



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

Item	Comment	Action
1	<b>Welcome and Introductions:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Chairperson Amanda Stewart welcomed Carole Wright, Neil Gilmour, Bryce Weir, John Hughes, Tony Huggins-Haig, Yvonne Huggins-Haig, Morag Naylor, Paul Whitfield, Elaine Cockburn, Katy Massie and Ryan Renton.</li></ul>	
2	<b>Apologies:</b>  Cllr Mark Rowley	
3	<b>Declarations of interest:</b> None raised	
4	<b>Minutes of the meeting on 4th March 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	<b>Treasurer's Report</b>  Transactions on the account since the last meeting on 4 <sup>th</sup> March 2024:  Cheque for £24.96 issued to NG for the purchase of topsoil for planters. Cheque for £32.00 issued to Gavinton Village Hall for rent. Cheque for £98.34 issued to Scottish Borders Website Design for annual software subscription. Cheque for £7.50 issued to L Miller for plants for the planter in Fogo.	CW

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Balance of the CC account is £1661.00 of which General funds £714.33. Grant from Blackhill Wind Farm towards unpaid work project £862.69 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 will be ringfenced for the Unpaid Work Project if not spent by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024, the end of the financial year.</p> <p>CW advised that the annual accounts were being prepared for the AGM on 3<sup>rd</sup> June.</p> <p>With regards the website hosting/domain costs, AS said that she had asked for a contribution from the Gavinton Village Hall committee which was being considered. However, the CC contributes 50% of the annual costs of the GVH newsletter. AS/CW to look at the figures to see if the two entities fund 50/50 of costs.</p>	
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7	<p><b>Community Improvements and Maintenance- Current</b></p> <p><b>a) Vehicle Speed - Main Street/Crimson Hill, Gavinton</b> NG reported that there had been only one visit by the Community Police which was disappointing and despite the installation of speed signs and road markings there didn't seem to be a reduction in the number of speeding cars. He referred to a pilot programme, described by Cllr Moffat at the CC meeting in April 2023, where local residents were being trained to use/record/report with a speed gun. There had been no feedback on the pilot and it was agreed NG write to Cllr Moffat for more information. Comment was made that a Hi-Viz jacket seemed to be a deterrent.</p> <p><b>b) SBC's Grass Management review including a grass cutting pilot</b></p> <p>AS reported that she had asked for an additional cut at the cemetery and had explained the situation with the football club and the need to cut the opposite verge. She had told SBC that the current grass cutting for the Village green should remain and not be changed. She had not heard back, and she would follow up. It was noted that it was a pity that Cllr Greenwell was not at the meeting to discuss this.</p>	<p>NG</p> <p>AS</p>
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	<p><b>(c) Grass verges at Fogo</b></p> <p>AS had written to Gary Haldane at SBC who had replied that the small white verge markers requested come at a considerable cost and are therefore reserved for extreme cases. He said that he had asked the Roads Asset Section to inspect the site. Despite follow-ups she had not heard back if the inspection had been done. According to Mr Renton an inspection had been made as an SBC vehicle had been seen and an occupant had taken photographs. Mr Renton suggested SBC be asked if it would supply the markers and give permission for a resident to install them and he would carry out the work. Mrs Cockburn said she had asked the Fogo Nursery if it could organize a one-way system for parents entering and exiting Fogo but it was agreed that the verge markers were the better option. Mr Renton said he had installed a fence which worked for the first two days but then a complaint had been made to SBC and he'd been forced to remove it. Cllr Greenwell had undertaken to take up the matter of the speed restriction which was not 20mph but there had been no feedback from him. AS to follow up with Cllr Greenwell</p>	AS/JG
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	<p><b>(d) Verges between the Crimson Hill exit and the turnoff to the Ford</b></p> <p>NG had raised the problem of the bad state of the verges and that pedestrians had to walk in the road. AS had contacted Ms Jardine, Community Co-Ordinator at SBC as suggested by Cllr Greenwell. Her request had been passed on to SBC's Ranger service who deal with development/maintenance of paths. There had been no further news so far. There had been the suggestion of "Pedestrians in road" signs. BW suggested SBC needs to put up signs for passing places as lorries were trying to pass each other between these and causing even more damage to the verges. Comment was made regarding the size/weight of the lorries passing through. The CC had been advised that the bridge at the far end of the village has an annual inspection but the view was that this was an accident waiting to happen. AS to follow up</p>	AS
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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) SBC’s Justice Services Unpaid Work Project</p> <p>NG reported that now the holidays were over and the weather had improved he had emailed to ask if the work on the two bus stops could be completed.</p> <p>b) SBC maintenance of path to bus stop on Duns Road</p> <p>Nothing to report.</p> <p>c) Update on GoFibre extension of fibre broadband network.</p> <p>AS advised that GoFibre said there had been a good initial uptake and the first connections would be made at the end of April. Apparently, Fogo was already connected.</p> <p>d) Headstone testing issues in Gavinton Cemetery</p> <p>SBC’s Parks &amp; Environment Manager had advised that headstones that are face down will have fallen naturally and not laid flat as part of their safety process. BW had received a call on the 15<sup>th</sup> to arrange a meeting the following week. Scepticism was expressed as to the full reply from SBC as nothing had been done regarding the fallen headstones after the last two assessments.</p>	<p>NG</p> <p>BW</p>
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<p>9</p>	<p><b>Update on proposed wind farm project at Lees Hill/Lees Hill Community Liaison Group</b></p> <p>NG circulated a report on the Community Liaison Group meeting which took place on the 18<sup>th</sup> March. The developers, Fred Olsen (FO), were ready to submit their application. There were no changes from the road show presentations held in 2023. Proposing to have a drop-in session in two weeks' time. He had asked for a hard copy of non-technical summary/ application document/environmental impact assessment, to be placed in the Village Hall for residents to access. He said there were over 2000 pages in all. He had asked FO to attend a meeting at the Hall to brief residents on the environmental impact with an ecologist present. This was agreed at the time but now a drop-in session seems the initial option. It was agreed that FO be asked to delay the drop-in session so that there was time to go through the paperwork requested. There was the feeling that FO were trying to rush matters to avoid meaningful consideration/consultation of the application. YHH said there should be a four month consultation period but if SBC was to request an extension, which she thought they would, this would result in an eight month consultation period. It was agreed that the CC ask SBC to apply for an extension.</p> <p>Polwarth residents have asked for information to be circulated.</p> <p>It was agreed that once the CC had had a chance to read the papers, inform itself and then there should be a CC meeting with only the wind farm application on the agenda, with SBC representation present, so that residents could have their say. In the meantime, FO should be asked to delay the drop-in session.</p> <p>It was noted that Leitholm, Eccles and Birgham CC had been in touch regarding the challenges they are facing with battery storage applications.</p> <p>NG noted that the Scottish Government had committed to doubling renewable energy generation by 2030</p>	<p>AS</p> <p>NG</p>
<p>10</p>	<p><b>Jim Clark Rally Update</b></p> <p>AS said that, after the discussions at the last meeting, she could confirm that the field for parking was the big one behind the goat field at the bottom of South Street so there would be plenty of parking space with the other field at Ladyflat as backup. Mr Darling was organizing directions/money collection. Volunteers were requested to identify residents so that they could have access through the security barriers. NG and JH volunteered their services.</p>	<p>NG/JH</p>

11	<p><b>Flags on Gavinton Village Green</b></p> <p>NG had heard from the Berwickshire Civic Society that the first official raising ceremony for the new Berwickshire flag was to be at Berwickshire High School in Duns. He suggested that the Gavinton ceremony be held on Saturday, 25<sup>th</sup> May before the start of the Gavinton leg of the Jim Clark Rally. It was agreed that there were too many potential problems with this and another date should be found.</p>	NG
12	<p><b>Dog fouling on Gavinton Village Green</b></p> <p>There had been no recent complaints regarding the Village Green but BW said there was a problem around the football fields. Non dog walkers are picking up. Considering the significant cost to the CC budget in the supply of poo bags, BW to turn the dispensers round and AS had researched a cheaper option of tear off rolls of bags, both to deter users taking handfuls of bags at a time. AS to contact SBC's Dog Education Officer to ask if signs banning dogs in the play area and football pitches were available and to enquire if she had any other suggestions.</p>	AS/BW
13	<p><b>Planning</b></p> <p>AS reported that an applicant had contacted her requesting copies of all communications both written, audio and digital under the Freedom of Information Act in connection with their planning application. After consultation with Cllr Greenwell and SBC's Legal Officer she had responded that the Act did not apply to Scottish Community Councils and referred the person to the minutes of the CC meetings available online at Gavinton.net. AS received a further email asking for a Data Subject Access Request which she complied with by sending the person the emails between them.</p> <p>The applicant(s) of application 21/00794/FUL regarding the removal of condition 5 regarding the visibility splay had contacted AS to complain that they had not been invited to the meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2023 between Mr and Mrs Anderson and Mr Scott of Roads Planning. This was to discuss the directive to remove their fence on the verge leading from the site bell mouth onto the C98 road. YHH pointed out that the issue concerned the landowners, the Andersons, and not the applicants so it would not have been appropriate to invite them. Mr Scott had proposed adjustments which had been done on 29<sup>th</sup> March and he was satisfied with the final outcome.</p> <p>YHH reported that there were no further developments as regards the other pending applications.</p> <p>The CC had no comments on the recent planning application – 24/00250/LBC installation of solar PV, Wellcroft, Gavinton.</p>	YHH

	<p>AS commented on the lack of response from Mr Kirk in the Planning Office. Again, it was noted that it was a pity there was no SBC representation present. YHH said she would take this up with John Hayward who would be taking over from Mr Aikman as Head of Planning.</p> <p>BW enquired what SBC is doing about the seeming lack of personnel in the Planning Dept. YHH said that if an application hasn't been dealt with in six months the applicant can request a refund of the planning lodgment fees.</p> <p>NG thanked AS and YHH for the work they are doing on planning issues.</p>	
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14	<p><b>Correspondence forwarded to CC prior to the meeting.</b></p> <p>Mid Berwickshire police report for February 2024</p> <p>Survey relating to SBC's events strategy and the impacts thereof</p> <p>Explore the Borders edition</p>	MN
15	<p><b>Councillor Update</b></p> <p>As there were no Councilors present there were no updates.</p> <p>YHH felt that at least one should be in attendance at each meeting.</p>	

16	<p><b>Any other business</b></p> <p>NG had received an email from Cllr Greenwell regarding the query about ownership of the land on the roadside at Crimson Hill as raised in the minutes of the previous meeting. He had said he would see the Head of Highways to finalise the ownership issue.</p> <p>BW raised the problem of the tar on Main Street which was severely grazed in places, the worst being outside the Minister's house. BW to send photos to AS with the What3Words location to pass on to Cllr Greenwell.</p>	<p>JG</p> <p>BW</p>
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17	<b>Dates of Meetings</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Date of next meeting, Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June (AGM) 2024 – 7pm Gavinton Village Hall.</li><li>• Future meetings will be held at Gavinton Village Hall, at 7pm on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> August, 30<sup>th</sup> September, 11<sup>th</sup> November, 9<sup>th</sup> December 2024 and 27<sup>th</sup> January, 10<sup>th</sup> March, 21<sup>st</sup> April and 2nd June (AGM) 2025.</li></ul>	
18	<b>The meeting closed at 8.35pm</b>	