



GAVINTON, FOGO & POLWARTH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held at Gavinton Village Hall
on Monday the 28th of August 2023 at 7pm

Item	Comment	Action
1	Welcome and Introductions: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Chairperson Amanda Stewart welcomed Cllr Mark Rowley, Carole Wright, Bryce Weir, Neil Gilmour, John Hughes, Yvonne Huggins-Haig, Morag Naylor, Paul Whitfield and John Campbell (KC).	
2	Apologies: Cllr Donald Moffat and Tony Huggins-Haig	
3	Declarations of interest: None raised	
4	Minutes of the meeting on 17th July 2023 Minutes were approved with no amendments	MN
5	Matters arising from the minutes and not covered elsewhere in the agenda. None raised	
6	SBC's Justice Services Unpaid Work Project Sarah Henderson of UWP, who had said she would attend the meeting, sent her apologies. David Berry, UWP's Project Co-ordinator, had been in contact to arrange to meet a CC representative to view the list of possible projects submitted for discussion. The projects are: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Footpath from Gavinton out towards the road junction to the Ford.2. Maintenance of the two wooden bus shelters in Gavinton.3. Wooden signs at the Hunters Bridge.4. A passing place at a narrow stretch on the road to Longformacus.	

<p>7</p>	<p>5. A few wooden benches need sanding and staining.</p> <p>Cllr Mark Rowley mentioned the Footpath Fund and offered to enquire if this would be available.</p> <p>NG offered to meet David Berry and show him the projects listed.</p> <p>Treasurer's Report</p> <p>There were no transactions on the account since the last meeting on 17th July 2023.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Balance of the CC account is £851.92 of which: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> General funds £750.02 Covid 19 support funds £83.98 Insurance Premium due to SBC £17.92 <p>CW advised that the insurance premium for last year had been ringfenced until queries had been resolved, which has now been done, and it would be paid over to SBC. The premium for this year is £61.60 and has not yet been requested. It was noted that this was a significant increase for the defibrillator cover but, bearing in mind the cost of the equipment whilst unexpected this is a necessary cost. She wondered if the Village Hall Committee might contribute.</p> <p>CW also had confirmation that SBC had paid the annual grant of £630 together with £60.00 for the Village Hall rental for CC meetings.</p>	<p>MR</p> <p>NG</p> <p>CW</p> <p>AS</p>
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<p>8</p>	<p>Community Improvements and Maintenance- Current</p> <p>a) Vehicle Speed - Main Street, Gavinton</p> <p>The electronic sign at the Crimson Hill end of Gavinton had been installed but has yet to be programmed. 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 the work would be carried out by early summer at the latest. It appears this had been passed to another department and is now part of a general Borders CC consultation and once the results are fed back, supposedly by mid-August, a report will only be available thereafter, although once again a promise was made that Gavinton is to be treated as a priority. Cllr Rowley suggested contacting Philippa Gilhooly again.</p> <p>NG had set up a meeting with Community Police representatives which was also attended by AS. Berwickshire’s Community Action Team/Community Policing is now looked after by PC Luc Francois, PC Kris MacLeod and PC Suzanne Jacobs (the latter two being Eyemouth based). PC Little is no longer involved. A “Pop up Bob” had been deployed the day after the meeting. They had also agreed to have a presence on the Village Green on Reivers Night.</p> <p>b) Suitability of Main Street, Gavinton for HGV’s</p> <p>AS reminded the meeting that Gary Haldane of SBC had said no to her request that the temporary arrangements, restricting HGV’s travelling through Gavinton, be made permanent 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 at the last meeting that AS reverts to Mr Haldane with reasons why the CC disagreed. She had done this, and the answer was still negative, but he had offered a “pedestrian in road” warning sign. Although not first choice it was agreed to accept this.</p> <p>AS had also raised the state of the path down to the bus stop on Duns Road. Mr Haldane said this had been passed to the “Asset Section”, but nothing has happened. As Cllr Greenwell had been copied in on the email it was agreed that AS follow this up with him.</p>	<p>AS</p> <p>AS</p> <p>AS</p> <p>AS</p>
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9	<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.</p> <p>BW had had a meeting with the contractors and shown them the problem area. Unfortunately, it was raining on the day of the visit so the pesticide couldn't be applied. No indication when work would be carried out. AS to contact Emily Isles of Tweed Forum.</p> <p>b) Maintenance of Information Signs-Fogo</p> <p>It was suggested at the last meeting that approaches be made to Fogo Church and Marchmont House for donations towards the cost of work to the information signs. Fogo Church indicated there were no funds available for this project. Marchmont's Board of Trustees meet quarterly, CW to complete an application for consideration.</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>Thanks to NG's intervention with John Lamont, MP, GoFibre had reconsidered its extension of full fibre broadband into Gavinton. AS has received an update from Gregor Watson, Head of Customer Services at GoFibre. He gave the following statement "GoFibre and BDUK (the government arm) are in late-stage planning for a full fibre network to be built in Gavinton and dates will be communicated as soon as possible". AS to continue to liaise with GoFibre.</p>	<p>All</p> <p>AS</p> <p>CW</p> <p>AS</p> <p>AS</p>
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10	<p>Updates on the proposed wind farm projects at Dunside and Lees Hill</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. There was nothing further to report.</p> <p>AS showed the meeting the poster provided by Fred Olsen Renewables with a QR code to use as a survey/feedback. There had also been a leaflet sent out setting out dates of upcoming public exhibitions in the area, the Gavinton one being on 4th September. PW felt there should be a public meeting when the developers are given the opportunity to make their case for the Lees Hill project and those against it can make their case. MR pointed out that the CC has a role as consultee to the Planning Department and to SBC but he cautioned against a public survey or a public meeting at this time. A planning application has yet to be lodged and until such time it would be difficult for anyone to take an informed view. He suggested people go to the public exhibitions as there should be more detailed information and more visuals compared to the 2022 exhibitions when there were several important issues the developers were unable answer, one being the transmission of power to Eccles Substation. JC said it was important to avoid division in the community and he supported a public meeting as it is a local issue which will have a local impact. NG noted a feeling of apathy amongst residents. MR noted that this project was the first to propose turbines on this scale and the first to combine battery storage and photovoltaic panels. A lot of information would be contained in the application documentation. He advised holding off debate, either by a public meeting or surveying public opinion, until the application has been lodged. The members of the CC agreed.</p>	
11	<p>Hardens Hill Quarry</p> <p>YH-H reported a new planning application including reference to a “new quarry” presumably in anticipation of the need for aggregates for the Lees Hill development. This would exacerbate the traffic problem down the Longformacus road. Noted the suggestion of a passing place in the SBC Unpaid Work Project list. YH-H to identify a suitable site(s) and contact Philippa Gilhooly of SBC.</p>	YH-H

<p>12</p>	<p>Planning</p> <p>A planning summary was circulated prior to the meeting.</p> <p>Since the last meeting two new applications had been registered of which one has been approved:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Erection of dwelling house – Plot1, land east of Kirkburn House, Cothill. 2. Erection of machinery storage shed – Langtonlees Farm, Duns. YH-H advised that this has approved. <p>A query had been received regarding the approval, subject to conditions, of the removal of condition 5 of planning permission 21/00794/FUL pertaining to visibility splay. YH-H advised that agreement had been reached, in the last two weeks, between SBC Planning and the owner of the adjacent land who has agreed to maintain the visibility splay on his land in perpetuity.</p> <p>Details of all planning applications are available on the SBC Planning website and can be accessed via GFPCC community webpages.</p> <p>Cllr Rowley left the meeting.</p>	<p>AS</p>
<p>13</p>	<p>Correspondence forwarded to CC prior to the meeting.</p> <p>Mid-Berwickshire police report for July 2023</p> <p>Community Council funding review by SBC</p> <p>Community Engagement Conversations</p> <p>Borders Greenway Route Community Meeting</p> <p>Community Led Local Development Fund</p> <p>Draft Local Housing Strategy 2023-2028</p>	<p>MN</p>

<p>14</p>	<p>Explore the Borders magazine</p> <p>Lees Hill Renewable Energy Park September public exhibition details</p> <p>SBC's Waste and Recycling Collection updates</p> <p>The above correspondence is available on the community webpage.</p> <p>Councillor Update</p> <p>There were no updates.</p>	
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<p>15</p>	<p>Any Other Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AS advised that, with input from CW, she had completed the Community Council funding review form sent by SBC. In it she had suggested an increase to the grant in line with inflation. CW noted that since she joined the CC in 2014 the grant had not been increased. YH-H suggested any increase be backdated. AS had noted in her reply to SBC that projects were on hold because of the lack of funds. In this context YH-H said other sources were available and enquired if application had been made to the UK Levelling Up Fund. JH also mentioned the police auctions of unclaimed items the proceeds being available for good causes. Attendees were reminded about the Borders Greenway Community meeting on the 6th September and the two surveys which are included in the email posted on the GFPCC website. Attendees were also reminded about the Berwickshire Area Partnership meeting in Eyemouth on the 30th August and the 	<p>AS/MN</p>
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	<p>Duns and District Community Led Plan meeting on 5th September in Duns.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BW advised that he had spoken to the Jetpatch tarmac operator who had been filling holes in the area and reported that the holes on the bridge and on the road to Fogo had now been filled. 	
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16	<p>Dates of Meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Date of next meeting, Monday 9th October 2023 – 7pm Gavinton Village Hall. • Future meetings will be held at Gavinton Village Hall, at 7pm on Monday 27th November 2023, 15th January, 4th March, 15th April and 3rd June (AGM) 2024. 	
17	<p>The meeting closed at 8.15pm</p>	