



**GAVINTON, FOGO & POLWARTH  
COMMUNITY COUNCIL**  
Minutes of the Meeting held at Gavinton Village Hall  
on Monday 4th of March 2024 at 7pm

Item	Comment	Action
1	<b>Welcome and Introductions:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Chairperson Amanda Stewart welcomed Cllr John Greenwell, Cllr Donald Moffat, Carole Wright, Neil Gilmour, Bryce Weir, John Hughes, Yvonne Huggins-Haig, Morag Naylor, Frances Renton, Ryan Renton, Paul Whitfield, Katy Massie, Mr and Mrs Cockburn, Mr and Mrs Miller and Cathy Anderson.</li></ul>	
2	<b>Apologies:</b>  Tony Huggins-Haig	
3	<b>Declarations of interest:</b> None raised	
4	<b>Minutes of the meeting on 15th January 2024</b> Minutes were approved with no amendments.	MN
5	<b>Matters arising from the minutes and not covered elsewhere in the agenda</b>  None	

6	<p><b>Jim Clark Rally</b></p> <p>Frances Renton kindly attended the meeting to discuss plans for the upcoming Jim Clark Rally. The Langton 'splash' stage will once more feature on the Gavinton leg. The plan was to avoid spectator parking in Gavinton village and a field had been offered for parking on the outskirts of the east end of the village closest to the race area. Signs would be put up to direct cars to parking areas, village streets would be coned off with marshals and security staff available along with a police presence. There was a question as to which field had been offered and its capacity. AS to contact the parking organiser to ascertain this. Any overflow would be directed to the parking field at Ladyflat Farm. Payment for parking would be set up near to Langton Church with catering potentially provided by Gavinton Village Hall.</p>	AS
7	<p><b>Treasurers Report</b></p> <p>Cheque for £70.56 issued to AS for dog waste bags.</p> <p>Balance of the CC account is £1823.80 of which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>General funds £877.13</li> <li>Grant from Blackhill Wind Farm towards unpaid work project £862.69</li> <li>Covid 19 support/Resilient community funds £83.98</li> </ul> <p>The grant from the Blackhill Wind Farm was credited on 6<sup>th</sup> October 2023 and is ringfenced for the Unpaid Work Project if not spent by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024, the end of the financial year.</p>	CW
8	<p><b>Community Improvements and Maintenance- Current</b></p> <p>a) <b>Vehicle Speed and New Speed Signs - Main Street/Crimson Hill, Gavinton</b></p> <p>AS reported that the shark's teeth and 20mph roundels have now been painted on the road surface at the approach to the speed limit areas at both ends of Gavinton. She also reported that both new speed signs were now operational. NG said that Community Policeman Kris McLeod had advised him that he would be revisiting Gavinton with a speed gun. Noted that the Pop-up Bob had been stolen when at Westruther.</p>	AS/NG

	<p><b>b) SBC’s Grass Management review including a grass cutting pilot.</b></p> <p>JH attended a meeting regarding this and AS had passed on his report. However, she has still to get a reply as regards the grass cutting on the Village Green, the cemetery and the verge at the west end of the village opposite the football fields. AS to follow up.</p>	AS
9	<p><b>Community Improvements &amp; Maintenance – issues to be kept under review and discussed only when appropriate updates are available.</b></p> <p><b>a) Repair of Information signs in Fogo/SBC’s Justice Services Unpaid Work Project</b></p> <p>NG reported that the two bus shelters have still to be painted. The team had repaired the railings leading down to the wooden footbridge over the Langton Burn and had done a good job. He said that, on a site inspection, the team leader had pointed out that one of the handrails for the bridge needed repair due to soft wood at the security point. A temporary repair had been done. A couple of steps up to the footbridge had been repaired. The chicken wire has been replaced where necessary. He said other work to be carried out by the Unpaid Work Project team would be recommenced once the weather improved.</p> <p><b>b) SBC maintenance of path to bus stop on Duns Road</b></p> <p>Nothing to report.</p> <p><b>c) Update on GoFibre extension of fibre broadband network</b></p> <p>AS advised that GoFibre hoped to connect the first properties in April. Letters had been sent out to some residents with a QR code to access deals and voucher subsidies. The shop on wheels would come to Gavinton on the 7<sup>th</sup> March and door to door visits would be undertaken. GoFibre had committed to funding GVH ‘s films programme for 12 months. Enquiry had been made as to the Hardens area and AS had been told that as interest had been expressed for connection it would be looked at. AS to keep a watching brief.</p> <p><b>d) Headstone testing issues in Gavinton Cemetery</b></p> <p>BW had previously explained that headstones considered unsafe had been placed horizontally but not always with the</p>	<p>NG</p> <p>AS</p> <p>JG/BW</p>

	<p>deceased's details facing upwards. AS had referred the matter to Cllr Greenwell who had followed it up once again and been informed that the relevant SBC team will come out and investigate.</p> <p><b>e) Update on proposed wind farm project at Lees Hill/Lees Hill Community Liaison Group</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Lees Hill Liaison Group's first meeting was now scheduled for 18<sup>th</sup> March. There was no date for submission of the Renewables Park's application as yet but YHH had been told it would be as soon as possible.</li> <li>Noted the document circulated by Gordon &amp; Westruther CC opposing the proposed Longcroft Wind Farm.</li> </ul> <p><b>f) Hardens Hill Quarry</b></p> <p>Nothing to report</p>	
10	<p><b>Draft SBC Strategic Plan April 2024</b></p> <p>This had been circulated to CC members. NG was thanked for his input. Both he and AS had replied</p>	NG/AS
11	<p><b>Flags on Gavinton Village Green</b></p> <p>NG reported that Berwickshire Civic Society had been in touch regarding the CC's purchase of the new Berwickshire flag. It was proposed that there would be a formal flag raising ceremony attended by the Lord Lieutenant or Deputy Lord Lieutenant of the county. NG to ascertain the proposed date.</p>	NG

<p>12</p>	<p><b>Dog fouling on Gavinton Village Green and football pitches</b></p> <p>AS had been in contact with SBC’s Dog Education Officer regarding signage and stencilling. She reported that new signs have appeared but no stencils. BW commented on the misuse of the waste bags supplied. People had been seen pulling out handfuls from the bag dispenser. The CC was spending a disproportionate amount of its budget on the supply of the bags. AS to research if bulk deals are available and BW to look at repositioning the dispenser to stop roadside misuse.</p>	<p>AS/BW</p>
<p>13</p>	<p><b>Planning</b></p> <p>A planning summary was circulated prior to the meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• YH-H advised there were two new applications and none of the existing ones had been approved.</li> <li>• The application 23/01767/FUL (erection of a dwellinghouse on the Site of The Clachan, Main St, Gavinton) had been discussed at the last two meetings. YH-H said that new plans had been submitted showing three faces of the building now clad in stone, however the distance between the property and the one adjacent remained the same and the relocation of the soil vent pipe remained unchanged. The designated parking area was still insufficient. After the last meeting two further objections had been submitted but unless there were more the application would go to designated powers for approval. YHH pointed out that the new plans had not been submitted to the CC for further review and it was only because she was keeping an ongoing check on the Planning Department’s portal that this had come to light.</li> <li>• Application 23/01335/AMC. YHH reported that revised drawings had been submitted. Nearby residents should be aware of this.</li> <li>• Application 23/00513/FUL. YHH advised that the applicant would be submitting a further application.</li> <li>• New application 24/00205/FUL. YHH advised that the property was at Sisterpath, Fogo and was to convert stables to ancillary accommodation. Nothing had been received yet from SBC’s Planning Dept. AS to circulate when received.</li> </ul>	<p>AS/YH-H</p>

- New application 24/00101/LBC & 24/00094/FUL. YHH advised that the Architectural Heritage Society of Scotland had advised that there was insufficient detail and a full application has to be submitted.
- Application 22/00035/AMC regarding the building at Langton Birches. AS had conveyed the CC's concerns regarding the driveway that had yet to be constructed despite ongoing work to the main property to SBC's Assistant Planning Officer, but had had no reply.
- Application 21/00794/FUL pertaining to the visibility splay and other substantial issues raised. BW noted that this issue had been going on for a long time although only since October as regards the CC's involvement. He wanted to know how we had got to this point and still without a satisfactory resolution. At the last meeting Cllr Greenwell suggested this be escalated to the Head of Planning. Mrs Anderson had given Cllr Moffat a flash drive with the history of all the problems/infringements reported to SBC Planning and the responses. He had passed this on to SBC's Chief Legal Officer to review. He said she hoped to get back to him this week. Noted that Cllr Moffat, in his role on the Planning Committee needs to remain impartial but it was suggested by Cllr Greenwell that AS sends him a formal request from the CC asking him to investigate the situation. He undertook to forward the request to the Head of the Planning Department.

The point was made once again 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 Department.

Mrs Massie observed that, using the Freedom of Information Act facility, there was a very significant increase in formal complaints regarding the SBC Planning Department.

14	<p><b>Correspondence forwarded to CC prior to the meeting.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mid Berwickshire police reports for December 2023 and January 2024</li> <li>• SBC’s Draft Local Heat &amp; Energy Efficiency Strategy</li> <li>• Gordon &amp; Westruther CC Objection to the proposed Longcroft Wind Farm</li> <li>• Explore the Borders edition</li> </ul>	MN
15	<p><b>Councillor Update</b></p> <p>Cllr Moffat said that Duns Swimming Pool would now have the same funding as Jedburgh Swimming Pool and there would also be a one-off upliftment payment made.</p> <p>He also said that there would be increased police speed checks in the area.</p> <p>Cllr Greenwell said that potholes were back at the top of his agenda. He advised that the sooner they were logged on SBC’s portal the sooner they would be fixed. However, having been shown pictures of typical problems eg Paxton Road said there had been a lot of “remedial” fixes but with recent rains the roads were now in a worse state. Added to this there was a backlog, but the teams were working as fast as they can. Road inspectors should be following up repairs and monitoring roads, but this doesn’t seem to be happening across the board. AS to put a link on the CC Facebook page to encourage reporting both in and beyond the CC area. Cllr Moffat encouraged the same reporting with faulty street lighting by sending in the number of the relevant light post.</p> <p>Cllr Greenwell said that on the subject of EV chargers SBC was commissioning an exercise to encourage the increase of chargers.</p> <p>As regards the issue of missed bin collections, he advised leaving the bins out, but if still not collected after a couple of days to please report this. He acknowledged there was a shortage of drivers.</p>	
16	<p><b>Any other business</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr Renton said he, Mrs Renton, Mr and Mrs Miller and Mr and Mrs Cockburn, had come to the meeting to discuss the bad condition of the verges to and from the Fogo Nursery because of parents driving over them when dropping off/collecting children. He had complained to the nursery and matters had</li> </ul>	

	<p>improved but only for a short time. He had erected a small temporary fence to protect the areas but following a complaint to SBC had been forced to remove it. Mrs Renton showed pictures of the current state. It was noted that the numbers attending the nursery had increased over the years, as had the attendees to the Church and its events. There was a carpark at the side of the nursery but part of this had been absorbed into the nursery's play area. It was suggested an approach be made to the landowner of the field behind, but it was pointed out this was used for crops. The land in front of the Church was consecrated ground and couldn't be used. It was pointed out that the speed limit through Fogo was 60mph. BW said there should be a 20mph limit especially on either side of the nursery. Cllr Greenwell agreed to take this up. It was agreed that AS would contact SBC's Roads Department to see if regulation marker posts, like those at Gavinton's football pitch, could be installed. She would also talk to the Minister at Fogo Church regarding parking when there are events there. NG would talk to Community Policeman Kris McLeod and ask his advice.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NG advised that the verges on both sides of the road out of Gavinton towards the turnoff to the Ford were a quagmire. This is a busy single-track stretch and the edges get churned up because of car and lorry traffic. As previously discussed it was also a potential danger to walkers and cyclists as there was no path on either side. It was agreed to research funding options and Cllr Greenwell suggested approaching a contact at SBC who could advise if anything was available through the Council. It was also suggested that an approach be made to have this on the Place Planning initiative. AS to contact both.</li> <li>• NG asked who owned the land on the right-hand side leaving Gavinton at Crimson Hill. Ownership had been debated previously when a vehicle had been parked there for a lengthy period. In the end SBC confirmed that it was part of the highway and dealt with the vehicle. He had been told that a resident there had made enquiries and been told the land was nothing to do with the Council and he intended digging up the grass verge adjacent to his property and concreting it over. Cllr Greenwell confirmed that it did belong to the Council and it could not be developed as the resident planned.</li> <li>• NG advised there were now two new flower planters, one destined for the Village Green. He was asking advice as to its positioning.</li> <li>• AS advised that a donation had been made during Covid to Macmillan Cancer Support in memory of a past community councillor -Steve Hunter. She had received a letter from the</li> </ul>	<p>JG/AS/NG</p> <p>AS</p> <p>NG/JG</p> <p>NG</p>
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	<p>charity acknowledging the donation and giving an update on the Macmillan Support Centre at BGH.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BW pointed out that a trailer had been parked on a verge at Crimson Hill, Gavinton. It looked abandoned and was in a sorry state. An attempt to be made to ascertain ownership.</li> </ul>	<p>BW</p>
<p>17</p>	<p><b>Dates of Meetings</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Date of next meeting, Monday 15th April 2024 – 7pm Gavinton Village Hall.</li> <li>• Future meetings will be held at Gavinton Village Hall, at 7pm on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monday 3rd June (AGM)</li> <li>• 19<sup>th</sup> August,</li> <li>• 30<sup>th</sup> September</li> <li>• 11<sup>th</sup> November</li> <li>• 9<sup>th</sup> December 2024</li> <li>• 27<sup>th</sup> January,</li> <li>• 10<sup>th</sup> March,</li> <li>• 21<sup>st</sup> April,</li> <li>• 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2025 (AGM).</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<p>18</p>	<p><b>The meeting closed at 8.50pm</b></p>	