



GAVINTON, FOGO & POLWARTH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
Gavinton Village Hall
Monday the 3rd June 2024 at 7pm**

Item	Comment	Action
1	<p>Welcome and Introductions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chairperson Amanda Stewart welcomed Cllr Donald Moffat, Cllr John Greenwell, Carole Wright, Bryce Weir, Neil Gilmour, John Hughes, Tony Huggins-Haig, Yvonne Huggins-Haig, Morag Naylor, Gregor Watson (GoFibre), Paul Whitfield, Kathy Anderson, David McVie and Katy Massie. 	
2	<p>Apologies: No apologies</p>	
3	<p>Declarations of interest: None raised</p>	
4	<p>Minutes of the last AGM 5th June 2023 Minutes were approved with no amendments</p>	MN
5	<p>Report by the Chairman on the council's activities for the previous year A copy of the chairman's report was circulated to all members prior to the meeting and is available on the community webpage Gavinton.net. AS thanked the members of the CC for their work during the past year.</p>	AS
6	<p>Treasurers Report – for the year ending 31st March 2024</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Balance brought forward 1 April 2023 £1155.62 Balance on 31 March 2024 £1766.84 Total income for the year was £2027.69, which was made up of (a) £630 support grant from SBC and £60 reimbursement for the Village Hall hire (b) a grant of £475.00 was awarded to cover the costs of a celebration to mark King Charles III's Coronation and (c) grant from Blackhill Windfarm Community Fund of £862.69 awarded for general works in Gavinton and the surrounding area. These works were not completed by the end of March 2024 and so will be shown as a cost in next year's financial accounts. Total expenditure for the year was £1416.47. Apart from the King's Coronation Fund, the main items of expenditure were £244.79 for website costs, £231.94 environmental costs and £211.68 for dog waste bags. The environmental figure was higher than usual mainly due to the purchase of planters and 	CW

	<p>associated costs. Several planters around Gavinton were in poor condition and required to be replaced.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transactions on the account since the last meeting on 15th April 2024: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The annual £10 standing order to the Community Council Forum ○ £862.69 to SBC for Justice Service Unpaid Work project for general works in Gavinton and surrounding areas ○ Cheque issued to Carole Wright to cover voucher of £20 to the Auditor and £15 to L. Miller for planting at Fogo ○ Cheque issued to Neil Gilmour of £48 for generator fuel <p>Balance of the CC account £705.31 comprising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ General funds £669.33 ○ Covid 19 Support Fund/Resilient Community £35.98 	
7	Any proposals for the amendment of the Council's Constitution None raised	
8	Election of Office Bearers Chair: Amanda Stewart – proposed by THH, seconded by CW Treasurer: Carole Wright – proposed by AS, seconded by THH Secretary: Morag Naylor – proposed by AS, seconded by THH	
9	Angus McMillan was appointed as auditor for 2024/2025	
10	Agreement to abide by the Scottish Borders Council Code of Conduct for Community Councillors – all members agreed to abide by this code of conduct	
	Other General Business	
11	Minutes of the meeting 15th April 2024 Minutes were approved with no amendments	MN
12	Matters arising from the minutes and not covered elsewhere in the agenda None raised	
13	GoFibre extension of fibre broadband network in Gavinton Gregor Watson of GoFibre attended the meeting to give an update. Although a couple of weeks behind schedule, good progress had been made. The first customers had been connected with minimum disruption. He was putting together a communication for the CC website to encourage further take up of the offer. Once the projects in Gavinton and Duns had been completed GoFibre would look at other areas. THH advised that there were approx. 40 properties in the Hardens Hill area.	

	<p>BW suggested that Mr Watson look at the drooping line at the graveyard.</p> <p>BT/Openreach were looking at VOIP as the copper network would be closing, anticipated in 2027. GoFibre was looking at backups and its tech teams were investigating.</p>	
14	<p>Community Improvements and Maintenance- Current</p> <p>a. Vehicle Speed – Main St Gavinton</p> <p>Various initiatives have been put in place over the last year driven by AS. NG reported that the Community Police team has not got back to him regarding the volunteer speed watch project. Cllr Moffat said there had been a delay in getting the pilot up and running. NG also said he had received no reply regarding his report on speeding incidents.</p> <p>THH noted the lack of signage up the Hardens Hill Road. He also noted the serious problems with the road surface and road width. There was still the problem of road safety particularly regarding the ongoing planning interaction with the plot development. He was asked to send a photo to AS to pass on to SBC. Cllr Greenwell recommended contacting Ms Gilhooley of SBC to arrange a meeting to inspect the stretch of road but ahead of this to draw up a list of problems e.g. white lines, signage etc. Agreed that THH represent the CC on this matter. AS to contact P.G.</p> <p>b. SBC’s Grass Management Review including a grass cutting pilot</p> <p>AS reported that a regime had been agreed in 2021 and this had been agreed with the latest review. However, SBC seems to be working on a 20-day cycle (not 10 day as previously agreed) and the playpark is on a different rota. It transpires that certain residents adjacent to the Green asked the SBC cutting team not to cut because of “no mow May”. As a result, the village green and play area were overgrown. It was agreed that the majority view should prevail. Noted that the cut grass was not picked up. Cllr Greenwell to send an email to Carol Cooke at SBC.</p> <p>AS reported that SBC had inspected the verges at Fogo and had decided that their state “do not constitute actionable defects.” Posts on the verges were too expensive and volunteer action had been refused. AS had contacted the nursery to ask if they would request consideration from parents dropping off children but had not received a reply. JG had said he would look into the 60mph speed through the village. He would follow this</p>	<p>NG</p> <p>THH/AS</p> <p>JG</p> <p>JG</p>

	<p>up. AS suggested installing planters on the verges in the vicinity of the nursery and the church. CC to meet cost of planters but residents to be asked where they should be situated. CW to take this matter up with residents</p> <p>AS had been in touch with SBC regarding the verges on the road out of Gavinton from Crimson Hill to the Ford turnoff. She had been advised that SBC was developing an active travel strategy and there had been a recent survey of community routes. A team manager should be in post shortly and it was hoped this would be followed up soon. It was agreed that NG and BW would liaise with the new representative. AS had also followed up her request for “pedestrians in the road” signs and signs to encourage vehicles to use the passing places on the single-track section of the A6112 road to Duns. The former signs have been logged for this SBC financial year. JG asked AS to send him photos of the road to forward to the Chief Roads Officer for inspection. JG would then follow up.</p>	<p>CW</p> <p>NG/BW</p> <p>AS/JG</p>
15	<p>Community Improvements & Maintenance – issues to be kept under review and discussed only when appropriate updates are available.</p> <p>a. SBC’s Justice Services Unpaid Work project NG reported that the work had been completed. It had been done well and payment had been made to SBC using the grant which had been received from the Blackhill Wind Farm Community Fund. NG to send pictures to AS for the report to the Fund. He recommended using the team if there were other projects to be done. This item can be removed from the agenda.</p> <p>b. Headstone testing issues in Gavinton Cemetery BW reported that the three headstones had been repositioned facing upwards. This item can be removed from the agenda.</p>	<p>All</p> <p>NG/AS</p> <p>MN</p> <p>MN</p>
16	<p>Update on proposed wind farm project at Lees Hill/ Lees Hill Community Liaison Group</p> <p>It was reported that there had been no further meetings of the Liaison Group. The Energy Unit had extended the deadline for submitting comments regarding the application to 31 July 2024. Two community sessions to view the Lees Hill application documents had been organised in Gavinton Village Hall on the 12th and 22nd June from 1pm to 4pm. Numbered ballot papers were being printed and would be delivered to residents. The costs of printing and the rental of the Village Hall were being met by Fred Olson, the developers. Ballot boxes would be installed at the Village Hall and at Fogo Church.</p> <p>Paul Whitfield said that Duns Lees Hill SOS would be holding an open public meeting at the Volunteer Hall in Duns at 7pm on 25th June which would be publicised over the next couple of weeks. Their main objections were (a) the project was too close to the residential areas and</p>	<p>All</p>

	<p>in an inappropriate position and (b) query as to the need for yet another wind farm bearing in mind current developments. There is only one other wind farm in the UK with turbines standing at 220 metres. He asked that the CC deadline for returning ballot papers be put back a few days to allow people to attend the SOS meeting. This was agreed. It was hoped to distribute the ballot papers by 14th June with a deadline for return by 7th July.</p> <p>Cllr Moffat requested Lees Hill and similar projects be placed at the end of the agenda so as not to compromise his position on the SBC Planning Committee.</p>	MN
17	<p>Langton Estate right of way issue</p> <p>This issue had been passed from Duns CC to GFPCC as the area falls within its remit. The entrance gate had been locked and a notice put up stating private property. This was registered as a public right of way and should not be closed. The SBC Countryside Ranger had recorded this on the SBC website as a problem.</p> <p>.</p>	
18	<p>SBC Review of non-financial support to community councils</p> <p>A letter from SBC had been circulated saying a working group would be put together for this review and requested a representative from the CC.</p> <p>YHH had volunteered to be the GFPCC representative. MN to advise the SBC Participation Officer.</p>	YHH/MN
19	<p>Jim Clark Rally report back</p> <p>AS thanked NG for taking over the distribution of the resident letters and stickers. The plan had worked well. Noted for future events that 130 were needed.</p> <p>NG had circulated a detailed report on the event but in summary: On the Friday evening at the splash stage the gate to the spectator field was locked and access was over styles. However, there was barbed wire across the top and a spectator cut herself and needed medical attention. The field gate was open on the Saturday. It was recommended that field gates for spectator access be open for all stages in future.</p> <p>On the Saturday at the splash stage a car hit fencing around the</p>	NG

	<p>spectator area. The fence was made from wire held by U shaped staples, one of which hit a spectator 30m away who, thankfully, incurred no significant injury. It was recommended that straw bales be used to shield spectators.</p> <p>AS to relay the comments to the organisers of the Rally as part of their review.</p> <p>It was also noted at the meeting that a rally car had hit Bankhead Bridge on the D12-6 road between Duns and Gavinton which would be closed for 2-3 weeks while repairs were carried out on the bridge.</p>	AS
20	<p>Berwickshire flag raising ceremony on Gavinton Village Green</p> <p>NG suggested that the new Berwickshire flag be raised on Reivers Night. AS to suggest this to the Gavinton Village Hall Committee.</p> <p>AS said her father had been touched by the suggestion that the Gavinton flag be flown at half-mast on the day of the funeral of his wife, Dorothy. NG suggested that if notified of a death the family be approached to ask if this was desired. NG to organise.</p>	NG AS NG
21	<p>Dog fouling on Gavinton Village Green</p> <p>BW advised that he had done stencils around the village and there were signs on the Village Green prohibiting dog fouling. It was agreed this item could be removed from the agenda.</p>	MN
22	<p>Planning</p> <p>A planning summary was circulated prior to the meeting. Since the last meeting:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The application for the erection of a dwellinghouse at Cothill 23/01335/AMC has been approved. 2. The application 24/00466/S36 by Fred Olson Renewables for the building of a renewable energy park at Lees Hill has been registered. 3. It was noted that application 24/00235/FUL for the erection of a dwellinghouse at Polwarth Village and application 24/00145/FUL for retrospective permission to erect a block wall and timber fence had both been registered in February 2024 but only just been updated on SBC's Planning list. <p>AS reported that she had had no replies to her emails to the Planning Officer responsible for the CC area. Cllr Greenwell to email him, copying AS and the Chief Planning Officer. Mrs Anderson wanted to know what was meant when an application was approved but it was noted that "nonmaterial changes" had been made to the plans. How many of these "changes" were permitted before an application goes back to the CC for further consideration.</p> <p>YHH noted that an application should be considered within six weeks</p>	AS/YHH JG JG

	<p>and reasons given for a delay. This was not being done.</p> <p>Details of all planning applications are available on the SBC Planning website and can be accessed via GFPC community pages</p>	
23	<p>Correspondence forwarded to CC prior to the meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mid-Berwickshire police reports for March and April 2024. • SBC review of non-financial support to community councils. • Grant letter for Local Community Paths Maintenance 2024/25. • Campaign for a Scottish Borders National Park and copy of submission • GFPC annual accounts 2023/2024 <p>The above correspondence is available on the community webpage.</p>	MN
24	<p>Councillor Update</p> <p>Cllr Donald Moffat said, in response to NG's earlier comment about not receiving a reply as to speed gun volunteer training, there had been a delay regarding the pilot programme. Training had now been done and awaiting police assessment of the pilot. He commented on the police action against rural crime or any other criminal event. It was best to report it when happening rather than after the event. There had been various changes to police teams and there were now specialist teams e.g cyber security.</p> <p>Cllr John Greenwell said that he had been part of the interviewing panel for a new interim head at Berwickshire High School whilst the current Head is on a one-year secondment.</p>	DM JG
25	<p>Any Other Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BW said he had still not received a satisfactory response to his past complaint about the personnel (or lack of) in SBC's Planning Department. There was no resolution of outstanding issues which was having a cumulative effect. YHH noted that there was only one planning officer for the Mid Berwickshire area. It would appear that some applications were being outsourced to another regional council. As previously noted, any amendments to applications should come back to the CC for consideration. Mrs Anderson said that, as regards her 	

	<p>dispute, she was not getting replies from SBC and the building forming part of their dispute was now almost completed. It was hoped Cllr Greenwell's intervention with the Planning Department would go some way to resolve this.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The letter regarding a grant for path maintenance was discussed and it was agreed that there were only two in Gavinton which met the criteria, the third to the bus shelter having been adopted by SBC. Agreed the grant was not needed this year. MN to advise SBC. • AS thanked everyone for their work during the year and in particular the support she had received during her stepmother's illness and her recent passing away. 	<p>JG</p> <p>MN</p>
26	<p>Dates of Meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Date of next meeting, Monday 19th August 2024 – 7pm Gavinton Village Hall. • Future meetings will be held at Gavinton Village Hall, at 7pm on Monday 30th September, 11th November and 9th December 2024 and 27th January, 10th March, 21st April, 2nd June (AGM), 18th August, 29th September, 17th November 2025 and 12th January 2026 	
27	<p>The meeting closed at 8.40 pm</p>	