



**GAVINTON, FOGO & POLWARTH  
COMMUNITY COUNCIL**  
Minutes of the Meeting held at Gavinton Village Hall  
on Monday 11th of November 2024 at 7pm

Item	Comment	Action
1	<p><b>Welcome and Introductions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chairperson Amanda Stewart welcomed Carole Wright, Neil Gilmour, Bryce Weir, Tony Huggins-Haig, Yvonne Huggins-Haig, Morag Naylor, Paul Whitfield, Kathy Anderson, Katy Massie, Alison Payne and James Feeney (representing Duns Juniors Football Club).</li> </ul>	
2	<p><b>Community Improvements and Maintenance – Current</b></p> <p>Parking at the Gavinton football pitches</p> <p>Alison Payne, co-chair and James Feeney, coach and committee member of the Duns Juniors Football Club, attended the meeting to respond to comments made by residents regarding the parking at the football pitches.</p> <p>AP explained that committee membership had grown, including a fundraising aspect, and so they had a few ideas for parking both short and long term. Of the first it was planned to split training over a couple of nights, not just Mondays; games and game times would be staggered, reducing the number of attendees; putting up signage regarding parking on the corner and have members monitoring this; the slipway from the road down the side of the pitches was too steep at present so it was proposed to level it short term but this usage was only viable when weather good. Ideally the plan was for cars to be parked on the upper part of the playing fields and the layby on the road to be used only for drop offs.</p> <p>At present there are approx. 100 children, up to 11 years old, and the numbers were growing so the club committee needed to plan in order to manage this growth including thinking of applying for National Lottery funding. Before this could be furthered the lease for the football pitches from SBC, held by the seniors' club, needed to be checked. YHH had requested a copy from SBC and would pass it on to AP.</p> <p>AP said that the club was starting a website for announcements, details of fixtures etc and would also include information regarding parking and a link to this site could be added to the GFPC website.</p> <p>Noted that training had already started but that there was a lack of indoor facilities for winter. YHH said that SBC was looking at “space awareness” for Duns as there are a lot of groups needing accommodating.</p>	YHH

3	<p><b>Apologies:</b></p> <p>Cllr Donald Moffat, Cllr John Greenwell and John Hughes</p>	
4	<p><b>Declarations of interest:</b> None raised</p>	
5	<p><b>Minutes of the meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2024</b></p> <p>Minutes were approved with no amendments.</p>	MN
6	<p><b>Matters arising from the minutes and not covered elsewhere in the agenda</b></p> <p>None</p>	
7	<p><b>Treasurers Report</b></p> <p>Transactions on the account since the last meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2024:</p> <p><b>Cheques Issued:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cheque for £44.22 to The Men's Shed for fence repair and gift</li> <li>• Cheque for £125.00 to Scottish Borders Website Design for annual website hosting</li> </ul> <p><b>Balance of the CC Account: £1190.39</b></p> <p><b>General funds £1154.41</b></p> <p><b>Covid support/resilient community £35.98</b></p> <p>It was noted that the balance of the Covid support budget would be used towards the cost of a new battery and pads for the defibrillator. AS to purchase.</p>	

8	<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 said he had given up on police involvement regarding the speed issues as the community police were seriously understrength and being diverted to other policing issues. He said there had been an incident recently involving a driver verbally abusing a resident, then speeding off and his car's wing mirror hitting another car's.</p> <p>He suggested investigating the construction of chicanes to reduce speed. These would have to accommodate farm vehicles and other wider traffic. It was suggested he organize a site</p>	NG
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	<p>meeting with a member of SBC's Road Safety Asset Team. AS to email NG with contact details.</p> <p>At the last CC meeting AS reported on the reply to her follow-up email to SBC regarding the Hardens Road problems. It was confirmed that slow and bend warning signs had not, as yet, been installed. YHH to continue to oversee this.</p> <p><b>(b) Vehicle speed restrictions through Fogo</b></p> <p>CW had managed to canvas 10 of the 11 households in Fogo. The majority favoured a 20mph speed limit but, if this was not possible, then 40mph. They were happy with the new traffic warning signs which had been erected and some said that traffic seemed to have slowed down. At the last CC meeting JG suggested the nursery also raises the issue with SBC. The manager said she would raise it at the next trustees' meeting.</p> <p><b>(c) Planters at Fogo</b></p> <p>CW had had little response regarding the suggestion of planters on the verges at the Rashie end of Fogo where the grass verges had previously been churned. She thought there was insufficient room for these in any event. Verges were looking OK at the moment. Remove from agenda.</p> <p><b>(d) Defibrillator for Fogo</b></p> <p>CW had spoken to a resident who said she would bring up the topic at the next Fogo Kirk Community Church Trust meeting suggesting they run operation of the defibrillator. The CC to be kept advised. Noted that the ongoing costs for the defibrillator would be for the Community Trust's account and not the CC. It was suggested that it be situated near to the nursery which was more central than the Kirk. THH pointed out that hundreds of children needed reviving each year.</p>	<p>AS</p> <p>YHH</p> <p>CW</p> <p>MN</p> <p>CW</p>
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	<p><b>(e) Passing place signs on C101 from Gavinton to A6112 to Duns</b></p> <p>AS had got a quote for two “passing place” signs amounting to £91.75 each. It was agreed to purchase these and BW offered to install them.</p> <p><b>(f) Fallen trees on Charterhall Estate land</b></p> <p>AS had had a telephone conversation with the owner of Charterhall Estate who told her the trees in question had been inspected and were not considered dangerous or an impediment to pedestrians. He said they were on a low priority list to be dealt with, but they were still clearing fallen trees from Storm Arwen elsewhere on the Estate. CW was asked to convey the response to the original complainant.</p> <p><b>(g) Parking at the Gavinton football pitches</b></p> <p>This item was dealt with at the beginning of the meeting</p>	<p>AS/BW</p> <p>CW</p>
9	<p><b>Community Improvements &amp; Maintenance – issues to be kept under review and discussed only when appropriate updates are available.</b></p> <p>a) Deterioration of road surface – Main St. Gavinton (JG/BW)</p> <p>b) Update on GoFibre extension of fibre broadband network.</p> <p>Nothing to report</p> <p>c) Verges between the Crimson Hill exit and the turnoff to the Ford</p> <p>At the suggestion of Cllr Greenwell YHH had emailed John Evans of the Community Action Group to visit the site but as yet had had no reply.</p> <p>d) “Pedestrians in the road” signs for east end of Gavinton/single track</p> <p>AS had emailed Cllr Greenwell asking if there had been a response to his email to the new Chief Roads Officer pointing out the incorrect placing of the signs and the fact there had been no community consultation and suggesting a site meeting. As she had had no response she had followed up with a member of SBC’s Road Safety team but had yet to receive a reply.</p> <p>e) SBC’s Grass Management &amp; Damage at Fogo Church Graveyard</p>	<p>BW</p> <p>AS</p> <p>YHH</p> <p>JG/AS</p> <p>AS</p>

10	<p><b>SBC Review of non-financial support to community councils</b></p> <p>Following the last CC meeting when this was discussed AS reported that Gavinton Village Hall had lodged an expression of interest for a grant.</p> <p>YHH had received a message earlier in the day about a meeting the next day at which the issue of funding for a path to the Ford turnoff could possibly be raised. (Community Led Planning)YHH to attend the meeting.</p>	YHH
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11	<p><b>Proposal for application to the Blackhill Windfarm Community Fund for funding subsidised membership of Duns Swimming Pool</b></p> <p>CW had discovered that other community groups had received funding to cover 70% of adult membership to Duns Swimming Pool and 100% of the cost of swimming lessons for children. She was proposing to seek similar funding from the Blackhill Windfarm Community Fund for our community group. It was agreed that a notice would be put on the CC website and Facebook page asking for expressions of interest to be sent to CW's email address. From this it would be possible to work out how much to apply for. If successful, application forms could be sent to those who had expressed interest.</p>	CW
12	<p><b>Correspondence forwarded to CC prior to the meeting.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Mid Berwickshire police reports for July and August 2024</li> <li>○ Berwickshire Community Partnership meeting, Duns 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2024</li> <li>○ Berwickshire Area Partnership meeting, Cockburnspath 5<sup>th</sup> September 2024</li> </ul> <p>PW advised that Gordon and Westruther Community Council had also lodged an objection to the Lees Hill Renewable Energy Park. He said it was unlikely SBC would ask for an extension to the deadline of 5<sup>th</sup> February 2025.</p> <p>AS had circulated an invitation from Borders Greenway to walk the Chirnside to Reston section which is currently being designed by consulting engineers.</p>	MN

13	<p><b>Councillor Update</b></p> <p>As there were no councillors in attendance there was no update.</p>	
14	<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 the erection of a dwellinghouse on the former Polwarth Village Green 24/00235/FUL has been approved.</li> <li>2. A new application for the installation of a non-illuminated sign on land south of North Lodge, Langton, Duns 24/01070/ADV has been received. YHH commented that it was a small sign.</li> </ol>	AS/YHH

15	<p><b>Any Other Business</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. AS advised she had received a request from a Mr Small asking for permission to donate a three seater bench to be situated on the Village Green in memory of Gwen Blacklock, a Gavinton resident, who had passed away recently. She had approved this.</li> <li>2. NG noted that Rev. Bill Patterson had passed away. His memorial service is on the 19<sup>th</sup>. As he had been a popular Gavinton resident, NG suggested that the Union Jack be flown at half-mast. This was agreed.</li> <li>3. NG said that he and John Hughes would be attending an Emergency Planning meeting at SBC. He intended raising (1) the fact that the box of emergency equipment was out of date and (2) in light of the catastrophic</li> </ol>	
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	<p>flooding in the Valencia area which caught the authorities unaware what plans, if any, SBC had, in similar circumstances here especially with the increased rainfall being experienced. NG will give an update at the next meeting.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. BW, while on his way to the meeting, noted that lights were on in the Church Hall. It transpired that this was for the food bank freezers and fridge.</li> <li>5. BW said that there was a sagging GoFibre line over a hedge which, somehow, the owner had managed to cut. This line should be reported to GoFibre.</li> <li>6. BW said villagers should be vigilant following an incident where a man, behaving strangely, was spotted in the early hours of the morning at the Ford turnoff.</li> </ol>	<p>NG</p> <p>BW</p>
16	<p><b>Dates of Meetings</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Date of next meeting, Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2024 – 7pm Gavinton Village Hall.</li> </ul> <p>Future meetings will be held at Gavinton Village Hall, at 7pm on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> January, 10<sup>th</sup> March, 21<sup>st</sup> April and 2nd June (AGM) 2025.</p>	
17	<p><b>The meeting closed at 8.20pm</b></p>	