



GAVINTON, FOGO & POLWARTH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting
Held at Gavinton Village Hall
Monday the 17th of November 2025 at 7pm

Item	Comment	Action
1	Welcome and Introductions: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Chairperson Amanda Stewart welcomed Cllr John Greenwell, Neil Gilmour, Bryce Weir & Katie Massie	
2	Apologies: John Hughes, Carole Wright, Yvonne Huggins-Haig & Tony Huggins-Haig.	
3	Declarations of interest: None raised	
4	Minutes of the meeting held on 29th September 2025 Minutes were approved with no amendments	AS
5	Matters arising from the minutes and not covered elsewhere in the agenda- none raised	
6	Treasurers Report CW was absent but sent the following information to be shared with the meeting: Transactions on the bank account since the last meeting 18 th August 2025 <ul style="list-style-type: none">Cheque for £44 to GVH for hall hireCheque for £125 to J Nicholson for annual website hostingCheque for £30 to AS for gift for TJ Current balance of the account £601.75	CW
7	Community Improvements and Maintenance – Current <ul style="list-style-type: none">Vehicle speed Main Street, Gavinton & Hardens Road At the last CC meeting KM confirmed that an additional road sign for the Hardens Road had now been put up – AS contacted PG who confirmed that road markings to accompany the sign would be added to the lining squad order. JG offered to contact Jason Hedley to remind him of the information sent by the CC on the pothole issues on the Hardens Road and determine any plans for repair. JG also offered to find SBCs policy on repairing road edges or supporting the edges with gravel to prevent breakageRepair to Footbridge at the Ford – Gavinton NG confirmed that the footbridge was inspected by SBC and necessary repairs have been completed.Repair to stone wall and Lych gate- Fogo Kirk.	KM/AS JG NG

	<p>On request from the property convener from Fogo Kirk the CC forwarded images of the stone wall and lych gate to SBC. The stone wall around the graveyard is in need of repair and the Lych gate has rotten timbers, and the slates are falling from the roof section. This structure is category A listed. John Donovan, SBC estates technician confirmed that SBC are responsible for the upkeep of these structures and a site visit is being arranged. The Trotter family have offered to repair the broken section of stone wall to allow the formation of a seat in the wall in memory of the late Alexander Trotter. Drawings of the design are to be submitted to SBC for approval by planners.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bus Shelter – Duns Rd, Gavinton Request from residents that the undergrowth in the area around the bus shelter on the Duns Rd be strimmed to allow easier access. JG asked the foreman in Duns to action this request (21st Oct). NG confirmed that this work has not been carried out. JG to follow up. Removal of leaves from path to bus stop, Gavinton. Local residents requested that the leaves be cleared from the path to the bus stop as the path is steep and the leaves were slippery. A request was sent to SBC, parks and environment and the works were carried out the following day. Thanks were sent from the CC to Natasha Stockman for the quick action on this issue. SBC will monitor this path and clear when necessary. Removal of abandoned Range Rover, The Glebe, Gavinton. SBC put a notice for removal on the vehicle which was then removed by the owner within 48hrs. SBC bulk refuse collections YHH was absent from the meeting and so no update was available on the issues she previously raised on this service. 	AS NG/JG AS BW/JG YHH
8	<p>Community Improvements & Maintenance – issues to be kept under review and discussed only when appropriate updates are available.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Deterioration of road surface- Main Street, Gavinton. BW attended an on-site meeting with SBC roads officer to inspect the problem areas on Main St and South St, Gavinton. The roads officer did not believe the faults in the road surface were the responsibility of Scottish Water. JG to determine the outcome from this site visit. Parking at the Gavinton football pitches. CC to continue to monitor. Resilient Communities – additional/replacement salt bins. YHH offered an unused salt bin from another site to the CC – NG has requested photos and measurements to determine a suitable location – no reply yet from YHH. AS to follow up. 	JG/BW AS NG/YHH

	<p>d. Potholes on Hardens Road</p> <p>e. Walking route Gavinton to Duns.</p>	YHH
9	<p>GFPCC collaboration with Gavinton Village Hall – preplanning consultation for solar and battery technology</p> <p>JH was unable to attend but circulated the following information prior to the meeting:</p> <p>YHH has submitted the pre-planning application but no feedback on any response to this application as yet.</p> <p>JH attended the Berwickshire Federation of Village Halls where he met up with the Foulden Hall Secretary who confirmed that they are working with SBC planner Paul Duncan on conservation PV's. Contacts have been forwarded to YHH. Funding for this initiative is available until February 2026 and JH is keen to push ahead with this final phase of decarbonisation retrofit for the village hall.</p>	JH/ Y H-H
10	<p>SBC/CC Insurance – protection against legal action brought against GFPCC</p> <p>No information has yet been received from NM on the levels of legal protection available to the CC from SBC. AS & JG to follow up.</p>	AS/JG
11	<p>WIN-140-10 Planning and Environmental Appeals– Lees Hill Renewable Energy Park</p> <p>NG updated the meeting on the actions of the Lees Hill SOS group. A report by Prof. Hughes on noise pollution has been sent to the chair of the review panel and to Fred Olsen. The group are currently fundraising to cover costs including the costs of a landscape consultant and a safety consultant. The report requested by the enquiry from the fire service has not yet been received.</p> <p>AS confirmed to Christine Brown (Scottish Government planning and environmental appeals division) that the CC will not participate in the hearing for the Lees hill proposal. A hard copy of the CLVIA was requested and received. This was brought to the meeting so that members may view the most recent viewpoint images of the wind turbines.</p>	NG/AS
12	<p>Request for a defibrillator- Polwarth</p> <p>AS received a request from a Polwarth resident for assistance from the CC in obtaining a defibrillator for Polwarth ideally to be sited within the red phone box. This phone box was purchased from BT by the CC back in 2016. They are trying to get a group of Polwarth residents together to provide support and ideas for this project. Information on defibrillators from British Heart Foundation and information on phone box conversion was kindly forwarded.</p> <p>The CC were happy to support this initiative but would need to seek permission from BT to access the power supply currently disconnected in the phone box. The CC do not have the funds to cover the costs of defibrillator consumables, insurance or electricity costs and so fundraising by a local residents group would be required. It is hoped that interested Polwarth residents may attend the CC meeting on the 12th January to discuss this further.</p>	AS
13	Speed Limit Review- Fogo	JG

	JG confirmed that in the coming months a speed limit review will be carried out taking into consideration all requests received since the last review in 2022. As part of this review a 40mph speed limit will be considered for Fogo nursery.	
14	<p>Correspondence forwarded to CC prior to the meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Police Report- Mid Berwickshire- August & September 2025. Report on SBC scheme for community councils following review and publication of revised handbook. Invitation to CC chairs meeting, 21st October 2025. AS attended on behalf of GFPCC. This was a discussion of community priorities to help inform the upcoming SBC budget decisions. Invitation to attend Historic Environment Scotland- talking about heritage workshop, 21st October 2025. 	AS
15	<p>Councillor Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cllr Greenwell updated the CC on the discussions around the future of Live Borders and its assets. External consultants were brought in to recommend where savings could be made to allow Live Borders to become a viable organisation. JG confirmed that there were discussions still be had around the future of the Southfield Centre in Duns which he is keen to see retained for community groups. Cllr Greenwell confirmed that community consultations had been ongoing to help inform the setting of the next SBC budget. Pre-budget planning was being done but there would be no information on the settlement from the Scottish Government until the end of January 2026. JG encouraged CC to get in touch with him directly if there were any issues around gritting of roads or pavements and he would address this. 	JG
16	<p>Planning</p> <p>2 new applications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 25/01132/PPP Plot 1, land at Polwarth Crofts Farm, Greenlaw. Erection of dwellinghouse. 25/01133/PPP Plot 2, land at Polwarth Crofts Farm, Greenlaw. Erection of dwellinghouse. <p>Information on these applications was circulated prior to the meeting – no comments or objections were received.</p> <p>3 Applications were approved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 25/01123/FUL. Greenrig, The Green, Gavinton – alterations and extension to dwellinghouse. 25/01199/AGN. Land at south of Langton Mains, erection of agricultural building 25/01259/CLPU, Broompark House, Polwarth, erection of garden shed. 	YHH/AS
17	<p>Any other business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NG noted that the resilient community food stores at the village hall were out of date and wondered if they should be replaced. The CC felt that in case of emergency residents could bring supplies from home to the village hall and that these supplies should not be replaced. NG informed the meeting that he had read in SBC news that towns and villages in the Borders reported no negative 	NG NG/JG

	consequences of the demise of the regional community action teams. JG confirmed that CAT teams were no longer funded by SBC.	
18	<p>Dates of meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Date of next meeting, Monday 12th January 2026 – 7pm Gavinton Village Hall • Future meetings will be held at 7pm on 9th March, 20th April, 8th June (AGM) 17th August, 28th September, 16th November and 11th January (2027). 	
19	The meeting closed at 8.30pm	