



GAVINTON, FOGO & POLWARTH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting
Held at Gavinton Village Hall
Monday the 9th of March 2026 at 7pm

| Item | Comment | Action |
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| 1 | Welcome and Introductions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chairperson Amanda Stewart welcomed Carole Wright, Neil Gilmour, Bryce Weir, John Hughes, Julie Preston, Cathy Anderson & Katie Massie | |
| 2 | Apologies: Yvonne Huggins-Haig & Tony Huggins-Haig | |
| 3 | Declarations of interest: None raised | |
| 4 | Minutes of the meeting held on 12th January 2026 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 Transactions on the bank account since the last meeting 12 th January 2026 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No money has been received or cheques issued since the last meeting. Current balance of the account £393.10 | CW |
| 7 | Community Improvements and Maintenance – Current <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Repair to stone wall and Lych gate- Fogo Kirk. Jonathan Jones (SBC) confirmed that the listed buildings consent application for the repair has been submitted. SBC bulk refuse collections YHH and JG absent from the meeting so no update on this issue was available Repair to benches, Hunters Bridge, Fogo NG confirmed that Duns 'Men's Shed' would come out to look at repairing and renovating the benches once the weather improves. NG to follow up. Repair to wooden fencing, path from Hunters bridge to Fogo Kirk. CW & JP took photos of the fencing which were forwarded to JG. JG had offered to contact the | AS YHH/JG NG CW/JG/AS |

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| | <p>Charterhall estate to establish if the fence was on their land. JG was absent from the meeting and so no update was available. AS to follow up.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tree Maintenance- large cherry tree in centre of Gavinton Village Green AS contacted Natasha Stockman to request maintenance for this tree which requires pruning and is becoming unbalanced. NS confirmed that planning approval is required for this work due to being in a conservation area. A planning application has now been submitted and SBC will schedule a contractor once the necessary approvals have been received. | AS |
| 8 | <p>Community Improvements & Maintenance – issues to be kept under review and discussed only when appropriate updates are available.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Deterioration of road surface- Main Street, Gavinton. NG confirmed that the potholed area of Main Street, Gavinton which had been unsuccessfully repaired twice by SBC has now been fixed. JG had offered to follow up on the plan to repair the sections of Main St and Maitland Road identified during the site visit between BW and SBC roads officer however as he was absent from the meeting no update was available. b. Parking at the Gavinton football pitches. KM noted that cars were once again parked on the grass verge on the approach to the road junction. AS to email Alison Payne to request use of cones & information to parents. c. Resilient Communities – additional/replacement salt bins. YHH to send details of salt bin to NG so that transport can be arranged. NG confirmed that he has now received a salt spreader from SBC resilient communities’ team. d. Potholes on Hardens Road KM & CA noted that the Hardens Rd has some significant pothole issues. CC were encouraged to take a photo of potholes, note the location and use SBC’s online reporting system. e. Walking route Gavinton to Duns. f. Vandalism in Gavinton It was noted that the community notice board near to the Glebe, Gavinton had been damaged, and this was reported to the police. AS to arrange repair to this notice board and the notice board at the post office which has a stuck lock. | <p>JG/BW/NG</p> <p>KM/AS</p> <p>YHH/NG</p> <p>All</p> <p>AS</p> |

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| 9 | <p>GFPCC collaboration with Gavinton Village Hall – preplanning consultation for solar and battery technology</p> <p>The preplanning-application is now with Cameron Kirk (SBC planner) – he noted that he has been waiting for the consultation reply from the heritage and design officer. AS to follow up. It is hoped that YHH can help with information on potential contractors and costs so that JH may investigate sources of funding.</p> | JH/YHH/AS |
| 10 | <p>SBC/CC Insurance – protection against legal action brought against GFPCC</p> <p>AS contacted Berwickshire community council forum to clarify the levels of legal protection provided by SBC to CC. Cllr James Anderson has kindly offered to investigate this and provide an update as soon as possible.</p> | AS/JG/JA |
| 11 | <p>Update on Jedburgh Convention on the impact on communities of major energy infrastructure & Unified Statement</p> <p>JH & NG kindly attended this convention on behalf of the GFPCC. This event was well attended with community councils from around the Borders and wider area and representatives of political parties present. JG & NG noted that there was a feeling of frustration over the number and size of the infrastructure projects proposed for the Scottish Borders and the feeling that there was a need for a clear national energy policy from Scottish Government.</p> <p>Following on from the convention a unified statement was circulated which the organisers wish all Community councils to sign up to. This statement was circulated to all CC prior to the meeting.</p> <p>The unified statement was discussed, and it was decided that the GFPCC would sign up to the Unified Statement. It is noted that BW voted against this proposal and wished clarity on the role of nuclear energy.</p> | JH/NG/All |
| 12 | <p>Request for a defibrillator- Polwarth</p> <p>BW kindly attended the phone box and was able to confirm that there is an active electricity supply. BW to source a replacement bulb for the phone box.</p> <p>Bethan Williams is following up on potential funding options and the CC have offered to help wherever needed. BW is in contact with Neil Redpath to obtain details and costings for the same defibrillator system as currently used by Duns 1st responders – NR has advised that they may have funding sources to pay for replacement pads and consumables in future.</p> <p>JH commented that a joint defib training day will be organised by GFPCC and Gavinton Village Hall.</p> | AS/BW/BW/JH |
| 13 | <p>CC Election 2026</p> <p>AS has prepared nomination forms, advertising posters and an article for the village newsletter in advance of the election. Nominations will be open from Friday 20th March until Friday 10th April. Cllr Greenwell has offered to act as returning officer. Niamh Dempsey has kindly offered to create some social media posts to illustrate the work of the GFPCC. CC were encouraged to send</p> | AS |

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| | AS any photos they have of completed projects to help with this task. | |
| 14 | <p>Correspondence forwarded to CC prior to the meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Police Report- Mid Berwickshire- January 2026. • Open consultation on draft culture, arts and heritage strategy for the Scottish Borders, circulated to all CC. • Information on the launch of a new public portal for energy consents representations (Scot Gov) from 16th January 2026. • SBC slides with information on community energy projects & place making peer support network (SOSE) circulated to all CC. • Letter form Leitholm, Eccles & Birgham CC to all rural Scottish CC regarding Jedburgh Convention and unified statement circulated to all CC. • Update on Borders railway business case and feasibility work on the potential extension of the line to Hawick & Carlisle. • Interim feedback request 50mph trial on A6088, A708, B6357 & A7 North of Galashiels. | AS |
| 15 | <p>Councillor Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Councillors were able to attend this meeting. | |
| 16 | <p>Planning</p> <p>3 new applications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 26/00118/TCA (GFPCC) Work to Trees, The Green, Gavinton • 26/00221/FUL Orchard Grange, Duns, erection of a dwellinghouse with revised access, landscaping and drainage. • 26/00143/FUL replacement front door, Rowardennan, Main Street, Gavinton. <p>1 application decided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 25/00900/PPP Erection of dwellinghouse, paddock West of Hardens Hall – approved with conditions. | YHH/AS |
| 17 | <p>Any other business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KM informed the meeting that the gate at the Lodge, Gavinton that leads into the Langton Estate is now padlocked. It was queried whether this is a public right of way. AS to investigate. | AS |
| 18 | <p>Dates of meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Date of next meeting, Monday 20th April 2026 – 7pm Gavinton Village Hall • Future meetings will be held at 7pm on 8th June (AGM) 17th August, 28th September, 16th November and 11th January (2027). | |
| 19 | The meeting closed at 8.35pm | |