



**GAVINTON, FOGO & POLWARTH  
COMMUNITY COUNCIL**  
Minutes of the Meeting held at Gavinton Village Hall  
on Monday the 17th of July 2023 at 7pm

Item	Comment	Action
1	<b>Welcome and Introductions:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Chairperson Amanda Stewart welcomed Carole Wright, Bryce Weir, Neil Gilmour, John Hughes, Morag Naylor, Paul Whitfield and Evelyn Duncan.</li></ul>	
2	<b>Apologies:</b>  No apologies had been received.	
3	<b>Declarations of interest:</b> None raised	
4	<b>Minutes of the meeting on 6th June 2023</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>Treasurer's Report</b>  Transactions on the account since the last meeting on 5 <sup>th</sup> June 2023  Cheque for £20.54 issued to M. Naylor for grocery supplies for the Resilient Community at Gavinton Village Hall in the event of an electricity outage.  Cheque for £410.83 issued to Gavinton Village Hall for the Coronation party expenses.	CW

	<p>Cheque for £40.00 issued to Gavinton Village Hall for Hall rental (Jan-June 2023)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Balance of the CC account is £851.92 of which <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>General funds £750.02</li> <li>Covid 19 support funds £83.98</li> <li>Insurance Premium due to SBC £17.92</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
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<p>7</p>	<p><b>Community Improvements and Maintenance- Current</b></p> <p><b>a) Vehicle Speed - Main Street, Gavinton</b></p> <p>The pole for the new electronic sign at the east end of Gavinton had been installed but the actual sign was awaited. AS had previously been in contact with Philippa Gilhooly of SBC regarding the dragon's teeth and roundels which had been promised as a priority with an indication that this would be carried out by early summer at the latest. It appears this is now part of a general Borders CC consultation and once the results are fed back by mid-August a report will only be available thereafter, although once again a promise has been made that Gavinton is to be treated as a priority.</p> <p>AS reported that our Community Police representative, PC Little, had responded that there were a lot of local events going on and therefore "pop up bob" had not been deployed as much. As regards the speed guns they are being calibrated but once done he confirmed that random checks would be undertaken around local towns and villages. He had also advised that he now had a colleague PC Luc Francois sharing Berwickshire CAT.</p> <p>NG felt this was a stalling exercise. He had looked at the Scottish Policing criteria which indicated that unless there was a history of accidents no action would be taken. He said local comment was that there would be no action because the police were waiting for an accident to happen. He had scheduled a meeting with the local MP and MSP at their next local meeting.</p> <p>BW pointed out that as SBC was paying a licence fee to monitor vehicle speed by downloading information from the vehicle's satnav there was access to time/speed data.</p> <p>Agreed that the CC would keep pursuing this.</p>	<p>AS</p> <p>NG</p>
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**b) Parking around Gavinton Village Green**

NG advised that a notice goes out with each booking form. There seemed to be no further problems. Agreed to take this off the agenda.

**c) Suitability of Main St. Gavinton for HGV's**

AS advised that she had had a response from Gary Haldane of SBC to her request that the temporary arrangements restricting HGV's travelling through Gavinton be made permanent. This was rejected on the grounds that it was a public road and that a survey carried out in August 2021 showed a 5-day average of 4 HGVs per day using the route. It was agreed that (1) the current usage contradicted this and (2) the survey was carried out during Covid and therefore fewer vehicles were passing through then than now. Added to this there was concern for pedestrians walking out of Gavinton towards the ford along a road without pavements on either side, as was previously recorded in the April and June minutes. AS to revert to Mr Haldane.

AS had been advised that the Middlefield bridge had been assessed, by visual inspection only, and considered as being in a satisfactory condition.

AS

8	<p><b>Community Improvements &amp; Maintenance – issues to be kept under review and discussed only when appropriate updates are available.</b></p> <p>a) Removal of Japanese Knotweed at riverside in Gavinton.</p> <p>AS had been in contact with Emily Isles of Tweed Forum and a meeting between contractors and BW to be held on 2/3 August.</p> <p>b) Maintenance of Information Signs-Fogo</p> <p>CW noted that the CC’s finances did not stretch to significant ad hoc expenditure beyond the ongoing annual expenses. It was agreed to try and reuse the existing information signs and get a local joiner to restore the supports. It was suggested that approaches be made to Fogo Church and Marchmont House for donations towards the costs. CW to follow up.</p> <p>c) Upgrade of Gavinton play park.</p> <p>AS to ask Mr Rae to include a survey in the next Gavinton Village Hall newsletter to canvas views as to whether the play park area should be fenced.</p> <p>d) Gavinton Full Fibre Broadband Project</p> <p>AS had received an update from Gregor Watson, Head of Customer Services at Go Fibre. They are in advanced discussions regarding the release of the subsidy funding, but this is dependent on the level of take-up of the service in the village. Community events and drop-in sessions are planned for residents to understand the benefits. These could be held in the Village Hall. AS to liaise with GVH.</p>	<p>All</p> <p>BW</p> <p>CW</p> <p>AS</p> <p>AS</p>
9	<p><b>SBC’s Justice Services Unpaid Work Project</b></p> <p>MN advised that Sarah Henderson, of the Justice Service, would be attending the CC meeting on 28th August. It was agreed that a list of possible projects be put together. Items sent to MN to be forwarded to Ms Henderson in advance of the meeting. One item was passing places on the road up to Longformacus beyond the Hardens area. Comments were made as to the shoddy hole patching on local roads.</p>	<p>MN</p>

10	<p><b>Updates on the proposed wind farm projects at Dunside and Lees Hill</b></p> <p>As regards the Dunside wind farm, the planning application has been submitted to the Scottish Government’s Energy Consents Unit. The CC had received no objections so far.</p> <p>As regards Lees Hill it is anticipated that the application will be submitted late 2023. PW believed things were moving again and there was the possibility of information events in August. It seems that there would be one less turbine, making six now, and the solar panels reduced.</p>	
11	<p><b>Hardens Hill Quarry</b></p> <p>No further update.</p>	TH-H

<p>12</p>	<p><b>Planning</b></p> <p>A planning summary was circulated prior to the meeting.</p> <p>Since the last meeting:</p> <p>Three applications had been approved.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Erection of dwelling house and formation of access road - land east of Langton Field, Duns - approved subject to conditions. Noted that ED is the applicant here.</li> <li>2. Demolition of outbuilding, erection of garage and fence – Vintgar, South Street, Gavinton - approved.</li> <li>3. Removal of condition 5 of planning permission 21/00794/FUL pertaining to visibility splay – approved subject to conditions. It was noted that at the CC meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> April 2023 Cllr Moffat advised that an official complaint had been made to SBC and would be considered by the Chief Planning Officer. He had no further comment at the CC meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> June 2023. The CC had made its concerns known regarding the visibility splay. It was unfortunate that there were no Councillors at the meeting to report on the CPO's consideration of the complaint. AS to follow up with Cllr Moffat</li> </ol> <p>Two new applications have been registered.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Demolition of dwellinghouse - 1 Ryslaw Farm Cottages, Duns.</li> <li>2. Internal and external alterations – Polwarth Church.</li> </ol> <p>Details of all planning applications are available on the SBC Planning website and can be accessed via GFPCC community webpages.</p>	<p>AS</p>
<p>13</p>	<p><b>Correspondence forwarded to CC prior to the meeting</b></p> <p>Mid-Berwickshire police reports for May and June 2023</p> <p>Flag for Berwickshire design competition</p> <p>Community Council funding review by SBC</p>	<p>MN</p>

	<p>SBC Planning Partnership's new Community Plan priorities consultation</p> <p>SBC Covid grant funding underspend</p> <p>EDF Renewables' planning application submission for Dunside Wind Farm</p> <p>LIVE Borders &amp; SBC consultation on future public sport and leisure services and facilities</p> <p>The above correspondence is available on the community webpage.</p>	
14	<p><b>Councillor Update</b></p>	
	<p>There were no Councillors in attendance and no updates received prior to the meeting.</p>	

15	<p><b>Any Other Business</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NG noted that a Suzy Jacobs of East Berwickshire Community Police would also be involved in the GFPCC area. Agreed that he should contact her to gauge her role and involvement.</li> <li>• AS referred to the steep path running down from Main Street to the bus stop on the road to Duns. This was not maintained and had become very slippery and hazardous and in need of attention. AS to contact Mr Haldane of SBC. Agreed that asking that the main bus service to be diverted through Gavinton was not viable as there was the need to reduce large vehicles but there was the Pingo service which could be used.</li> <li>• BW pointed out that the three flower boxes on Gavinton Village Green were not in a good state. One needed to be replaced and the other two might repair. This might be a possibility for the Justice Service list. BW was asked to price the possible replacement/repair costs. NG suggested approaching the Men's Shed.</li> </ul>	<p>NG</p> <p>AS</p> <p>BW/NG</p>
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16	<p><b>Dates of Meetings</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Date of next meeting, Monday 28th August 2023 – 7pm Gavinton Village Hall.</li> <li>• Future meetings will be held at Gavinton Village Hall, at 7pm on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> October, 27th November 2023, 15<sup>th</sup> January, 4<sup>th</sup> March, 15<sup>th</sup> April and 3rd June (AGM) 2024.</li> </ul>	
17	<p><b>The meeting closed at 8.05pm</b></p>	