GAVINTON, FOGO & POLWARTH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting
Held at Gavinton Village Hall
Monday the 28th of September 2026 at 7pm

Item	Comment	Action
1	**Welcome and Introductions**: • Chairperson Amanda Stewart welcomed Bryce Weir, Cathy Anderson, Katie Massie & John Hughes	
2	**Apologies:** Cllr John Greenwell, Yvonne Huggins-Haig, Tony Huggins-Haig, Carole Wright & Ann Lindsay.	
3	**Declarations of interest**: None raised	
4	**Minutes of the meeting held on 17th August 2026** Minutes were approved with no amendments	AS
5	**Matters arising from the minutes and not covered elsewhere in the agenda-** ▪ Abandoned Vehicle-Gavinton Vauxhall SY63NYU Philippa Gilhouly provided an update on this case – The vehicle does not appear to be causing an obstruction where it is located and as it has recently been moved environmental health would not treat this vehicle as abandoned. Additionally, the vehicle appears to be located on land out with what we would consider adopted.	AS
6	**Treasurers Report** Transactions on the bank account since the last meeting 17th August 2026 Cheques Issued ▪ One cheque for £1661.09 issued to AS, comprising ▪ £1570.00 defibrillator for Polwarth ▪ £70.56 for dog waste bags ▪ £20.53 internet domain renewal Current balance of the account £1078.53 of which General funds £970.53 Defibrillator funds £108	CW
7	**Community Improvements and Maintenance – Current** • **Repair to stone wall and Lych gate- Fogo Kirk.** Jonathan Jones confirmed that he was on-site with the contractors a couple of weeks ago to finalise the plans – he is waiting on some updated costs and then hopefully will get the go-ahead to start the works.	AS

	• **Repair to benches, Hunters Bridge, Fogo** YHH has spoken to Alec Small of Duns Men's Shed – he said that any donation would be welcome and suggested £20. Alec said, he would have the materials and the tools required but would need someone to collect him and show him the location for the job. Thereafter he can arrange the work with a colleague from Duns Mens Shed. AS to organise a cheque for donation and a volunteer to show Alec the work required.	YHH
	• **Repair to wooden fencing, path from Hunters bridge to Fogo Kirk.** NG kindly reported to the CC that the fencing has now been repaired and is standing upright, although he noted that the fencing is not in good condition and further maintenance may be necessary. The CC send thanks to Henry Trotter and the estate workers at Charterhall for repairing this fence.	CW/JG/AS
	• **Repair to community notice boards- Gavinton** Matt Dickinson has the new locks for the noticeboard and will replace as soon as possible	AS
	• **Dangerous manhole cover – Charterhall land at Hunters Bridge.** JG was absent from the meeting and therefore no update was available.	AS/JG
	• **Drain cover- height above road surface on Hardens Road at Duns Golf Club** JG was absent from the meeting and therefore no update was available.	JG
	• **Damage to flower planters at the Glebe by SBC grass cutting team.** NG confirmed that the planters have now been fixed by SBC. Item can be removed from then agenda.	NG
	• **CC collaboration with GVH- EV charger at GVH.** YHH confirmed that EDF have funding for installation of EV chargers. We will need to wait until the solar and battery system is completed at the village hall and then check the current funding schemes available.	YHH/JH/AS
8	**Community Improvements & Maintenance – issues to be kept under review and discussed only when appropriate updates are available.**	
	a. Deterioration of road surface- Main Street, Gavinton.	JG/BW
	b. Parking at the Gavinton football pitches.	AS

	c. Resilient Communities – additional/replacement salt bins. YHH is having the salt bin cleaned out this week and will arrange delivery to Gavinton after 6th October. **d. Potholes on Hardens Road**	NG/YHH/AS KM
9	**GFPCC collaboration with Gavinton Village Hall – preplanning consultation for solar and battery technology** JH confirmed that 80% of the funding for this project has now been approved. He is hopeful that the remaining 20% will come from a bid to the Blackhill fund which will be considered in November. A planning application will then be submitted as quickly as possible to SBC.	JH/YHH
10	**SBC/CC Insurance – protection against legal action brought against GFPCC** Clare Malster (community co-ordinator, communities and partnerships team SBC) sent an update – "the insurance will be discussed by the working group currently reviewing financial support for community councils. Conversations have been taking place for several months with the insurance team and insurance provider. Although it has taken longer to progress than anticipated we hope to have a definitive answer about cover and cost in the next few weeks". Clare sent apologies that it has taken longer than expected to get to this stage.	AS/JG
11	**Request for a defibrillator- Polwarth** The defibrillator and cabinet have been purchased and are now with the electrician for installation in the phone box at Polwarth. A defibrillator training day has been arranged in collaboration with Gavinton Village Hall. 10am on Saturday 31st October. The training will be led by members of the St Johns Ambulance team. This training happily coincides with a breakfast morning at the village hall and so tea/coffee, and bacon rolls will be available. AS has publicised this event on webpage & social media and will place posters on noticeboards around the community.	AS/BW/JH
12	**Gavinton Fruit & Veg Barrow** Thanks to all those who have donated home grown produce to share. Donations to this barrow now total £78.49 all of which will go towards replacing consumables for the community defibrillator.	AS
13	**Correspondence forwarded to CC prior to the meeting** • Police Report- Mid Berwickshire-July & August 2026. • Update from Alex Brownlie- Langton forestry works circulated to all CC and social media. • SBC review of speed limits – includes GFPCC request for 40mph speed limit at Fogo nursery. Police Scotland were supportive of this request due to narrow roads and presence of a nursery. SBC have chosen to progress this reduction to the speed limit. • SBC request for input to Borders Transport Survey- shared to CC and Gavinton community Facebook page.	AS/MN

	• Information on funding of up to £5000 for community projects focused on climate, nature and food from Royal Society of Edinburgh shared to CC and social media. Funding applications must be received by 1st December 2026. • Public protection committee – spotting the signs- public protection poster shared to community Facebook page.	
14	**Councillor Update** As no SBC councillors were able to attend the meeting – no update was available.	
15	**Planning** • There were no new applications and no applications decided since the last meeting.	YHH/AS
16	**Any other business** • JH forwarded a request from a member of the community on SBC schedule for weed spraying in Gavinton. AS has contacted Natasha Stockman for further information on this. • JH queried the 60mph speed limit on Main Street at the West end of Gavinton past the football pitches with concerns around safety and the numbers of cars and children attending particularly on a Monday evening. Phillipa Gilhouly was contacted and commented that SBC had no plans to change the speed limit at this location. The layby is on the same side as the football pitches and children are accompanied by an adult – speed compliance tools show average speeds are less than 26mph. The CC could request that this area be included in the next SBC review but we would need to have evidence of need including numbers of children/cars attending and support from Duns Juniors FC and Police Scotland.	JH/AS JH
17	**Dates of meetings** • Date of next meeting, Monday 16th November – 7pm Gavinton Village Hall • Future meetings will be held at 7pm on 11th January, 8th March, 26th April, 7th June (AGM) & 9th August (2027).	
18	**The meeting closed at 8pm**	