



GAVINTON, FOGO & POLWARTH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
Gavinton Village Hall
Monday the 5th June 2023 at 7pm

Item	Comment	Action
1	Welcome and Introductions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chairperson Amanda Stewart welcomed Cllr Donald Moffat, Cllr John Greenwell, Carole Wright, Bryce Weir, Neil Gilmour, Tony Huggins-Haig, Morag Naylor & Paul Whitfield 	
2	Apologies: John Hughes & Yvonne Huggins-Haig	
3	Declarations of interest: None raised	
4	Minutes of the last AGM 6th June 2022 Minutes were approved with no amendments	MN
5	Report by the Chairman on the council's activities for the previous year A copy of the chairman's report was circulated to all members prior to the meeting and is available on the community webpage Gavinton.net. AS had changed the format of the report and included photographs. In addition, AS thanked the members of the CC for their work during the past year.	AS
6	Treasurers Report – for the year ending 31st March 2023 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Balance brought forward 1 April 2022 £5172.08 Balance on 31 March 2023 £1255 Total income for the year was £670.00, which was made up of a £630 support grant from SBC and £40 reimbursement for the Village Hall hire. Total expenditure for the year was £4686.46. The funds were split into three elements - generator, general, and Covid 19 Support Fund. Generator - £3798.98. A grant of £3500 was received from the Blackhill Community Fund in March 2022. The remainder of the cost, namely, £298.98 was met from the Covid 19 support funds General funds - £644.24. The main item of expenditure was £314.02 for website costs. The increase from the previous year was due to the software subscription for 2021/22 not being processed until April 2022. The other main cost of £148.44 was for dog waste bags Covid 19 Support Fund - £542.22. SBC awarded a grant of 1000 in April 2000 to cover extra costs that might be incurred in supporting the community during the pandemic. At the beginning of April 2022, a balance of 646.74 remained. Following Storm 	CW

	<p>Arwen in 2021, it was agreed that the funds should be used under the CC's "resilient communities" remit. Neil Gilmour kindly agreed to take on the role of Resilient Communities Co-ordinator.</p> <p>As well as the £298.98 being put towards the purchase cost of the generator, the remaining funds of £143.24 were used towards generator supplies and connection costs and towards electrician costs to connect the new defibrillator cabinet.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transactions on the account since the last meeting, 17th April 2023: Credit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ £475.00 from SBC for Coronation celebrations Debits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The annual £10 standing order to the Community Council Forum ○ £64.17 to SBC for Coronation underspend (475.00 awarded, 410.83 spent) ○ Cheque issued to Carole Wright to cover voucher of £20 to the Auditor and £15 to L. Millar for planting at Fogo <p>Balance of the CC account £1323.29 comprising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ General funds £596.53 ○ Coronation expenses refund due to Gavinton Village Hall £410.83 ○ Ringfenced insurance premium for defibrillator and cabinet (awaiting SBC confirmation) £17.92 ○ Covid 19 Support Fund £104.52 <p>It was noted that the CC had agreed to contribute 50% towards the printing costs of the Gavinton Village Newsletter as the CC was contributing articles. This would be in the region of 150.00 per annum. The CC may also need to purchase a new battery for the defibrillator.</p>	
7	Any proposals for the amendment of the Council's Constitution None raised	
8	Election of Office Bearers Chair: Amanda Stewart – proposed by TH-H, seconded by CW Treasurer: Carole Wright – proposed by AS, seconded by T H-H Secretary: Morag Naylor – proposed by AS, seconded by T H-H	
9	Angus McMillan was appointed as auditor	
10	Agreement to abide by the Scottish Borders Council Code of Conduct for Community Councillors – all members agreed to abide by this code of conduct	
	Other General Business	
11	Minutes of the meeting 17th April 2023 Minutes were approved with no amendments	MN
12	Matters arising from the minutes and not covered elsewhere in the agenda None raised	
13	Community Improvements and Maintenance- Current	

	<p>a. Resilient Community - Purchase of supplies if/when an electricity outage occurs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approaches to retailers for donations had been fruitless. As agreed at the previous meeting supplies have been purchased using the Covid 19 Support Fund. This can now be removed from the agenda. <p>b. Vehicle Speed – Main St Gavinton</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AS had been in touch with Philippa Gilhouly of SBC regarding the speed strips but had been told that these would not be supplied but a licence had been acquired to allow speed data would be downloaded using a vehicle's sat nav system. Scepticism was expressed as not all cars have sat nav systems. AS had been advised that average vehicle speed using the licenced speed compliance tool was less than 24 mph at the east end of Main Street, 20 mph in central Gavinton and 20 mph in West Gavinton. Again, scepticism as to this figure was expressed. AS to ask our Community Policeman Stuart Little to return with the speed gun. Cllr Moffat had mentioned the Speed Watch project at the last meeting. Dunfermline had been used as a pilot but a police officer had been sent out with the community team, producing good results. This begged the question as to why a community team was needed. Berwickshire was next to trial. BW noted that police representation was already thin on the ground. Cllr Greenwell advised that 8 community police officials had been lost, deployed to the Community Action Team (CAT) and the current common ridings had stretched resources even more. NG noted that road safety was still a police priority so what was being done. Cllr Greenwell advised that he had requested CAT come to Gavinton. <p>c. Parking around Gavinton Village Green</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NG advised that signs had been done and information would go out with the booking's applications. No feedback as yet from GVH. 	<p>AS/MN</p> <p>AS</p> <p>JG</p> <p>NG</p>
14	<p>Community Improvements & Maintenance – issues to be kept under review and discussed only when appropriate updates are available.</p> <p>a. Removal of Japanese Knotweed at Riverside in Gavinton. BW advised that he had heard nothing further from the Tweed Forum and that the knotweed had started to show. AS to contact the Tweed Forum.</p> <p>b. Maintenance of Information Signs-Fogo. CW inspected the signs. One was leaning against a bench with no stand. Both were not in good condition. She had contacted Peter Blood who had done the original panels in 1994. It was agreed that his quote was rather expensive, and Cllr Moffat and NG gave suggestions for other quotes. CW to follow up.</p>	<p>All</p> <p>AS/BW</p> <p>CW</p>

	<p>c. Upgrade of Gavinton Play Park. AS advised that the park works had been completed and the park was already in use by both locals and visitors. Children from the Fogo pre-primary were using the facilities after school. There had been a suggestion that a fence be erected around the park area. It was uncertain as to its popularity. NG recommended that the views of residents living around the Green should get more weight than other residents as they will be looking onto any fencing. Agreed to raise this through the Gavinton Village Hall newsletter and assess the response.</p> <p>d. Gavinton Full Fibre Broadband project. NG advised that he had sent John Lamont, the local MP, an email about the shortcomings in Gavinton's broadband. Mr Lamont had contacted Go Fibre who are expanding their fibre network throughout the Borders including Duns. Go-Fibre are re-evaluating the potential for a rollout in Gavinton with the help of government subsidies. Open Reach advised that the rollout of superfast BB was scheduled for Gavinton by March 2025 however some properties in Gavinton have missed out on the previous upgrade to faster services. BW advised that there seemed a problem with properties in the Crimson Hill area being incorrectly listed as connected to fast broadband where this is not the case. This needs to be corrected. Cllr Greenwell said that the SBC plan was for rollout throughout all of the Scottish Border's area. AS to keep in contact with Gregor Watson of Go Fibre and NG to keep in touch with John Lamont.</p>	AS/NG
15	<p>SBC's Justice Service's Unpaid Work Project</p> <p>At the last CC meeting it was pointed out that the path from Gavinton towards the ford had no pathways on either side. It was a route that was much frequented. A letter had since been received from SBC's Justice Service asking for applications. It was agreed to invite a representative from the Justice Service to a CC meeting to discuss what might be available. MN to issue an invitation.</p>	MN
16	<p>Updates on proposed wind farm projects at Dunside and Lees Hill</p> <p>Dunside had sent an email indicating that it was anticipated that an application would be submitted by mid-June. Lees Hill had indicated that the process was taking longer than expected and anticipated that the second round of public interactions would be in late August.</p>	AS
17	<p>Hardens Hill Quarry</p> <p>TH-H advised that SEPA were not interested in the complaints of heavy traffic on the road from the quarry to Duns, only if it was a serious environmental issue. The road was unsuitable for quarry traffic and there was the added issue of events at the motocross circuit further up the road when dozens of campervans etc headed up to the course. It should be categorised as a B road but in fact was a C road. Cllr Greenwell said he would ask SBC's Road's Officer for information, including the category of the road and whether because of the quarry and motocross site this grading should be revisited.</p>	TH-H/JG

18	<p>Twinning Proposal</p> <p>AS advised that an approach had been made to a local Cockburn family member to enquire if the family would be interested in forming a committee to run the twinning proposal. There apparently was no interest. It was agreed that it was too big a project for the CC committee but if someone in the village wanted to start up such a committee to promote a proposal the CC would be supportive. In the meantime, the matter would be taken off the agenda.</p>	
19	<p>King's Coronation Fund - Gavinton party</p> <p>BW pointed out that SBC had not cut the grass in advance of the celebrations. The day had gone off well and there had been a good turnout both at the party and at the screening of the coronation concert in the Village Hall.</p>	AS/BW
20	<p>Planning</p> <p>A planning summary was circulated prior to the meeting. Since the last meeting:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The application for an extension to the dwellinghouse at Polwarth Rhodes Cottage, Greenlaw, Duns has been approved subject to conditions. 2. The application for internal alterations to a dwellinghouse at Farmhouse Crunklaw, Duns has been approved. 3. It was noted at the last CC meeting that the application for removal of condition 5 of planning permission pertaining to visibility splay at land east of Thistle Brae, The Hardens has been made subject to a complaint to the Chief Planning Officer. <p>2 new applications have been registered:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Demolition of derelict cottage and erection of new dwellinghouse with integral garage at Langtonless Farm, Duns. 2. Demolition of outbuilding, erection of garage and fence at Vintgar, South Street, Gavinton <p>Details of all planning applications are available on the SBC Planning website and can be accessed via GFPCC community pages</p>	AS
21	<p>Correspondence forwarded to CC prior to the meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mid-Berwickshire police report April 2023. • SBC 2022-23 community council support grant evaluation form was completed by AS and is available to view on the community 	MN

	<p>website. This completed form will be submitted to SBC along with the annual accounts in order to qualify for next year's support grant.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EDF Renewable's April 2023 update on Dunside Wind Farm. • Fred Olsen update on Lees Hill Renewable Energy Park • Justice Service Unpaid Work • Speed Reduction Measures - Main Street, Gavinton • King's Coronation- Funding Evaluation Form • GFPCC annual accounts 2022/2023 • Berwickshire Neighbourhood Support Fund • Berwickshire Neighbourhood Support Fund Assessment Fund: appeal for volunteers <p>The above correspondence is available on the community webpage.</p>	
22	<p>Councillor Update Cllr Donald Moffat had no update.</p> <p>Cllr John Greenwell mentioned the Berwickshire Neighbourhood Support Fund and the follow up communication requesting volunteers for Berwickshire Area Partnership assessment panel.</p> <p>JG had been at the opening of the Admiral Ramsay Museum at Coldstream and encouraged people to visit it.</p>	<p>DM</p> <p>JG</p>
23	<p>Any Other Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Greenwell advised that the road closure on the A6112 between Mount Pleasant and Duns might possibly be less than the 10 weeks predicted. It was noted the inconvenience and additional petrol costs, plus the degradation of the road surface on the diversion roads. • NG noted the incorrect weight signs on the Chain Bridge. • MN noted the closure of the Bank of Scotland branch in Duns which leaves the Post Office as the only banking outlet in Duns apart from the mobile visits. • AS asked that the temporary signs for the unsuitability for HGV vehicles be kept in place. Cllr Greenwell suggested contacting Brian Young to ask for permanent signage. It was also suggested that the Middlefield Bridge be inspected. • Jim Clark Rally. The committee was asked for comments to feed back to the organisers. NG commented that the publicity was not as good as last year including the website map which was quite late as regards route and parking, There was no police presence in Gavinton as has been requested. Problems with the viewing area at Ladyflat Farm which quickly became overcrowded and unsuitable for spectators. Litter bins in Duns had not been emptied regularly so were not acceptable. • AS reported a complaint about an un- neutered cat in Gavinton. SPCA was not interested. She enquired if any ideas. • Gavinton Village Hall had enquired if the CC would agree to buy a Gavinton replacement flag. This was agreed. • BW said that the grass cutting seems to have reverted to monthly. Cllr Greenwell said that he would organise that it would be every 10 days at the play area and green monthly for other 	<p>AS/JG</p> <p>AS</p>

	areas. BW asked if the grass cutters had been trained to cut round the play park. Cllr Greenwell to follow up.	JG
24	Dates of Meetings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Date of next meeting, Monday 17th July 2023 – 7pm Gavinton Village Hall. • Future meetings will be held at Gavinton Village Hall, at 7pm on Monday 28th August, 9th September and 27th November 2023 and 15th January, 4th March, 15th April and 3rd June (AGM) 2024. 	
25	The meeting closed at 8.46 pm	