



**GAVINTON, FOGO & POLWARTH
COMMUNITY COUNCIL**
Minutes of the Meeting held at Gavinton Village Hall
on Monday 30th of September 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, Paul Whitfield and David McVie.	
2	Apologies: Cllr Donald Moffat and John Hughes	
3	Declarations of interest: None raised	
4	Minutes of the meeting on 19th August 2024 Minutes were approved with no amendments.	MN
5	Matters arising from the minutes and not covered elsewhere in the agenda None	
6	Treasurers Report Transactions on the account since the last meeting on 19 th August 2024: Cheques Issued: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Cheque for £19.19 to AS for internet domain renewal Balance of the CC Account: £1359.61 General funds £1323.63 Covid support/resilient community £35.98	

7	<p>Community Improvements and Maintenance- Current</p> <p>a) Vehicle Speed - Main Street/Crimson Hill, Gavinton & Hardens Road</p> <p>NG reported that PC Kris MacLeod was on a course and there was nothing further to report as to police attendance. NG was asked to keep following up.</p> <p>AS reported on the reply to her follow up email to SBC regarding the Hardens Road problems. 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 when funding becomes available, which may be the next financial year. The issue of reversing out of one property onto the road was noted under Planning below. YHH to continue to oversee this.</p> <p>b) SBC's Grass Management & Damage at Fogo Church Graveyard</p> <p>AS had received an email from SBC regarding replacement of the damaged memorial trees in the Fogo Kirk. The Church elders were being kept informed. However, there was nothing regarding the grass cutting frequency previously agreed for Gavinton. AS to continue to monitor this.</p> <p>(c) Grass verges at Fogo and vehicle speed restriction through Fogo</p> <p>CW had had no feedback from Fogo residents regarding the idea of planters. She thought there was insufficient room for these in any event. Verges were looking OK at the moment.</p> <p>AS had followed up with SBC on the speed restriction in Fogo, signed as 60mph and not 20mph, especially with the situation of the nursery in the village. She was advised that when SBC next do a speed limit review, in the Spring depending on other road safety works, Fogo could be included but at best they could only consider a 40mph limit, in consultation and agreement with Police Scotland. AS had enquired about flashing 20mph signs that would only operate during busy nursery pick-up and drop off times. She was told SBC could not support a part time 20mph speed limit where the infants are accompanied. It could only, possibly, be considered for a busy primary or secondary school. JG was asked to enquire about the cost for a "slow down" sign. CW to enquire of Fogo residents whether they want a 40mph limit. JG suggested the nursery also raises the issue with SBC.</p> <p>(d) Damage to handrail down to footbridge at Fogo</p> <p>NG said this amounted to criminal damage. The Men's Shed had done a good job replacing the damaged woodwork. NG to send AS a photo for the CC's social media page to record the CC's thanks.</p>	<p>NG</p> <p>YHH</p> <p>AS</p> <p>JG/CW</p> <p>NG/AS</p>
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	<p>(e) Passing place signs on C101 from Gavinton to A6112 to Duns</p> <p>After the response from GH SBC's Road Safety & Management department JG had written to Philippa Gilhooly giving details and background but was again told that, as far as SBC was concerned, the stretch of road was not technically a single-track road. JG noted a similar situation in Abbey St Bathans which had put in a successful application for a Neighbourhood Grant. YHH to get a quote for two "passing place" signs.</p>	YHH
8	<p>Community Improvements & Maintenance – issues to be kept under review and discussed only when appropriate updates are available.</p> <p>a) Deterioration of road surface – Main St. Gavinton (JG/BW)</p> <p>b) Update on GoFibre extension of fibre broadband network. Nothing to report</p> <p>c) Verges between the Crimson Hill exit and the turnoff to the Ford</p> <p>AS was advised by Andrew McDermott of Sustrans Scotland that government had cut the Sustrans budget. A McD suggested the Ian Findlay Path Fund. There were two criteria in the conditions which may apply to this situation. There were other possible funding sources. JG suggested asking John Evans of the Community Action Group to visit the site. YHH to follow up.</p> <p>d) "Pedestrians in the road" signs for east end of Gavinton/single track</p> <p>AS and JG had followed this up with SBC's Roads Dept. Two signs had appeared both, unfortunately, in the wrong place. Both are in Crimson Hill and should have been placed towards the single-track part of the road towards the Ford. JG said he would email the new Chief Roads Officer pointing this out and the fact there had been no community consultation and suggesting a site meeting.</p>	<p>BW</p> <p>AS</p> <p>YHH</p> <p>JG/AS</p>

9	<p>SBC Review of non-financial support to community councils</p> <p>YHH had volunteered to be the CC representative. She advised there were two sides to this support. The first was funds for village halls for conservation and retrofitting the halls including solar panels. The grant was for up to GBP30K. Registration had to be made by 4th December. AS to pass on details to Donald Rae, chair of the GVH Committee. The other side was Borders Community Action funding where there were possibilities for specific projects. YHH to forward details to AS.</p>	<p>AS</p> <p>YHH/AS</p>
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10	<p>Overgrown paths on riverside at Fogo and fallen trees on Charterhall Estate land</p> <p>AS had contacted the manager of Charterhall Estate and had been told the situation would be checked. The trees are still in place. JG suggested AS contacts the new estate manager. He would email the owner of Charterhall Estate. The overgrown path and the area around the seating area on the path has been cleared.</p>	<p>AS/JG</p>
11	<p>Correspondence forwarded to CC prior to the meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mid Berwickshire police reports for July and August 2024 ○ Berwickshire Community Partnership meeting, Duns 22nd August 2024 ○ Berwickshire Area Partnership meeting, Cockburnspath 5th September 2024 	<p>MN</p>
12	<p>Councillor Update</p> <p>Cllr Greenwell, who oversees SBC's Roads portfolio, advised that another pothole pro had been acquired as part of a pilot dealing with work on C and D roads. It was hoped the probe may free up repair work for the Jet Patcher to concentrate on these roads. The bad weather had resulted in temporary fixes coming away.</p> <p>BW asked about the SBC budget planning. Cllr Greenwell said planning was going alright, but the main strain was on the Social Services budget.</p>	<p>JG</p>

13	<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 retrospective application for retaining wall with balustrade and revised garage position at Heatherlaw, Hardens, Duns 24/00738/FUL had been discussed at a hearing before the Planning Committee. Despite the CC representations and submissions made in person by neighbours to the Planning Committee the retrospective application had been approved. In reply to the issue of residents of the property in question reversing onto the road because of space constraints, the Planning Committee's response was that neighbours should phone the police. The CC concurred with YHH when she said the outcome was very disappointing. 2. SBC response to comments on application 23/01767/FUL: Erection of dwellinghouse on the site of The Clachan, Main Street, Gavinton. AS had contacted the neighbour with SBC's comments. He had described them as being cursory. The Planning Dept obviously expected neighbours to police the work proposed. It was noted that the plot had been advertised for sale again, with a picture of the proposed building for which there was, as yet, no planning permission. 	AS/YHH
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14	<p>Any Other Business</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. AS advised she had been in touch with PC Kris MacLeod regarding the parking problems around the football pitches at the end of Gavinton. PC Macleod had made the community action team aware of the issues and hoped that PC Jacobs or himself would be available to attend during October. 2. AS had received an email regarding the Langton Estate gates from Duns CC. At the last GFPCC meeting it had been understood that the access problem had been resolved. 3. AS had sent a final report to the BlackHill Wind Farm Community Fund regarding the work it had funded for the work in and around Gavinton by the Unpaid Work Project Team. AS to arrange for this to be uploaded on the CC website and Facebook page. 4. AS reported that the Borders Greenway shared access path project had been awarded a grant for detailed design work on the Chirnside to Reston section of the proposed route. 5. CW said she had had an enquiry about installing a defibrillator in Fogo. A contribution might be requested. YHH said that a recent installation in Duns had cost GBP1200. Residents need to be involved in usage/maintenance. Officers from Duns fire station had provided training and support for the Gavinton installation. 	<p>AS</p> <p>CW</p>
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	<p>6. BW said he had spoken to a number of the football club members about the parking at the football pitches. They were discussing options to sort out the problem and he felt the CC should be supportive.</p>	<p>BW</p>
<p>15</p>	<p>Dates of Meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Date of next meeting, Monday 11th November 2024 – 7pm Gavinton Village Hall. <p>Future meetings will be held at Gavinton Village Hall, at 7pm on Monday 9th December 2024 and 27th January, 10th March, 21st April and 2nd June (AGM) 2025.</p>	
<p>16</p>	<p>The meeting closed at 8.22pm</p>	