



GAVINTON, FOGO & POLWARTH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting
Held at Gavinton Village Hall
Monday the 20th of April 2026 at 7pm

Item	Comment	Action
1	<p>Welcome and Introductions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chairperson Amanda Stewart welcomed Carole Wright, Neil Gilmour, John Hughes, Tony Huggins-Haig, Yvonne Huggins-Haig, Cathy Anderson, Katie Massie & Cllr John Greenwell. 	
2	<p>Apologies: Cllr Moffat & Julie Preston</p>	
3	<p>Declarations of interest: None raised</p>	
4	<p>Minutes of the meeting held on 9th March 2026 Minutes were approved with one amendment</p>	AS
5	<p>Matters arising from the minutes and not covered elsewhere in the agenda- Jedburgh Convention on the impact on communities of major energy infrastructure & unified statement: The unified statement was discussed at the last meeting, and it was agreed that the GFPCC would sign up to this. The CC were invited to a 2nd Convention 18th April in Lauder or 25th April in Moffat – NG & JH who attended the previous meeting in Jedburgh did not feel that it was necessary to attend this meeting, and they would review the minutes to see how this project is progressing.</p>	NG/JH
6	<p>Treasurers Report</p> <p>Transactions on the bank account since the last meeting 9th March 2026</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> One cheque issued £36 to Gavinton Village Hall for hall rental. <p>Current balance of the account £357.10</p>	CW
7	<p>GFPCC Election 2026</p> <p>6 nominations were received: Amanda Stewart Ann Lindsay John Hughes Katie Massie Tony Huggins-Haig Yvonne Huggins-Haig</p> <p>Bryce Weir and Carole Wright have agreed to be co-opted rather than stand for nomination.</p>	AS

	<p>Neil Gilmour is standing down from the CC but has kindly agreed to continue as head of our resilient community strategy for a year for which we send thanks.</p> <p>The new council will be formed at the AGM in June.</p>	
8	<p>Community Improvements and Maintenance – Current</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <p>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.</p> <p>SBC bulk refuse collections YHH noted at the last meeting in March that the earliest SBC bulk uplift date was scheduled for May and queried why there was such a delay in the availability of this service. JG followed this up with SBC – Maggie Cripps offered to investigate and said that on initial review it looked as though the online booking system may not be accurately reflecting the slots available. JG to follow up.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Repair to wooden fencing, path from Hunters bridge to Fogo Kirk. JG contacted the Charterhall estate office to establish if the fence was on their land. The office team could not confirm that the wooden fence was the responsibility of the estate. JG to follow up with Henry Trotter.</p> <p>Tree Maintenance- large cherry tree in centre of Gavinton Village Green A planning application was submitted and validated on 29th January but has not progressed further through the planning system SBC will schedule a contractor once the necessary approvals have been received. AS to follow up.</p> <p>Repair to community notice boards- Gavinton Two community notice boards were identified as needing repair. Matt Dickinson was asked to carry out the repairs – he confirmed that the notice board at the old post office required a new lock and made a temporary repair to the old lock until the replacement was carried out. The notice board near to the Glebe required new cork board backing which had been ordered. Matt to carry out the repairs once he has all the materials.</p> 	<p>AS</p> <p>YHH/JG</p> <p>NG</p> <p>CW/JG/AS</p> <p>AS</p> <p>AS</p>

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 Street, Gavinton. JG confirmed that SBC roads officers had inspected the worn sections of Main St and Maitland Road – it was felt that these sections were not currently in poor enough condition to warrant resurfacing and that this would be kept under review. NG noted that speed sensors are currently in place on Main Street in Gavinton- AS to request a copy of the results from this study.</p> <p>b. Parking at the Gavinton football pitches. AS contacted Alison Payne to request use of cones & information to parents on considerate parking. Alison confirmed that she had sent out a reminder to all family groups and coaches.</p> <p>c. Resilient Communities – additional/replacement salt bins. YHH confirmed that she would be able to provide an additional salt bin to the CC. NG confirmed that SBC emergency planning department will supply the salt.</p> <p>d. Potholes on Hardens Road KM & CA noted that the Hardens Rd has some significant pothole issues – particularly on the corner beyond Hardens Hall. KM kindly offered to photograph and report these potholes.</p> <p>e. Walking route Gavinton to Duns.</p> <p>f. Vandalism in Gavinton There have thankfully been no further incidents of vandalism in Gavinton. Item can be removed from agenda.</p>	<p>JG/BW</p> <p>AS</p> <p>AS</p> <p>YHH/NG</p> <p>KM/CA</p> <p>AS</p>
10	<p>GFPCC collaboration with Gavinton Village Hall – preplanning consultation for solar and battery technology The comments from the SBC planners on the pre-planning application kindly prepared by YHH were received. Although limitations to planning were expressed the CC & VH were invited to submit a full planning application for this project. JH has begun the process of applying for funding from the Cares Solar Fund and the Decarbonisation Fund with the assistance of AS & DR. Additional funding may be required and a further application may be submitted to the Blackhill Windfarm Community Fund. JH has been working with contractors including S & P Renewables to prepare quotes for the work with an initial estimate of around £18,000. YHH suggested that a meeting be arranged to discuss: contractors, PV design, costs & match funding. JH to arrange a team meeting.</p>	<p>JH/YHH/AS</p>
11	<p>SBC/CC Insurance – protection against legal action brought against GFPCC</p>	<p>AS/JG</p>

	AS received information from Greg Campbell of SBC on the renewal of CC insurance policy – this indicated that the insurance would be renewed on the same terms as last year. AS contacted GC and NM to clarify the levels of legal protection for CC within this policy. No response was received from these enquiries. JG to pursue this.	
12	Request for a defibrillator- Polwarth Bethan Williams has received information from Duns first responders on the equipment required and relevant costs. AS is currently completing an application to the Blackhill Windfarm Community Fund to cover the costs of the defibrillator, pads and storage cabinet. If successful, the CC agreed to cover the costs of an electrician to fit this equipment into the red phone box on Polwarth Green.	AS/BW
13	Padlocking of the gate at the lodge, Gavinton- restricting access to the Langton Estate KM noted at the last meeting that the gate at the lodge house just off the A6105 near to Gavinton was chained and padlocked. This is the access to right of way reference BB92/1 on the Langton estate. JG advised AS to pass this information to Denise Brydon, senior active travel and access officer at SBC. DB offered to follow this up with the landowner Mr Brownlie. KM noted that the gate is now unlocked although the chain and padlock are still hanging from the gate as though it could be locked again.	AS/KM
14	Jim Clark Rally 2026 Frances Renton, PR and accommodation manager JC Rally, confirmed that the water splash stage is not being used this year but the stage through Fogo would go ahead on Saturday 23 rd May with spectators using the Fogo Road to access the viewing area at Ladyflat. AS to contact Thomas Darling to establish plans for this event.	AS
15	Correspondence forwarded to CC prior to the meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Police Report- Mid Berwickshire- February 2026. • Information on the armed forces covenant engagement event- Friday 13th March was circulated to all CC. • Update to SBC webpage for community councils- scheme of establishment and handbook- information shared with CC. • Update from EDF Power Solutions- approval has been given for the additional turbines at Dunside wind farm. Once the project is up and running there will be a £450,000 per annum community fund associated with this project- information circulated to CC. • Invitation from Greener Duns to a screening of 'Peoples Emergency Briefing' in Duns on 22nd April at 7pm in Volunteer Hall – shared with all CC. NG confirmed his intention to attend. • Review of financial support to community councils- call for nominations by 27th April. • SBC individual resilience initiative- campaign poster added to FB page and NG put up posters on community notice boards. • Information on community led development funding (opened 8th April for expressions of interest) shared with CC. 	AS/MN

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information on 2026 Greener Gateway Awards shared with CC. Entries open until 7th August. 	
16	<p>Councillor Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> JG informed the meeting that SBC is currently preparing for the upcoming Scottish elections with rooms filled with ballot boxes and preparations underway to begin counting of postal votes. JG shared the news that Berwickshire High School had been rated as the 2nd best high school in the Scottish Borders and 78th in Scotland for 2026. This shows a dramatic improvement since the 2020 ratings which placed BHS as 188th in Scotland. JG congratulated the team at BHS for this result. 	JG
17	<p>Planning</p> <p>1 new application:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 26/00400/FUL Woodend Farm, Duns, erection of free-range poultry unit for 32,000 hens. CC wrote to planners in support of this application. <p>3 applications decided</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 23/01037/LBC Polwarth Church, internal and external alterations, approved. 26/00143/FUL replacement front door, Rowardennan, Main Street, Gavinton, approved. 25/01231/FUL Scotston, Duns, alterations to a derelict cottage to form additional accommodation, approved. 	YHH/AS
18	<p>Any other business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Duns Juniors Football Club- Gavinton. Alison Payne updated the CC on plans to upgrade the ramp into the playing fields and laying matting on the east side of the field to enable off-road parking. AP also confirmed that the clubhouse is not faring well, the roof was leaking over winter and there is rot in the beams and flooring. Duns Juniors are awaiting contact from SBC to look at replacing the current clubhouse with a portacabin or pre-built structure – AP offered to keep the CC updated on any progress. Daryl Hughes kindly wrote to the GFPCC on behalf of the Langton Estate to share plans for forestry works near Gavinton planned for 2026/27. Daryl confirmed that the main right of way through the estate will remain open most of the time- where tree felling takes place, safety signs and barrier tape will be temporarily erected. This information was shared with CC. AS to write to DH to inform him that there were no objections to this proposal. 	AS
19	<p>Dates of meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Date of next meeting, Monday 8th June (AGM) – 7pm Gavinton Village Hall Future meetings will be held at 7pm on 17th August, 28th September, 16th November and 11th January (2027). 	
20	The meeting closed at 8.20pm	