

GARVALD AND MORHAM COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Approved Minutes of Meeting, 1st February 2016
@ 7pm, Garvald 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), Jim Pattison (GVH), Ian Smith (Member), Kirstie Shearer

Jimmy Thomson
Cllr Tom Trotter

Apologies

Cllr John McMillan
David Murray (Morham VH)

2. Minutes from Previous Meeting

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

3. Matters arising from Previous Minutes

Funding for riverbank project: PS said that she is looking into potential funding areas and is focusing on the Local Area Partnership as a likely source. TT said that it was important that this source of funds was well publicized.

Action: PS to pursue LAP. It was also decided to add Local Area Partnership reports to the agenda of future meetings. To be called: "Update from Haddington & Lammermuir Area Partnership". PS to take responsibility for this.

Broken bench (near wood): HC and PW have committed to this project and are waiting for weather to clear before progressing.

Action: Hazel and Phillip will move forward as above.

Garvald website 'advert' to encourage people to apply for Crystal Rig funds – this was discussed and PW said the he would draft copy for approval and then put up on line.

Action: PW will progress as above.

Garvald Christmas Tree: This had been successfully organized. PS proposed that for next year, rather than buying a tree, we should put lights on the trees already on the green. HC noted that the trees needed trimming.

Action: PS said that she would look into prices.

Crystal Rig funding issues and Garvald lighting repairs discussed in sections below.

4. Councilors' report

Cllr TT reported that the Council's budget is almost done and dusted.

He said that there was still little interest being shown in Cllrs' surgeries in Garvald and Morham. He noted that elsewhere (in Haddington in particular) there is a problem with housing.

IS asked about the proposed anaerobic digester near Ballencrief. TT said that he was not sure when it was coming up for discussion in the Council, but that there was a lot of interest in the project. IS suggested that it should be located on the site of the old Port Seton power station, but it was felt that remediation work would make this location unattractive.

Jimmy Thompson asked about parking in Burnside Court – he explained that there was a No Parking sign (road marking) in Burnside Court that the Council had told residents to ignore for a long time. He then explained that the Police had recently told residents that they couldn't park next to the markings. HC said that she and another resident had had difficulty with deliveries and that this was probably the cause of the Police intervention.

PS reported Cllr John McMillan is taking the issue forward and that there will be a site meeting to discuss it (so that Council officers can see the situation for themselves).

5. Update from Kirstie Shearer - Council Liaison Rep.

KS said that there was nothing significant to report

She said that she had talked to the Council re. the faulty lighting in Garvald (lights at Ashley Cottage and towards the bridge).

She noted that the Council website was no good for reporting faults in Garvald as it required a street name – she had therefore got in touch by phone.

6. **Update from Ian Smith - Broadband Rep.**

IS reported that Lothian Broadband had been very busy at the end of 2016. The company has won a number of innovation and rural broadband awards and has also met with Nicola Sturgeon to discuss rural broadband issues.

He said that it was continuing to expand and was currently focusing on Humbie. It also erected a new mast in September (now supplying Garvald and Morham area).

He noted that a community grant for broadband in East Lothian is being discussed.

PW asked about mobile reception in Garvald – IS said that nothing new is coming on stream and that the key challenge remains finding an operator willing to co-operate.

7. **Update from Philip White - Funding Rep.**

Garvald Village Hall lighting: Costs for project have been provided £4,913 (for supply and installation). This was approved.

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.

PS had approach Craig to see if Gifford CC had been approached for funding – they hadn't as they do not have any 'extra' funding.

Action: IM to approach Fred Olsen to see if it's a potential and move forward from that.

Mapping project for orienteering: PW has e-mailed Tom Mallow asking for more info. No feedback received yet.

Garvald Village Hall secondary glazing: Application for glazing has been sent to Crystal Rig.

Brass plaque for Horticultural Society trophy: Letter received from James saying 'many thanks'.

Scott Thomson expenses: Form for Scot Thomson's expenses has been sent on to Crystal Rig.

Garvald Hogmanay: Letter received from Anne Raitt saying 'thank you' for the funds for the Garvald Hogmanay. Account has been set up to hold money (two people can access this).

It was noted that the sound system for the Village Hall is under review by Village Hall Committee. PW suggested putting in acoustic panels on the roof.

8. Update from Ian Middlemass – Treasurer

IM reported that all Crystal Rig fund recipients had been alerted/paid.

Current balance: £11240-28 (£10,000 committed to the repair of the Garvald church roof).

It was agreed that we should remind the Church about the funds and ask them how they are getting on.

Action: PW will get a status report from the Church.

HC asked when IM felt the money for the about money for secondary glazing for Garvald Village Hall would arrive.

Action: IM said he would chase this funding up.

9. Planning Update

PW said that there was nothing significant to report.

10. Neighbourhood Watch

PW said that there was nothing significant to report and that e-mail updates continue to go out and are proving popular.

11. Garvald & Morham Updates

DM reported on Morham:

The Burns supper was a 'wild success' – raising £2250 for Hall funds.

The new Trustees of Morham Hall take over management on the 25th February.

HC reported on Garvald:

Very quiet – six weddings booked for the summer.

12. AOCB

PS reported on progress with the Haddington & Lammermuir Area Partnership (H&LAP) and attended the most recent meeting on 21st Jan – Craig McLachlan (Chair of Gifford CC) is now Chair and Vice-Chair is Paul Sales from Bolton Residents and Tenants Association.

The Partnership has produced an Area Plan which has eight parts:

1. Town Centre & Local Economy
2. Superfast Broadband
3. Sustainable Travel
4. Young People
5. Health and Wellbeing
6. Community Facilities
7. Community Safety
8. Inclusive Communities

At the most recent meeting 8 Champions for each area were appointed with PS being appointed Champion for Young People.

PS advised that the Haddington skate park (which has received financial support from the H&LAP) has secured planning permission and work has now begun.

The H&LAP has also approved funding applications from projects such as the Amisfield Gardens Visitor Centre and cycle stands around Haddington.

Overall the H&LAP is working well at integrating rural areas and has got a good structure for moving projects forward. All six Area Partnerships produce a joint weekly newsletter and any relevant issues will be reported back to the CC.

PS also reported that she had attended a meeting of the Association of East Lothian Community Councils in Jan. This was an opportunity to meet,

network and share ideas. The Association has a Facebook page on which news/findings are posted.

Scotland Bill Briefing note was read out.

13. Date of next meeting

Monday April 4th in Morham Village Hall.