

GARVALD AND MORHAM COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Approved Minutes of Meeting, 3rd December 2012
@ 7pm, Morham Village Hall

1. Attendance and Apologies for Absence

Attendance

Rufus Bellamy (Secretary), Hazel Clark (GVH), Garry Galbraith (MVH), Deborah Gray (Lothian and Border Police), Ian Middlemass (Treasurer), David Murray (MVH Rep), Lilian Pryde (East Lothian Council), Kirstie Shearer (Member), Penny Short (Chair), Ian Smith (Member), Jimmy Thomson, David Walls (Broadband), Phillip White (Vice-chair).

Cllr Broun Lindsay, Cllr McMillan

No Apologies

2. Minutes from Previous Meeting

Incorrect spelling of Crystal Rigg was noted and minutes then passed.

3. Matters arising from Minutes

Crystal Rigg funding – IM said that the money had been paid out to all the applicant groups.

Morham Bridge - KS noted that there had been another accident at Morham bridge. IM said that he felt that the curbs should be raised to parapet height.

It was noted that ELC's Brian Cooper had been in touch to say that the Council was moving to get repairs carried out and that it was not possible to ban vehicles using the road if they were licensed to do that.

Action: KS said she would pursue repairs and also look into have a 'road narrowing' sign installed.

Garvald Playpark – RB reported that he had been in touch with the manufacturers and that they were sending through a quote for the required paints and stains.

Action: Once quotes received RB would circulate and then apply for funding through local priorities fund.

The following co-opted members to the Community Council were approved by the members: Hazel Clark, Garvald Village Hall Rep & David Murray, Morham Village Hall Rep.

The Woodland Group (a co-opted group) was also approved by the members: Hazel Clark, Lorraine Hay & Jimmy Thomson.

4. Police report

Deborah Gray from Lothian and Border Police was welcomed.

She began by saying that there had been no reported crimes in the area recently, but that there were regional problems relating to thefts from outbuildings and cars. Thieves were also targeting heating oil and diesel.

She noted that one of her priority areas is speeding in rural villages as the police receive a lot of complaints – in response they have been using portable laser speed cameras and have caught a number of offenders.

She announced that there was to be an initiative on domestic violence running from the 1st December to the end of January – a zero tolerance approach was being taken force-wide.

She also noted that mud on the road was an issue at this time of year and that the police were aware of the need to take action where appropriate. She explained that they are encouraging people to phone in and are passing on complaints to relevant parties.

She encouraged anyone with any concerns or comments to e-mail Deborah.gray@lbp.pnn.police.uk

HC suggested that the police could use village website to alert people to any important issues.

KS said that her heating oil had been broken into and that she had been advised to lock her tank. It was advised that this kind of action could lead to tanks being damaged.

Cllr B-L said that it was important to report anything so that resources were not diverted away from the region.

5. Councillor's report

Cllr McMillan said he was still chasing up on issues relating to roads, drains, potholes etc. He said that he had also reported concerns about tractors, trailers, mud on road etc to local police.

KS said flooding was very bad on the road going towards Standing Stones – she said that she knew that the Council had responded by digging holes, but that the situation was now really dangerous.

Action: KS to chase up with the Council.

IM asked why the bins were collected in Gifford on a Sunday and whether it cost more – LP said that this was to pick up after the Saturday night 'fish and chips'.

6. Council Liaison Update

KS said that she had nothing specific to report.

LP said that all training for Community Councils was available on the ELC's website.

PW reported that drain cover near the bridge in Garvald had still not been fixed (but that the pothole reported at the last meeting had been mended).

JT said that gully past the bridge up towards Nunraw should be kept clear to guard against danger of ice etc.

RB said that the bench in Garvald park had been replaced.

Speed reactive sign: PS said that she had chased Brian Cooper at ELC on this. LP said there had been a delay in ordering the sign due to the Council's procurement process.

7. Broadband report

IS reported that funding from Crystal Rigg has come through and had allowed the purchasing of equipment for upgrades – 1st part of these upgrades had already been done in Garvald Village Hall where visitors could now enjoy free wi-fi broadband. The rest of the proposed upgrades will take a month or two to put in place. He finished by saying that the Broadband group is planning to put a wi-fi hotspot in the pub and Morham Village Hall.

IS said that he has sent a message about the upgrades to the community newsletter.

8. Funding Report

PW reported that he had had a meeting with RB and IM to discuss how the funding issue should best be addressed. He explained that the group had decided that the key priority should be to try and spread the money from the Crystal Rigg and Local Priorities Funds as widely as possible.

IM said that £3,000 plus money still to allocate from the Crystal Rigg fund (due to excess due to the higher than expected productivity of the wind farm).

RB outlined the approach that had been decided for publicizing the existence of the two key funding sources: 1) a contact list for all key community groups would be drawn up. 2) These groups would be contacted on a regular (at least quarterly) basis and reminded about the funds and what they can be used for. 3) Regular reminders would be put up on the community websites. This work would start in January/Feb 2013. IM asked whether all present could think about the groups that should be contacted.

RB suggested that there should be a continually-updatable wish list of community projects. A wildflower meadow at the entrance to Garvald was suggested as a first possible project for this list.

PW then outlined his thoughts on a local 'scholarship fund' (using money from Crystal Rigg) for aspiring young sportspeople. This idea was well received and DM suggested that it could be extended to musicians as well. He explained that he was involved in a scheme under which gifted children get mentorship from the RSAMD. LP said that quite a few CC are doing this kind of work and funding trips abroad.

Cllr McM pointed out that the East Lothian Education Trust exists to support music and sport (based on a family's income). He explained that Kim Brand at the Council manages it.

9. Treasurer's Report

IM reported that there was £3096.96p in the CC account.

LP reported that £1737.30 remained uncommitted in the Local Priorities fund and that this was to be spent by end of March.

10. Planning Update

PW said that there was nothing significant to report.

Garvald Update

HC reported that there was now free Wi-fi in the hall, that the recent Craft Fair raised £322 for the hall, that 26 entries had been received for a the Garvald poetry competition and that the painters had already started work in the Hall. She announced that there would be a Ceilidh on Hogmanay with live music from the Ann Geddes trio.

HC put in a request for £210 for Christmas tree lights. LP said this was possible, if the CC was asking for it. Lights are going to be LED. LP said that many CC use Blachere illuminations. She advised that the CC should get the invoice made out to ELC and sent to LP personally and that this would allow VAT to be reclaimed. She said that she could order the lights as well. This approach was agreed.

12. Morham Update

DM reported that the Village Hall is looking into getting a baby changing facility (using Local Priorities fund). Hannah is looking into the application.

He also reported that the Hall has changed utility providers to Scottish and Southern Energy. This was done with the help of Utility Aid – a company that they had been introduced to through the SCVO. He explained that the switch should lead to a 15-20% reduction of costs through bulk buying.

He reported that the Village Hall Committee is currently moving through keystone stages with the SCVO in line with guidance from ELC – they should achieve the relevant award within the next 6 months.

13. A.O.C.B.

JT gave an update on the Garvald woodlands project and explained that the required license had been issued and that all relevant officials had agreed with the process. He explained that the delay had come about due to leasing issue with Nunraw farm. He predicted that the project would go ahead in Feb/March 2013.

JT then handed over various documents to PS:

- Documents relating to the Woodland project.
- The constitution of the CC – dated 2007.
- Original agreement with Crystal Rigg.

RB read out letter from Iain Gray asking CC to put across its views about the closure of the Sheriff Court. Many around the table had signed the

relevant petition directly. It was unanimously agreed that the CC oppose the closure.

Action: RB to send letter.

LP announced that the meeting of the Association of Community Councils would soon take place (office bearer elections on the 16th Jan 2013) and asked that we send at least one rep. along.

Action: PS said she would attend.

IM said everyone had acknowledged receipt of their money from Crystal Rigg. PS said that she had received a letter from the Knox group saying "thank you" for its money.

HC said that she had reported a dangerous tree near the telephone exchange.

Action: Cllr McM said that he would follow it up.

14. Date of Next Meeting

Monday, 4th Feb at 7.00pm in Garvald Village Hall.