</p> <p>Cllr Moffat advised that he had been in the SBC Planning Committee all day.</p>	
18	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>JH said that he had travelled down from Edinburgh by train getting off at Reston and noted the spectacular facilities. He wondered if there was a plan for Reston justifying these. Comment was made about the scheduled trains not stopping there. It was speculated that it would be used in the summer months for visitors to the various holiday parks in the area.</p> <p>BW noted that people walking out of the village towards the ford turnoff and back were forced to walk in the road as there was no path on either side of the road. He suggested a cinder path on one side would be beneficial. Cllr Moffat suggested working out the distance involved and applying for a wind farm grant. If successful, the Criminal Justice Team could be enlisted to provide manpower to do the work needed. Cllr Greenwell suggested making an application to the Placemaking Project which is there for such projects.</p>	

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Dates of Meetings

The date of the next meeting is Monday, 5th June 2023(AGM) – 7pm
Gavinton Village Hall.

Future meetings will be held at Gavinton Village Hall, at 7pm on Monday:

17th July, 28th August, 9th September, 27th November 2023, 15th January, 4th
March, 15th April and 3rd June (AGM) 2024.

The meeting closed at 8.25pm.