



**GAVINTON, FOGO & POLWARTH  
COMMUNITY COUNCIL**  
Minutes of the Meeting held at Gavinton Village Hall  
on Monday 19th of August 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, Carole Wright, Neil Gilmour, Bryce Weir, John Hughes and Morag Naylor.</li></ul>	
2	<b>Apologies:</b>  Cllr Mark Rowley, Cllr Donald Moffat, Tony Huggins-Haig and Yvonne Huggins-Haig	
3	<b>Declarations of interest:</b> None raised	
4	<b>Minutes of the meeting on 3rd June 2024</b> Minutes were approved with no amendments.	MN
5	<b>Matters arising from the minutes and not covered elsewhere in the agenda</b>  <b>None</b>	
6	<b>Treasurers Report</b>  Transactions on the account since the last meeting on 3rd June 2024: <b>Credits:</b>  28 <sup>th</sup> June 2024 £801 from SBC representing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>£693 annual grant and</li><li>£108 reimbursement for Village Hall hire</li></ul> 31 <sup>st</sup> July 2024 £86 from Fred Olson being reimbursement of costs associated with the Lees Hill Windfarm consultation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>£48 for hire of Village Hall on 12<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> June 2024</li><li>£38 for printing costs of ballot papers</li></ul>	

	<p><b>Cheques Issued:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cheque for £38.00 to Shiel &amp; Morrison for printing of ballot papers reimbursed by Fred Olson</li> <li>• Cheque for £72.00 issued to Gavinton Village Hall for rent (48.00 of which was for the Lees Hill consultation and reimbursed by Fred Olson)</li> <li>• Cheque for £70.56 issued to Amanda Stewart for dog waste bags</li> <li>• Cheque for £32.95 issued to Morag Naylor for gift to Melanie Roberts of Melrose and Porteous for overseeing/counting of ballot papers for Lees Hill community vote.</li> </ul> <p><b>Balance of the CC Account: £1378.80</b></p> <p><b>General funds £1342.82</b></p> <p><b>Covid support/resilient community £35.98</b></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 &amp; Hardens Road</b></p> <p>NG reported that nothing further had happened as regards training for 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 also been nothing further as to police attendance. NG was asked to keep following up.</p> <p>AS reported on the reply to YHH's email to SBC regarding the Hardens Road problems. (1) It was suggested that an approach be made to Police Scotland regarding certain residents reversing onto the C98. (2) SBC will add the accident site on the road at Hardens Farm to the list of places to be considered for slow and bend warning signs later in the year. (3) As for the wearing surface now measuring only 4.1mt wide and the traffic, including that going to the autocross, this was a matter for the Roads Planning Department. (4) The issue of speeding traffic downhill on the road, as witnessed by Cllr Greenwell, was a major concern. SBC's reply was to report instances to Police Scotland. Comment was made that new vehicles are fitted with a form of intelligent speed assistance which, it was anticipated, would have a positive effect on driver behaviour. CC suggested that Sgt Kris McLeod of the Community Police be asked to look at the problem stretch of road but agreed that a priority is the signage. YHH to continue to oversee this item.</p>	<p>NG</p> <p>YHH</p>
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	<p><b>b) SBC’s Grass Management &amp; Damage at Fogo Church Graveyard</b></p> <p>AS reported that although she had received good feedback as to the grass cutting on the Gavinton Village Green there had been damage to gravestones and memorial trees at Fogo Church graveyard. JG noted that similar damage had occurred at Greenlaw and guessed that it was down to a lack of supervision and care by operators. Grass was also not being picked up and left to rot. AS had emailed SBC regarding the cutting frequency which had been previously agreed but was not being observed. It appears that it is both a money-saving exercise and a problem with lack of staff. AS to keep following up.</p> <p><b>(c) Grass verges at Fogo and vehicle speed restriction through Fogo</b></p> <p>CW had not managed to talk to any Fogo residents regarding the idea of planters so had emailed a resident to explain the proposal made at the last meeting and asked for suggestions. CW to follow up. Noted that NG and his wife had planted up one of the Gavinton planters with herbs on a “help yourself” basis for which they were thanked.</p> <p>Cllr Greenwell to follow up on the matter of the speed restriction in Fogo which was signed as being 60mph and not 20mph.</p> <p><b>(d) Langton Estate right of way issue</b></p> <p>Although the main gates were still locked the side gate was now unlocked allowing access along the public right of way and the signage had been removed.</p> <p>This item can be removed from the agenda.</p>	<p>AS</p> <p>CW</p> <p>JG</p> <p>MN</p>
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	<p><b>(e) Passing place signs on C101 from Gavinton to A6112 to Duns</b></p> <p>AS had written to SBC’s Road Safety &amp; Management department and the official there had responded that the particular stretch of road was not a single track road with passing places as it is 4.5m wide, and the widened sections were not passing places. BW had measured the road width and reported it to be 3.7m in the location of the passing places. It was also pointed out that several years ago, the CC had received funding through SBC’s small schemes to have the passing places installed. The passing places can be difficult to make out during the summer months when the verges become overgrown and signs to identify their location, which was what was being asked, would be very helpful. This information had been passed to SBC but on follow-up AS was told that it was still their view that it was not a single track and they were not passing places at that point and, as such, there was no intention to provide signage. Cllr Greenwell to take up the matter.</p> <p><b>(f) Deterioration of road surface – Main Street, Gavinton</b></p> <p>Following the last CC meeting when this was raised Cllr Greenwell had investigated and been advised that this had been caused by work being undertaken by Scottish Water. AS to continue to pursue.</p>	<p>JG</p> <p>AS</p>
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) Update on GoFibre extension of fibre broadband network.</p> <p>Nothing to report</p> <p>b) Verges between the Crimson Hill exit and the turnoff to the Ford</p> <p>AS had written to SBC’s new team manager for Active Travel &amp; Transport enquiring about sources of funding for a safe route pathway on this stretch of road. A reply was awaited.</p> <p>c) “Pedestrians in the road” signs for east end of Gavinton/single track</p> <p>AS had followed this up with SBC’s Roads Dept and been given the same reply as the one in Sept. 2023 to the effect that signs were being designed. AS to forward correspondence to Cllr Greenwell to take up</p>	<p>AS</p> <p>JG/AS</p>



12	<p><b>Lees Hill Energy Park – Community Vote</b></p> <p>AS reported that following the CC’s decision to ballot the local residents in its area 439 ballot papers were distributed. The deadline for voting was Sunday, 7<sup>th</sup> July. The ballot papers were counted by Mrs Melanie Roberts, a Director of Melrose and Porteous, Solicitors, Duns in the presence of the Treasurer and Secretary of the CC.</p> <p>The following was the outcome:  Total votes counted: 167  Votes for the proposed Energy Park: 64  Votes against the proposed Energy Park: 103</p> <p>AS had advised the results of the community vote to the Scottish Energy Unit.</p> <p>It was noted that there had been a recent report that the MOD had raised an objection to the proposed development. However AS advised that the objection predated the application and was contained in the paperwork. It appears that mitigation discussions were taking place.</p> <p>NG reported that there had been only one meeting of the Community Liaison Group.</p> <p>It was agreed that (a) the consultation/application paperwork could be recycled and (b) the item removed from the agenda unless there were further developments.</p>	
13	<p>Correspondence forwarded to CC prior to the meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Mid Berwickshire police reports for May and June 2024</li> <li>○ SB Local Action Group Fund 2024/5 grant applications</li> <li>○ Gordon &amp; Westruther CC communication to the Lees Hill Energy Park developers</li> <li>○ SBC communication regarding postal votes for the July General Election</li> <li>○ Survey relating to SBC’s events strategy and the impacts thereof.</li> <li>○ Scottish Borders Climate Action Network</li> <li>○ SBC Community Conversations 2024</li> </ul>	MN

14	<p><b>Councillor Update</b></p> <p>Cllr Greenwell encouraged members to attend the upcoming Community Conversations on 22<sup>nd</sup> August in the Volunteer Hall, Duns. It was a good opportunity to raise concerns. He cited the problem of potholes. There was not enough patching work being done on C and D roads, but he pointed out that the Scottish Borders has the most mileage of these in Scotland. Its roads budget had not increased. Agreed there was increased damage to cars. SBC was purchasing another two Jet patchers.</p> <p>Comment was made regarding hedge cutting. BW advised that hedges near farm gates were given a limited cut to allow visibility for exiting farm machinery but now that we were into August hedges would be given a full cut.</p>	
15	<p><b>Planning</b></p> <p>A planning summary was circulated prior to the meeting. Since the last meeting:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The application for alterations and extension to a dwellinghouse at Caldra 24/00049/FUL had been approved</li> <li>2. The application for the change of use to an outbuilding and alterations to form accommodation at Mill House, Sisterpath 24/00205/FUL was approved.</li> <li>3. The application for installation of a solar PV to the roof of Wellcroft, Gavinton 24/00250/LBC was approved.</li> <li>4. A retrospective application for the formation of a concrete pad for generator and access at land W of Saturnia, Polwarth 24/00850/FUL had been registered.</li> <li>5. A retrospective application for retaining wall with balustrade and revised garage position at Heatherlaw, Hardens, Duns 24/00738/FUL had been registered. This had not been submitted to the CC for scrutiny and it had only been made aware of the application by a neighbour. Although an extension to the deadline for comments had been requested, this had been refused. However the CC has sent a detailed representation, which includes many of the earlier concerns it had raised in connection with this property. AS/YHH to follow up.</li> </ol> <p>BW had previously raised concerns about the lack of communication from SBC's Planning Dept. AS had written to the Planning Office regarding three outstanding queries (copied to the head of department) and had circulated the response to CC members.</p>	<p>AS/YHH</p> <p>AS/YHH</p>

16	<p><b>Any Other Business</b></p> <p>JH noted the comments made at the last meeting by Cllr Moffat, in his role on the Planning Committee, that the agenda be arranged so he could avoid being present when planning matters were discussed. JH said that if Cllr Moffat had an objection to attend on certain agenda items, then he can ask for the agenda item to be moved so that he can come early or late to miss that particular item. JH felt that it would be appropriate to have Cllr Moffat’s comments on certain matters, like the fact that the CC’s scrutiny had been bypassed e.g item 15(5) above. It was also noted the number of retrospective applications being made begging the question that advantage was being taken of the shortage of staff in the Planning Dept.</p> <p>NG advised that he had removed the long-life milk and orange juice which were all out of date from the resilient supply storage. It was decided that if there was an electricity outage residents would be asked to bring supplies with them.</p> <p>NG said he had received notification that Gavinton sewerage pumping station would be out of action for two days at the end of October. He didn’t know what alternative plans were to be put in place.</p> <p>AS said that Donald Rae was asking for contributions for the next edition of the Village Hall magazine.</p>	
17	<p><b>Dates of Meetings</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Date of next meeting, Monday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2024 – 7pm Gavinton Village Hall.</li> </ul> <p>Future meetings will be held at Gavinton Village Hall, at 7pm on Monday 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.</p>	
18	<p><b>The meeting closed at 8.22pm</b></p>	