



**GAVINTON, FOGO & POLWARTH
COMMUNITY COUNCIL**
Minutes of the Meeting held at Gavinton Village Hall
on Monday 27th of January 2025 at 7pm

Item	Comment	Action
1	<p>Welcome and Introductions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chairperson Amanda Stewart welcomed Cllr John Greenwell, Carole Wright, Neil Gilmour, Bryce Weir, John Hughes, Morag Naylor, Paul Whitfield, Evelyn Duncan and Johnny Fisher (representing Heart for Duns). 	
2	<p>Apologies:</p> <p>Yvonne Huggins-Haig, Tony Huggins-Haig and Cllr Moffat</p>	
3	<p>Declarations of interest: None raised</p>	
4	<p>Minutes of the meeting on 9th December 2024 Minutes were approved with no amendments.</p>	MN
5	<p>Matters arising from the minutes and not covered elsewhere in the agenda</p> <p>None</p>	
6	<p>Duns Community Led Planning</p> <p>Johnny Fisher attended the meeting. He is a consultant to ‘Heart for Duns’ which is leading the Duns Community Led Planning process, also known as ‘Local Place Plan’ (LPP). He was under the impression that GFPC was undertaking its own LPP but AS advised that, having attended an initial meeting 18 months previously for Duns & District LPP and having circulated and returned questionnaires completed by residents she had heard nothing further despite a request for follow up.</p> <p>Mr Fisher indicated that the LPP for Duns outlined priority themes including public transport, paths connecting Duns to surrounding communities and activities for young people, particularly teenagers. Followed by project proposals including housing, parking and evening hospitality.</p> <p>There was discussion around whether GFPC priorities for enhanced parking</p>	

	<p>at the Gavinton football pitches used by Duns Juniors FC and a safe walking route to Duns could be included in the Duns LPP.</p> <p>JG explained that 61 LPP's had so far been submitted to SBC councilors which would be considered on merit as there are no specific pots of funding.</p> <p>Once agreed the plans would then go to the planning department and, although not legally binding, they would help guide future planning. If SBC receives funding in future this might be more likely to support a project included within the LPP.</p> <p>It was agreed that Mr Fisher would send the Duns draft LPP to GFPCC and any comments would be collated and forwarded for inclusion in the plan.</p>	
7	<p>Treasurers Report</p> <p>Transactions on the bank account since the last meeting on 9th December 2024:</p> <p>Cheques Issued:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cheque for £48.00 to Gavinton Village Hall for hall rental • Cheque for £24.00 to NG for gift to John Craik for providing Gavinton with a Christmas tree • Cheque for £45.00 to Maitland Handyman Services for repairs to the "Ann Smith Memorial" sign • Cheque for £70.56 to AS for dog waste bags • Cheque for £25.68 to BW for mix to secure the passing place signs <p>Balance of the CC Account: General funds £321.77</p>	CW
8	<p>Community Improvements and Maintenance- Current</p> <p>a) Vehicle Speed - Main Street/Crimson Hill, Gavinton & Hardens Road</p> <p>NG had reported a near miss incident to the Community Police Officer and sent him details of registration etc. The officer had promised to make enquiries as to the owner of the vehicle and pass on some 'advice'. PC MacLeod hoped to visit Gavinton with the speed camera in the next few weeks.</p> <p>YHH would continue to oversee the situation of road markings and warning signs on the Hardens Road.</p> <p>b) 'Pedestrians in the road' signs</p> <p>The signs have been installed. This item can be removed from the agenda</p>	<p>NG</p> <p>Y HH</p> <p>MN</p>

	<p>(c) Parking at the Gavinton football pitches</p> <p>AS would contact Alison Payne of the Football Club to enquire if there had been any progress with fundraising.</p>	AS
9	<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) This had been referred to the Scottish Water Board. JG to follow up.</p> <p>b) Update on GoFibre extension of fibre broadband network.</p> <p>GoFibre had reported that the Gavinton rollout had been completed. Full fibre is now available to 122 properties and, so far, nearly 50% have been connected to the service. No formal plans yet to extend the service in the area but updates would be passed on. CW advised that Bogend now has fibre connectivity. AS had advised GoFibre of the sagging cable at Gavinton church and been promised this would be checked.</p> <p>c) Verges between the Crimson Hill exit and the turnoff to the Ford JG had suggested asking John Evans of the Community Action Group to visit the site but it appears YHH has not had success.</p> <p>d) Defibrillator for Fogo</p> <p>CW said she had contacted a Fogo resident with the suggestion of a meeting with CC members to help with contacts and fundraising. A reply was awaited and the ball was in their court.</p> <p>e) Passing place signs on C101 from Gavinton to A6112 to Duns</p> <p>The signs have been installed, and the item can be removed from the agenda.</p> <p>f) Fallen trees on Charterhall Estate land (AS/JG)</p> <p>No action has been taken regarding the fallen trees therefore the landowner is responsible if there is an accident. It is a public right of way. SBC has a tree officer. JG to take up the issue with SBC's Parks & Environment Manager</p> <p>g) SBC's Grass Management & Damage at Fogo Church Graveyard</p> <p>This item can be removed from the agenda</p> <p>h) SBC Review of non-financial support to community councils (YHH)</p>	<p>JG</p> <p>AS</p> <p>Y HH</p> <p>CW</p> <p>MN</p> <p>JG</p> <p>MN</p> <p>YHH</p>

	<p>There has been a delay in setting up the working group for the review. YHH is the CC's representative.</p> <p>i) Vehicle speed restrictions through Fogo (CW/AS)</p> <p>As this is to be included in SBC's 2025 speed limit review it can be removed from the agenda.</p>	MN
10	<p>Proposal for funding from Blackhill Windfarm for subsidised membership of Duns Swimming Pool (CW)</p> <p>CW reported that the funding application had been submitted to the Windfarm Community Fund. The next Fund review of applications was at the end of this month.</p>	CW
11	<p>Resilient Communities (NG)</p> <p>NG and JH were thanked for being on standby with the generator during Storm Eowyn. They planned a practice run when the weather was better.</p> <p>NG reported that a tree had come down near the bench at Gavinton church which would be sawed up. Any other vulnerable trees had already come down. Slates had come off some roofs and there had been some damage to greenhouses.</p> <p>He reported that Polwarth was still without power. He commended the regular communications from Scottish Borders Emergency Planning Room. He was going to do an article for the village newsletter putting together a checklist of items to have handy for future storm events.</p> <p>NG had raised a query about the salt bin near to the Church which didn't seem to be used but there was a need for one at the bottom of South Street. There has also been storm damage to the bin on the village green. JG to enquire about an additional bin and a replacement for the damaged one.</p>	<p>NG/JH</p> <p>NG</p> <p>JG</p>
12	<p>Correspondence forwarded to CC prior to the meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mid Berwickshire police report for December 2024 ○ SBC Draft Finance Plan for 2025/2026 	MN
13	<p>Councillor Update</p> <p>Cllr Greenwell said it was the 80th anniversary of VE day on 8 May and SBC was planning to organize a few events to include military charities.</p> <p>He said he was a trustee of the Admiral Ramsay Museum and the museum was planning displays for the VE day anniversary and if anyone had/knew of unwanted WW II memorabilia the museum would be delighted to take it.</p> <p>JG said that at the moment the SBC budget was taking up a lot of meeting time especially with the impact of the proposed increased employer NI</p>	

	<p>contributions which would add a substantial amount to the budget of which Westminster would only contribute 50%. He said the council had been looking at savings over the last few years but it had statutory obligations where it was difficult to cut back and there were the non-statutory obligations, like public toilets, which were being looked at.</p> <p>JH commented about difficulties contacting SBC HQ customer services.</p> <p>JG explained the problems.</p>	
14	<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 installation of a non-illuminated sign for Lammermuir Gun Dogs at land south of North Lodge, Langton, Duns 24/01070/ADV was approved. 2. The application for the erection of an agricultural building at Nisbet Hill Farm 24/01367/AGN was approved but as previously noted this is a Class 6 application and does not need to come to the CC for comment. 	AS/ YHH
15	<p>Any Other Business</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. AS thanked NG and JH for arranging the gift for the donor of the Gavinton Christmas tree. 2. AS advised that the flagpole protocol had been updated to include the flying of the Saltire on St Andrews Day. 3. AS noted that CW had circulated an email regarding the proposed expansion of the 2025 Jim Clark Rally. It was agreed to invite the CE of the Rally to address issues about the 2024 Rally. 4. JH said he was involved in the project to retrofit the Village Hall. The plan was to install solar panels and he asked if planning consent was required as there were differing views. JG advised that as it's a conservation area consent is needed. AS to forward to JH the Planning Dept.'s number 5. NG said that the Duns Repair Café would be opening shortly, and a notice would be circulated. 6. BW said there was a derelict trailer parked on the road in The Glebe, Gavinton. BW to send a photo and information to JG. 	<p>AS</p> <p>AS</p> <p>NG</p> <p>BW/JG</p>

16	Dates of Meetings <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Date of next meeting, Monday 10th March 2025 – 7pm Gavinton Village Hall. Future meetings will be held at Gavinton Village Hall, at 7pm on Monday 21 st April, 2nd June (AGM), 18 th August, 29 th September, 17 th November 2025 and 12 th January 2026.	
17	The meeting closed at 8.25 pm	