



## GAVINTON, FOGO & POLWARTH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held at Gavinton Village Hall  
on Thursday the 30th of November 2023 at 7pm

Item	Comment	Action
1	<b>Welcome and Introductions:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Chairperson Amanda Stewart welcomed Cllr Donald Moffat, Carole Wright, Neil Gilmour, John Hughes, Bryce Weir, Morag Naylor, Donald Rae (GVH), Gregor Watson (GoFibre), John Anderson, Cathy Anderson, Katie Massie, Angus Massie and Devrim Turkey.</li></ul>	
2	<b>Apologies:</b>  Cllr John Greenwell, Cllr Mark Rowley, Tony Huggins-Haig and Yvonne Huggins-Haig.	
3	<b>Declarations of interest:</b> None raised	
4	<b>Minutes of the meeting on 9th October 2023</b> Minutes were approved with no amendments.	MN
5	<b>GoFibre extension of fibre broadband network in Gavinton</b>  Mr Gregor Watson introduced himself as the Head of Customer Services. He confirmed GoFibre had received approval for the full fibre build to commence in Gavinton. The approved Government subsidy covers installation costs for 119 properties. The intention is to use existing infrastructure i.e., existing poles and underground ducts to minimise disruption. A desktop plan was being prepared to be followed by a physical checks examination. Community engagement is planned for February/March to encourage as many households as possible to take up the offer. He advised interested parties to go onto GoFibre's website, enter their postcode to register interest and they will then receive updates. The website also has details of the packages that would be available. Gregor also said they hoped to arrange a free event in the Village Hall to demonstrate streaming a film. As part of the community	AS

<p>6</p>	<p>engagement there will be a mobile shop visiting Gavinton so that residents can pop in to have queries answered, including advice on what to do if in an existing 3<sup>rd</sup> party contract.  It was suggested that promotional material be forwarded to Donald Rae to include in the Village Hall newsletter to be published in January.  The hope was for installation to be completed by the Summer but possibly earlier.  Mr Watson and Mr Rae left the meeting.</p> <p><b>Matters arising from the minutes and not covered elsewhere in the agenda.</b></p> <p>None raised.</p>	
<p>7</p>	<p><b>Treasurer's Report</b></p> <p>Transactions on the account since the last meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> October 2023:</p> <p>Cheque for £49.98 issued to NG for two planters.</p> <p>Cheque for £76.00 issued to Gavinton Village Hall to cover (1) Hall rental of £36.00 for the previous three CC meetings and (2) £40.00 for a planter.</p> <p>Cheque for £70.56 to AS for dog waste bags.</p> <p>Cheque for £125.00 to Scottish Borders Website Design for annual website hosting.</p> <p>Cheque for £60.00 to Maitland Handyman Services for the repair of the sign at Fogo.</p> <p>Received grant of £862.69 from Blackhill Wind Farm for general repairs to be carried out by SBC's unpaid work project.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Balance of the CC account is £1985.96 of which <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>General funds £1039.29</li> <li>Unpaid work project £862.69</li> <li>Covid 19 support/Resilient community funds £83.98</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>CW</p>

8	<p><b>Community Improvements and Maintenance- Current</b></p> <p>a) <b>Vehicle Speed - Main Street/Crimson Hill, Gavinton</b>  AS had contacted Ronan McKean, Technician- Road Safety and Traffic Management at SBC to request additional 20mph signs for Main Street/Crimson Hill and the area of Fogo Road in the 20mph zone. She had also been in touch with Ashley Semple of the same SBC department who confirmed receipt of the request for dragons' teeth road markings at the approach to the 20mph zone into Gavinton in both directions. It was hoped these works would be completed by the end of the financial year. He had confirmed receipt of the request of roundels and the locations, and this would be organised at a later date. AS to keep pursuing this.</p> <p>AS advised that on 8<sup>th</sup> November two police officers had carried out speed checks with a speed gun on Main Street, Gavinton. Also, PC Kris McLeod was scheduled to carry out a road safety awareness talk at Farne Salmon, highlighting vehicle speed through local villages.</p> <p>Comment was made regarding the parking at the football pitch on Monday evenings when the juniors play. This is outside the 20mph zone. In answer to a query from Cllr Moffat he was assured that photos had been sent to SBC illustrating the situation.</p> <p>NG noted that there had been a visit by two police officers from Road Safety in a marked car with the undertaking to do return visits. If there are persistent offenders, they will receive a visit from the police.</p> <p>Cllr Moffat advised that there would be more happening in this regard now that there is the full staff complement on the safety team. He also noted that, also as a result, there was a bigger crackdown on rural crime.</p> <p>b) <b>SBC's Justice Services Unpaid Work Project (UWP)</b></p> <p>NG reported that the team has replaced the roof to the bus shelter on Duns Road. They had collected the four benches needing repair. One was rotten and had been replaced at no cost. The others have been repainted and returned. More work would be done when the weather improved.</p> <p>c) <b>Fogo -Information Signs</b></p> <p>NG said that one sign had been repaired and the other had been taken away for repair by the UWP team.</p>	<p>AS</p> <p>NG</p>
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**Community Improvements & Maintenance – issues to be kept under review and discussed only when appropriate updates are available.**

- a) Removal of Japanese Knotweed at riverside in Gavinton.

BW reported that the contractor for the Tweed Forum had sprayed the knotweed and it appeared to have died back. Agreed this item can be removed from the agenda.

- b) SBC maintenance of path to bus stop on Duns Road

Nothing to report.

- c) Updates on proposed wind farm projects at Dunside and Lees Hill

AS had received an enquiry from Dunside's case manager at the Energy Consents Unit (Scottish Govt.) asking for a response from GFPCC to the planning application. She had confirmed to him that information had been circulated to CC members and representatives of EDF had attended a CC meeting to give an overview of plans and answer questions. At the end of this process none of the CC members or members of the public raised any concerns or objections to the proposal.

This matter can be removed from the agenda.

The Lees Hill Renewables Park planning application has still to be submitted.

- d) Report on the first Lees Hill Community Liaison Group meeting

The Community Liaison Group was due to meet on 4<sup>th</sup> December (subsequently postponed due to weather conditions). The CC's representatives are TH-H and NG.  
Topics for discussion: role of CLG/ terms of reference/ CLG work programme and future topics/ project update.  
Hopefully an update would be available at the next CC meeting.  
Cllr Moffat noted that there was a minimum amount now for community funding if a project gets the go ahead.

- e) Proposed amendments to the SB Community Council Scheme

There had been a review of financial support and the following agreed:  
Increase to annual support grant by 10% to be reviewed every three years.

	<p>There would be cover for all insurance costs as they currently stand. The costs of cover for new assets/events added in the 2024/25 financial year to be met by the CC.</p> <p>Increase in the Community Path Maintenance grant from £450 to £600.</p> <p>CC cannot now pass any funding to other groups by way of grant or donation.</p> <p>f) Hardens Hill Quarry</p> <p>Nothing to report</p>	
10	<p><b>Planning</b></p> <p>A planning summary was circulated prior to the meeting.</p> <p>AS advised that two applications had been approved.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 23/00933/HON. Demolition of dwellinghouse, 1 Ryslaw Farm Cottages, Duns. Prior approval granted- delegated decision.</li> <li>2. 23/00831/AGN. Erection of machinery storage shed, Langtonlees Farm, Duns. Approved – delegated decision.</li> </ol> <p>Since the last meeting one new application 23/01767/FUL had been registered. Erection of a dwellinghouse on the site of The Clachan, Main St, Gavinton. Responses to be submitted by 26<sup>th</sup> December 2023. Some CC members couldn't open the SBC link to view the plans.</p> <p>NG said that residents in the vicinity of the proposed building had not been notified of the application, confirmed by Mr Turkay who lives in the adjacent property. This was despite a note on the SBC website to the effect that communications had been sent out on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2023.</p> <p>AS to take this up with SBC Planning Dept.</p> <p>Following the CC meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> October YH-H had offered to look further at the issues around the removal of Condition 5 of planning permission 21/00794/FUL pertaining to the visibility splay and other issues raised. In her report to the CC she noted that Mr and Mrs Anderson are going to have an onsite meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> December with a representative of Roads Planning regarding the directive to remove their fence on the verge leading from the site bell mouth onto the C98 road. This is just one of many problems relating to this planning permission. Her report was circulated prior to the meeting and a copy forwarded to Cllr Moffat. Frustration was expressed by the neighbours to this site that their attempts to get issues resolved were getting nowhere. In fact it</p>	AS

	<p>seems that they are the ones expected to sort out the planning/building issues at their own expense.</p> <p>Mr and Mrs Anderson were asked to report back after their meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> December. AS and YH-H to pursue this issue with SBC's Planning Department.</p> <p>Details of all planning applications are available on the SBC Planning website and can be accessed via GFPC community webpages.</p>	AS/Y H-H
11	<p><b>Correspondence forwarded to CC prior to the meeting.</b></p> <p>Mid Berwickshire police reports for September and October 2023</p> <p>SB Community Council Scheme review</p> <p>Recommendations from the Review of Financial Support to Community Councils</p>	MN
12	<p><b>Councillor Update</b></p> <p>Cllr Moffat had noted above that the safety team now had a full complement and there would be more police and speed checks and more combating of rural crime.</p>	
13	<p><b>Any other business</b></p> <p>AS thanked CW for chairing the October meeting.</p> <p>She noted that the Gavinton Christmas Walk will take place on 17<sup>th</sup> December and the Christmas tree would be erected shortly on the Village Green.</p> <p>NG advised that there were wood offcuts and did the CC want another planter, the only cost being for screws. Agreed.</p> <p>NG had replaced the UHT milk in the Resilient supplies. He said that although he had road wardens, in the case of an outage, he needed volunteers to meet people gathering at the Village Hall for hot drinks and support.</p> <p>NG said that the Court of the Lord Lyon had registered the new Berwickshire flag. It was agreed that NG purchase a flag.</p> <p>It was noted that, in a recent political flyer, the Scottish Borders would be receiving 12 m from the UK Government.</p> <p>BW said that recent gravestone testing in the Gavinton Cemetery had resulted in those considered unsafe being placed face down hiding the deceased's details. This had occurred previously. AS to contact Cllr Greenwell whose portfolio covers this.</p>	NG  NG  AS

14	<b>Dates of Meetings</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Date of next meeting, Monday 15th January 2024 – 7pm Gavinton Village Hall.</li><li>● Future meetings will be held at Gavinton Village Hall, at 7pm on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March, 15<sup>th</sup> April and 3rd June (AGM) 2024.</li></ul>	
15	<b>The meeting closed at 8.30pm</b>	