

GARVALD AND MORHAM COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Approved Minutes of Meeting, 7th December 2015
@ 7pm, Morham Village Hall

1. Attendance and Apologies for Absence

Penny Short (Chair), Rufus Bellamy (Secretary), Hazel Clark (Garvald VH), Ian Middlemass (Treasurer), David Murray (Morham VH), Phillip White (Vice-chair)

Apologies

Kirstie Shearer
Cllr John McMillan
Ian Smith (Member)

Introduction

PS began the meeting by highlighting the many successes and local endeavours that the funding from the Wind Farm, facilitated by the Community Council, has been able to assist with this year:

- Lothian Broadband.
- The change of status of Morham VH.
- Another successful poetry competition (book of 2015 poems was handed round).
- Family choir now held every Friday for an hour and a half in Morham VH. It was agreed that this was an excellent initiative and that the organizer (Sonia) should re-apply for more funding.
- Halloween celebrations, other parties, Christmas theatre trip (47 adults and children went) and Hogmanay Ceillidh.

Tracey Thomson – Scott Thomson’s mother – came along to say ‘thank you’ for the recent funding support Scott had received from Crystal Rig via the CC. She said that Scott was more than happy to come along to any meeting to explain what he’s been doing. She also passed over a letter of thanks and paperwork for the purchases that had been made to support Scott’s sporting endeavours.

She reported that he past 18 months have been very successful for Scott – that he had won the Judo European Championships and Youth Olympics for GB. This is the ultimate for someone his age. He also won

the Young Sports Personality of the Year Award in Mid-Lothian and Cadet Male Player of the Year Award for Judo Scotland.

Tracey said that without the money provided by the CC he couldn't have gone to as many qualifying events. He is now moving up another age band, so things are more competitive.

2. **Minutes from Previous Meeting**

These had been approved and subsequently distributed by e-mail/web.

3. **Matters arising from Previous Minutes**

Community Intervention Fund for potential Garvald woodland project

– PS reported that Cllr McMillan had sent an update and that he was keeping a watching brief on this issue.

Falago Rig windfarm – PS reported that she had reiterated our position to the developers to say that Garvald and Morham should receive funding as it is within 10km of the site. She has asked the groups to keep in touch.

Crystal Rig – PS has been approached by chair of East Lammermuir CC to meet up to discuss the division of funding from the new turbines. She will report back when the meeting has taken place.

Garvald Riverbank Project – PS has been in touch with the ELC's Stuart Pryde about the reconstruction of the riverbank and park path and the possibility of installing a new bench on the broken plinth by the park gate.

Stuart had said that the work could be scheduled in for the spring (and that the path could be included in the work); however, he said that budgets were fully committed and that the Civic Pride fund was not suitable as a source of money for this project.

Action: PS to look into potential funding sources.

Bench: It was decided to contact the Community Service Group to do the work and, perhaps purchase the necessary wood.

Action: HC and PW to follow up bench project as above.

Local Area Partnership – 2 meetings have taken place since the last G&MCC meeting. At these meetings the LAP talked about Broadband, about getting the gym in Haddington to open for longer hours and about the planning application for Haddington's new skate park (opening 3rd

June). It appears that when the group holds meetings outside Haddington not enough people attend.

Insurance – IM reported the good news that he had spoken to Zurich and that the Council had set up a policy on our behalf and cancelled our old one. As a result he had received a refund. He noted that the new insurance might not cover the fabric of the G&M Marquee.

Morham Hall funding – this has been passed on to the Village Hall team.

Other funding - Phillip has e-mailed everyone to let them know about recent decisions.

4. Councillors' report

No Councillors present.

5. Update from Kirstie Shearer - Council Liaison Rep.

No report as Kirstie not present.

6. Update from Ian Smith - Broadband Rep.

No report as Ian not present.

7. Update from Philip White - Funding Rep.

PW reported that £1,200 for Garvald Hogmanay had been approved - IM will process the payment.

PW highlighted new Crystal Rig applications:

1) **Yester nursery active play project.** Parent's Association had put in the application and said that 22 children from Morham and Garvald would benefit. Already raised over £900 and looking for funding from Lottery etc. Looking for over £6,000.

PS advised that the application may be rejected by Fred Olsen as they may see it is a Council responsibility but as it is a very worthwhile project and, if approved by the CC, worth submitting the application to Fred Olsen anyway.

It was decided to see if Gifford CC had been approached and to see how much they were contributing.

Action: PW to follow up as above.

2) **Mapping project for orienteering** – Tom Mallows (Garvald Resident) had applied looking for funding in principal as he needs to get permission from landowners. Looking for £1,000 at this stage. PW thought that it would be a good opportunity to map paths around Garvald. It was noted that there was already a book of maps for the core paths. It was also noted that the project is for the East Lothian Orienteering Club and that it will bring business to the village.

Action: PW will go back to Tom and ask him has he looked at core paths info to see if this makes the project superfluous.

3) **Garvald Village Hall secondary glazing** - to replace broken/refurbished glass - £5,000 needed. Firm vote yes.

Action: Application to be forwarded to Crystal Rig.

4) **Garvald Village hall for replacement of lights** - an 'in principle' application looking for at least £5,000 in total. HC said that transformers and bulbs both needed to be replaced. Waiting for an estimate for the work. An in-principle 'yes' vote was given.

Action: HC to provided solid quote for this work.

5) **Brass plaque for Horticultural Society trophy** - James Mowat put in application. £100 needed. It was agreed that this should be paid out of the Local Priorities Fund.

Action: PS and IM to follow up.

6) Scott Thomson expenses – Tracy Thomson put in application towards Scott's expenses – it was agreed to offer him £2,000.

Action: PW to get form completed.

It was decided that a note should be added to the Garvald Website to say that children should apply for money to help them pursue their hobbies/sport etc. It should also be made clear that the fund is not just for future Olympians.

Action: To be discussed at next meeting.

8. **Update from Ian Middlemass – Treasurer**

IM reported that all the Crystal Rig funding that had been applied for had been approved and paid out.

The current account balance is: £17,460.28 (although much of this is allocated).

9. Planning Update

Nothing of significance.

10. Neighbourhood Watch

PW said that everything was OK.

11. Garvald & Morham Updates

DM reported on Morham:

A public meeting had been held (chaired by Patrick Gammell) to let everyone know about the changes that had been made to the way the Village Hall is to be managed (becoming a limited company). This meeting attracted 40 people.

Residents were invited people to be registered members of the new entity and 38 people signed up. Trustees and Director positions were also filled to make up the new management team (2 from the Village, 2 from Mainshill and 2 from outlying areas of the parish).

The next step will be a meeting to start the whole process of operating as a Limited company. A business plan for the hall will be created, which will be submitted to lawyers. This will put the hall on the same sort of organisational level as eg. Haddington Football Club.

DM said that this process was a huge step forward for the community and that there was a lot of talent on tap to help move things forwards. He said that it opens up lots of different areas for funding, VAT relief, etc and that it will help the Hall plan properly for the future. CC will be kept informed of what happens by DM.

HC reported on Garvald:

- An application for light repairs had been submitted (see above).
- Christmas dinner held in the previous week – a great success.
- Wifi up and running in Village Hall.

- AGM has been held and the Hall now has a new committee. New Chair Jim Pattinson.

It was noted that there was no Christmas tree in Garvald (this usually comes from Tanderlane). DM said that Morham had simply bought its tree from a garden centre. It was agreed that Local Priorities Fund should be used to fund both trees @ £50 a pop.

Action: PS to organise.

12. AOCB

RB highlighted 2 new council consultation papers and a Christmas Invite from the Provost.

PS highlighted the Area partnerships newsletter and consultation on the Draft Strategic Plan for Adult Care Needs (closes 23rd Jan).

Adult learning winter programme on Council website.

Scottish Civic Trust is accepting nominations for the MyPlace Awards for projects that have made a positive contribution to local neighbourhoods.

New lighting in Garvald – some not working – this needs to be chased up with Council.

Action: KS to chase up.

PS read out the latest Police report (community officer says she is happy to pop along to provide info if necessary). It stated that there had been very few local incidents and gave advice on house breaking. The only problems were:

- On 10th Oct there was screaming and shouting in Garvald – this was due to a wedding reception.
- Hare coursing – the police are currently investigating and looking at a number of vehicles. Police advice: If you see anything odd, please report.

13. Date of next meeting

Monday Feb 1st in Garvald Village Hall.