



**GAVINTON, FOGO & POLWARTH
COMMUNITY COUNCIL**
Minutes of the Meeting held at Gavinton Village Hall
on Monday 15th of January 2024 at 7pm

Item	Comment	Action
1	Welcome and Introductions: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Chairperson Amanda Stewart welcomed Cllr John Greenwell, Carole Wright, Neil Gilmour, Bryce Weir, Tony Huggins-Haig, Yvonne Huggins-Haig, Morag Naylor, and Cathy Anderson.	
2	Apologies: John Hughes	
3	Declarations of interest: None raised	
4	Minutes of the meeting on 30th November 2023 Minutes were approved with no amendments.	MN
5	Matters arising from the minutes and not covered elsewhere in the agenda None	
6	Treasurer's Report Transactions on the account since the last meeting on 30 th November 2023: Cheque for £30 issued to NG towards the purchase of the Berwickshire flag. NG donated £20.51 to make up the full cost for which he was thanked. Cheque for £61.60 issued to SBC for the annual premium for the insurance cover for the defibrillator and cabinet. It was noted that this	CW

	<p>would be the last year that the CC would pay this as SBC would meet the cost in future.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Balance of the CC account is £1894.36 of which General funds £947.69 Grant from Blackhill Wind Farm towards unpaid work project £862.69 Covid 19 support/Resilient community funds £83.98 <p>The grant from the Blackhill Wind Farm was credited on 6th October 2023 and will be ringfenced for the Unpaid Work Project if not spent by 31st March 2024, the end of the financial year.</p> <p>CW reminded the committee that there is a limit as to general funds that can be carried forward into the next financial year and if there are any current expenses to be refunded these should be submitted, or work proposed should be put forward to the next meeting.</p>	
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<p>7</p>	<p>Community Improvements and Maintenance- Current</p> <p>a) Vehicle Speed - Main Street/Crimson Hill, Gavinton AS had previously contacted the 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, and 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 SBC’s financial year. AS to keep pursuing this.</p> <p>b) Operating problem with new speed sign</p> <p>There had been problems with the speed sign possibly because of the lack of solar energy. An engineer had been called out and he had replaced the battery. It was agreed that it should be powered from the mains. The engineer had also advised NG that all speeds were recorded. JG was asked to follow this up.</p> <p>c) SBC’s Grass Management review including a grass cutting pilot</p>	<p>AS</p> <p>JG/NG</p>
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	<p>JH had attended a meeting regarding this and AS passed on his report. It was noted that in 2021 agreement had been reached with Derek Thompson (Berwickshire Foreperson, Parks & Environment) regarding a grass cutting regime in Gavinton which included a 10-day cutting cycle for the village green, play park and football field. The new pilot referred to a 20-day cycle on the village green which was not acceptable. Verges on the N/S/E ends of the village were included but only one side of the road at the football pitch on the West end. The football club already cuts on one side of the road. As regards the cemetery there had been few cuts in 2023. What was proposed for the cemetery cut needs to be ascertained. AS to follow up.</p>	AS
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8	<p>Community Improvements & Maintenance – issues to be kept under review and discussed only when appropriate updates are available.</p> <p>a) Repair of Information signs in Fogo</p> <p>NG reported that one sign had been done and the second sign is in place and NG has painted the frame for weather protection. He will forward all photographs to AS once work completed for forwarding to the Blackhill Wind Farm Community Fund. He said other work to be carried out by the Justice Services Unpaid Work Project would be recommenced once the weather improved.</p> <p>b) SBC maintenance of path to bus stop on Duns Road</p> <p>Wood cutting had been taking place, but this was part of clearing around power lines. At least the path was now visible.</p> <p>c) Update on GoFibre extension of fibre broadband network</p> <p>AS advised that GoFibre had been in touch with the Village Hall Committee offering funds to run films as a demonstration of the broadband benefits. TH-H asked whether there was any movement on extending the broadband up the Hardens. He reckoned there were 30/40 users up the road to Longformacus. AS to enquire</p> <p>d) Headstone testing issues in Gavinton Cemetery</p> <p>BW explained that headstones considered unsafe had been placed horizontally but not always with the deceased's details facing upwards. In some cases, the headstones were not placed over the relevant gravesite. JG had passed the original query to the relevant person in SBC and would follow up.</p>	<p>NG</p> <p>AS</p> <p>JG</p>
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	<p>e) Update on proposed wind farm project at Lees Hill/Lees Hill Community Liaison Group</p> <p>The Lees Hill Renewables Park application has been delayed further. The Liaison Group had not been able to meet for its first meeting because of bad weather and it was now scheduled for February. AS pointed out that she had sent details of the various viewpoints which the CC required but had still not had a reply. YH-H said she would follow up with the Lees Hill representative.</p> <p>f) Hardens Hill Quarry</p> <p>Nothing to report</p>	<p>YHH</p>
<p>9</p>	<p>Planning</p> <p>A planning summary was circulated prior to the meeting.</p> <p>AS advised that there were no new applications and none of the existing ones had been approved.</p> <p>The application 23/01767/FUL (erection of a dwellinghouse on the site of The Clachan, Main St, Gavinton) had been discussed at the last meeting because interested parties had not received notice of the application. YH-H said that notices used to be the responsibility of the applicant but it was now with SBC's Planning Department. Notices had now been received and 1 objection and 2 comments had been recorded. She said that 6 objections/comments are needed so that the application does not go to designated powers. AS and YH-H had already sent detailed comments on behalf of the CC and she urged members to encourage neighbours to do likewise.</p> <p>YH-H noted that, amongst other issues, the building line intruded 1.6m into the adjacent vennel, there was an issue with the parking spaces for the new property and it was proposed to stone clad the building which would involve sturdy scaffolding and would curtail access through the vennel for a considerable period. BW advised that this would affect him and another neighbour.</p> <p>Following the CC meeting on 9th 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. Mr and Mrs Anderson had an onsite meeting on 1st December with Mr Scott of</p>	<p>AS/ YHH</p>

	<p>Roads Planning regarding the directive to remove their fence on the verge leading from the site bell mouth onto the C98 road. It had been agreed that the fence would be moved back slightly. However, he was also concerned about the parking issues both on the property and on the roadside and would be taking this further. This is just one of many problems relating to this planning permission. Mrs Anderson said many conditions had been brushed aside, being described as “material, not significant”. She noted that no temporary habitation certificate had been issued but the property was occupied.</p> <p>JG felt the matter should be brought to the attention of Mr Curry of SBC’s Planning Department. YH-H advised that it was going to the Ombudsman and it was suggested she copy in Mr Ian Aikman, Head of the Planning Department.</p> <p>Regarding planning notifications, YH-H pointed to another application in 2020 at Langton Edge in which Mrs Anderson, as adjacent landowner, had an interest. She had not received notification of the application and when she queried this had been told by SBC that ownership of the adjacent fields was unknown, and a notice had been placed in a local paper. According to SBC this was all that was necessary. It was agreed that this was unsatisfactory.</p> <p>AS raised an issue on the application 22/00035/AMC (property being built on land west of Langton Birches). There was a query regarding the access which should have been built before construction commenced on the house. BW/NG to look into this.</p> <p>The point was made that any amendments to plans previously submitted to the CC should come back to the CC for further consideration. This was not being done by SBC’s Planning Dept.</p> <p>NG commented that residents don’t seem to know what comes to the CC for consideration. He proposed writing an article for the next Village Hall newsletter.</p>	<p>YHH</p> <p>BW/N G</p> <p>NG</p>
<p>10</p>	<p>Correspondence forwarded to CC prior to the meeting.</p> <p>Mid Berwickshire police report for November 2023</p> <p>Waste and recycling collection updates over the festive period</p>	<p>MN</p>

	<p>SBC’s Grass Management Review</p> <p>SBC’s Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places</p> <p>SBC’s Budget Survey 2024/2025</p>	
11	<p>Councillor Update</p> <p>Cllrs Moffat and Rowley were not in attendance and there were no reports from them.</p> <p>Cllr Greenwell asked members to respond to the Citizen Space consultation. There was an issue regarding parking on pavements. Legislation is in place but the decision as to whether enforcement was the remit of SBC or the police had still to be decided.</p> <p>He said that the winter plan for gritting was in operation with every possible person out there. Priority routes were being dealt with including routes to hospitals and school bus runs.</p>	
12	<p>Any other business</p> <p>AS reported complaints regarding dog fouling around the Village green and the football pitches. She had been in contact with the Dog Education Officer at SBC asking for signs regarding this. BW was asked if he could arrange more stencilling.</p> <p>BW raised the problem of potholes. Cllr Greenwell advised that the SBC capital budget was to be cut. He noted that A and B roads were in reasonable condition but recent rains had caused damage to areas already repaired. C and D roads were a nightmare mainly because of the damage caused by tractors and grain lorries.</p> <p>Cllr Greenwell advised that if there were serious problems regarding potholes then these should be logged on the SBC portal or an email sent to him and he would see what could be done. The email should have all the details and it was suggested the “What3Words” location also be included.</p>	<p>BW</p> <p>JG</p>
13	<p>Dates of Meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Date of next meeting, Monday 4th March 2024 – 7pm Gavinton Village Hall. ● Future meetings will be held at Gavinton Village Hall, at 7pm on Monday 15th April and 3rd June (AGM) 2024. 	

14	The meeting closed at 8.35pm	
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