

GARVALD AND MORHAM COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of Meeting, 13th April 2015
@ 7pm, Morham Village Hall

1. Attendance and Apologies for Absence

Attendance

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

Karl Ingram
Dave Neillans

Cllr Tom Trotter
Cllr John McMillan
Stewart Gibb

2. Minutes from Previous Meeting

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

3. Matters arising from Previous Minutes

- Drinking in public places enquiry from Dunpender CC – PS reported that she had acted on this.
- Wind power information for Chief Executives - PS reported that she had passed on this information.
- Tim Flinn request re. 'hut' - RB had passed on relevant information.
- Woodland project – Karl Ingram reported that he had drafted the required letter.
- Community Intervention Fund – Cllr McM said that he had spoken to Mike Foye about this fund and that the Garvald Woodland project team could put in an application for money under this fund. He said that now was a good time to apply as nobody has asked for any funds yet. He said that the overall fund budget was £100K.

4. Councilors' report

Cllr TT reported that the run up to the election was dominating activity at the Council. He reported that, although he was still running his surgery it

was a “lonely half hour” and that he was thinking of reviewing the situation. He said that if anyone had any questions for him they should call him at the Council.

5. Stewart Gibb presentation

PS introduced Stewart Gibb, who explained that his role was Area Manager for the area partnerships serving Haddington and Dunbar. He said that he was going round the region meeting community groups and the people in the partnerships. He said that his main role is to support the area partnerships as they outline their key priorities, develop their area plans and implement/deliver their plans effectively. He will also help identify and support chairs of each of the partnerships (area chairs will be appointed on a two-year basis). He said that he is also acting as a co-ordination point for the council and other agencies such as police etc. He emphasised that he won't be managing the area partnerships and that he is NOT a 'spy'. He said that his job will develop over time as the post was very new (as are the AP's themselves). He also cautioned that he would not be able to simply “wave a magic wand” as many changes will take time.

He said that through his meetings he had picked up the feeling that there was a lack of communication between the Council and the area partnerships and that this was something that he hopes to address.

He explained that the area partnerships are currently being developed and that a number of key themes are emerging. These include: children and young people, community cohesion, travel and transport and opportunities for young people. He said that the partnerships must now decide how to prioritise and move forward. The AP have a total budget of £200,000 and there are on-going discussions on how this will be distributed and spent. PS added that there was a workshop coming up to explain the devolved budget for the LAP (22nd April).

Stewart explained that he is also leading discussions relating to improvements for Haddington Town Centre and to the development of a skatepark for the town. He is also taking the lead on extending superfast broadband out into the rural parts of the county (working with three partnerships on this).

HC asked what relevance this would have to current broadband provision provided by Lothian Broadband. IS said that Lothian Broadband would be interested in bidding for any new service provision for rural areas of East Lothian.

PS highlighted that there had been 33 responses from Garvald and the surround area to the recent broadband survey. She said that the Haddington and Lammermuir Area Partnership had started to talk with Community Broadband Scotland and that she would be going to the next meeting.

6. Karl Ingram

Karl gave an update on progress on the Garvald woodland proposals. He explained that he had divided the project into two specific areas (the small area by Garvald Bridge and the large area on the bank to the west of the village). He said that he had got quotes from a number of companies/individuals for the work of felling the trees. He also explained that the monks at Nunraw had said that they would have no preference for the contractor used for the work, on condition that any contractor should have indemnity insurance.

He said that the best quote for removing dangerous/diseased trees in the small area was for £1,620 (incl. VAT) from a tree surgeon called Sandy Cassells.

He explained that Scottish Woodlands and A.M. Dagg had both quoted about £30k for felling the trees in the larger area, but that the best quote had come from Hi-Line Forestry, based at Traprain. The figures quoted were: £29,850 (if the job took eight weeks) and £23,350 (if the job took six weeks). Karl estimated that the sale of the timber from the larger area would generate £5,500 (i.e. total cost would be between £17,850 and £24,350 depending on the duration of the work).

The first bit of work in the smaller area was considered by the CC – PW raised concern about potential public response. It was suggested that notices should be put up in Garvald (on notice board and website) explaining that the work was going forward. It was agreed that KI should take this bit of work forward and that finance (using Crystal Rig funds) would be agreed.

Action: KI as above.

There was some discussion about the potential benefits of felling the trees in the larger area – there was general agreement that it would not bring the same level of benefits (in terms on more light) as the previous felling work that had taken place on the bank above the park. KI said that he had taken the proposal for the work forward ‘to complete the job that had been started’ and because there had been a high level of support (93%) at the village meeting he had convened.

There was general concern about the high cost and it was agreed that it would be difficult to justify committing the full amount from Crystal Rig funds. PW said that KI should talk to Cllr McM about the Community Intervention Fund and explained that this might be a potential source of funding. KI said that he would follow this up. It was decided that KI should report back to the CC after finding out about the CIF.

Action: PS to link up Cllr JMcM and KI.

7. Update from Kirstie Shearer - Council Liaison Rep.

KS reported that the water mains had burst at the Morham Standing Stones crossroad.

Action: KS will follow this up.

8. Update from Ian Smith - Broadband Rep.

IS reported that Lothian Broadband hopes to break ground on a mast at Barney Hill. He said that this should extend broadband provision to 80% of the county.

9. Update from Philip White - Funding Rep.

PW reminded everyone that, at the last CC meeting, Fiona Sheldon had brought up the issue of funding for Garvald Church Roof. He explained that since then the CC had been e-mailing each other to put together a proposal and that it had been agreed to offer £10K to kick start the project – IM said that this has been OK'd in principal by Fred Olsen. He added that the main concern – as it had been at the last meeting – was the time it might take to raise the rest of the money needed (£15k).

Dave Neillans thanked the CC for the offer and explained that the Church was putting together a wider fund-raising committee. DM said that they should visit the Economic Development team at East Lothian Council and that he would be happy to provide them with relevant contacts and information. Dave Neillans said that he would be happy to take DM up on his offer.

The proposal to provide £10K of Crystal Rig funds to the Church Roof Restoration project was voted on and approved.

DN's asked whether there was any money available under the Local Priorities Fund for an automatic lock for Garvald Church. He said that this

would cost approx £650 plus VAT. IM confirmed that there was enough left in the pot (after purchase of Village Hall fridge freezer), but suggested that funding should first be sought from Crystal Rig, so as to leave some money in the LPF. This use of Crystal Rig funds was approved (pending application).

Action: Dave Neillans to submit application

PS raised the issue of a small girl from East Lothian who has been diagnosed with terminal cancer and who is fund-raising for the Teenage Cancer Trust. She said that she had also received a letter from a charity called CrossReach which helps children who are facing difficulties. She wondered if it was appropriate to use Crystal Rig money to support such causes.

To get more applications for the Crystal Rig fund it was agreed to put a new notice up on the website – it was suggested that no cut off date should be mentioned as this had put off people in the past.

Action: PW to put up message.

10. Update from Ian Middlemass – Treasurer

IM reported that he had sent off recent Crystal Rig fund applications (for Brigid Hay and swimming club) – both had been approved but the money had not yet arrived (probably due to Easter break). He said that funds are available to pay for the fridge-freezer needed by Garvald Village hall.

Current balance: £3146.13.

11. Planning Update

PW reported that nothing of concern had come up, although there had been another solar panel application in Garvald (for Broomfield House).

12. Neighbourhood Watch

PW reported that the NW had gained a couple of new members.

He said that there had been no recent criminal activity. He highlighted the most recent CAP police report which highlighted anti-social behaviour as the current key concern in the region.

13. Garvald & Morham Updates

Garvald: HC said that there was little to report apart from the upcoming Spring Sale (week on Sunday). The Village Hall was putting out enquiries to get a contractor to tidy up the back of the hall. Four weddings had been booked. PW said that he had been approached by Liz Leather about the possibility of installing a tennis court behind the hall – they had measured the area and found that there was not enough room.

Morham: DM reported that it had been a particularly good start to the year for Morham Village Hall and that they had raised a lot of money at the Burns Supper. They had also received a £100 donation – this had been raised at Rockrose as an extra on top of the Burns Night fundraising. A number of parties have been also been booked. He added that the hall's new heating system (which was funded using windfarm money) has done a lot of good to the fabric of the building.

15. AOCB

None reported.

16. Date of next meeting

Monday June 1st in Garvald Village Hall.