

GARVALD AND MORHAM COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Approved Minutes of Meeting, 2nd December 2013
@ 7pm, Morham Village Hall

1. Attendance and Apologies for Absence

Attendance

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

Bernie Haggerty, Pauline Haggerty, Karl Ingram, Pamela Robertson-Durham

Cllr Tom Trotter

Apologies

Cllr John McMillan

2. Minutes from Previous Meeting

Approved and distributed by e-mail/web. No further amendments.

3. Matters arising from Previous Minutes

Trees around telephone exchange – nothing done since last meeting – HC had intended to track down Royal Mail and still aims to do so. Trees continue to look untidy and are encroaching onto the flying fox area.

Tennis Court Project – Rufus contacted Liz Leather and she is interested in helping develop this idea in the spring.

Gutter clearance at Garvald Bridge - PS reported that a council officer had told her that they would come and look at this issue and report back.

Gabions at Garvald Bridge – long grass and nettles have been trimmed. RB suggested that if the council does not respond to this before the next meeting, then funding should be sought (through Civic Pride/Crystal Rig) to get the job done (see section 5 for more on this).

Broadband hotspot at Morham – IS said that this will soon be scheduled for completion.

Overhanging hedges in Garvald – nothing done since last meeting – it is still a problem near telephone exchange and in other places in the village.

Action: RB and HC to work up web message as previously agreed.

Garvald Goal posts – these have been painted by community workforce at a cost of £17.

Dog fouling – website message still needs to be worked up.

Action: RB and HC to work up web message as previously agreed.

East Lammermuir Community Council meeting – PW attended (see section 13 below for details).

Notices at Standing Stones – KS reported that there had been no reply from the Council and that the community had decided to do it themselves.

Neighbourhood watch – PW and RB have met community police representatives to move this forward (see section 10 below for details).

Morham Bridge – repairs have been completed. It was felt that a good job had been done.

Other - IS said that the 90-degree cuts by the side of the road that were mentioned during the last few meetings are still in place – KS said that ELC is not going to do anything about them as they are deemed to be effective and necessary.

4. **Councilor's report**

Cllr Trotter gave feedback on current issues (see above). He also said that the county's Mobile Library service is about to change due to the need for savings – one of the vehicles is due to be retired and will not be replaced.

He explained that there is a new Emergency Planning officer at ELC and suggested that the CC should invite him to a future meeting to explain his role.

5. **Council Liaison Update**

KS said that there was not a lot to report – she said that the following issues were still on her list to address: large area of ripped tarmac at the

corner of Garvald Bridge; Gullies etc on Nunraw Hill; Gabions on the edge of the burn at Garvald Bridge.

Cllr Trotter said that council officers would be coming to look at the Gabions.

6. **Broadband report**

IS reported that the Broadband Group had been busy installing equipment for new subscribers. He explained that funds were still tight, and that this meant that they were not being able to expand as fast as they would like.

He reported that the allocated wind farm money had arrived and that this will facilitate the installation of the Morham hotspot. He said that they would also be upgraded their masts to make them 'future ready'.

PW said that his visit to the Lammermuir Community Council meeting had made him think that money for the broadband network might be available from Fala Community Council – he suggested that IS should come to the next meeting.

7. **Funding Report**

PS explained that Crystal Rig had refused a number of funding applications for individuals. IM also reported that DoE fund has been withheld, but that he was hopeful that the issue will be resolved positively.

PS said that she had written to Crystal Rig to ask them to review their decisions and to provide advice and assistance (including clear criteria and guidelines) with respect to future applications. She said that the company representative had promised to get back in touch soon.

PW said that he had had two recent applications:

- 1) From Heidi Ingram for Haddington Junior Hockey Club (8-14 years of age). The club is looking for a proportion of the £1,502 it needs for equipment. A number of children from Morham and Garvald (5/6) attend. A decision was taken in principle (pending the resolution of above issues) and it was agreed to support the team to the tune of £600 (approx £100 per person).
- 2) From Peter McQuaid for a flood risk assessment for Garvald Village – he provided a quote for £5,000 from Ove Arup. PW said that Peter had put in this proposal due to fears about flooding in the village. Cllr Trotter said that he would approach the council to ask them to do a free assessment. PW said that he would contact PMcQ telling him of

the Councillor's offer. It was agreed that if nothing came of this (or if Peter felt that the assessment was still a valid proposal) then the application would be re-assessed at a future meeting.

Action: PW as above.

KS highlighted a suggestion she had received from Anna Derricourt for the provision of some kind of shelter for people waiting for the school bus. It was agreed that this is a council job and that therefore no funding would be available from Crystal Rig. It was agreed that KS would advise her to contact the Council and that if she had no joy, then the CC would pursue the idea on her behalf.

Action: KS as above.

Gary passed on an application from the committee organising the Haddington Festive Lights asking for over £21,000. It was agreed that the current lights are rather lack-luster. IM said that the Festive Lighting organising committee should come back in six months' time to ask for money for 2014.

Action: PW will contact them to ask them to re-apply in 2014 and to get more information on what other sources of funding they will have available.

8. Treasurer's Report

The current balance in the CC account stands at: £9636.65.

IM reported that outstanding money from Crystal Rig had come through and that all Crystal Rig cheques had gone out. He also reported that the £1,200 allocated for Garvald Village Hall had been sent to the VH committee.

IM reported that Heidi Ingram had put in an application for £105 for the Garvald Poetry Competition prizes. It was agreed that this money should be allocated.

Action: IM to pass on money to Heidi.

9. Planning Update

PW reported that there had been no significant planning issues since the last meeting.

10. Garvald Update

Pauline Haggerty raised the issue of speeding in Garvald – she felt that much more needed to be done to deal with the problem, which had been getting worse. She suggested that ‘slow’ markings on the road and more speeding signs would be the minimum needed. She also said that she felt that 30mph speed limit is too high for the village. She highlighted the problem of people reversing out of Burnside Court and hitting her car, which is often parked near the turning (she explained that the police are currently looking into the most recent incident of this type). She also raised the issue of ‘boy racers’ and the problems they have caused for many villagers.

PS explained that she had already talked to the ELC’s Peter Forsyth to get input on options – he has said that the Council wouldn’t fit speed bumps, that they could fit speed cushions and Rumble Strips (but were not keen because of noise). He had also said that one possibility would be a permanent speed-reactive sign. PS said that she had not asked about road markings and extra signs, but that she felt that these would be a possibility.

Action: PS will contact Peter re. slow signs on the road and ‘children playing’ signs for approach to the village. PW will also write to the community police team to ask them to do a speed trap campaign.

RB reported that Heidi Ingram had asked for a small amount of money to renew the Garvald.org website domain. This was approved.

Action: IM will send.

RB passed on a message from Heidi that someone in the village had got in touch via the website to ask about the possibility of setting up a ‘first responder’ group in Garvald. This was discussed and it was agreed that it would be something the CC could support in terms of both money and manpower.

Action: RB to contact the person (via Heidi) to say that it’s something we’d be interested in supporting and to see whether they’d be interested in taking the idea forward.

Snow clearing – RB reported that, in response to message on the Garvald Website, Tom from Glen cottage has been in touch to say that he would be happy to help with the shoveling squad.

Karl asked whether the ELC’s snowploughs could be asked to clear the entrance to the cul-de-sacs and to Garvald Grange. PS said that she had

brought this up with the council and that the advice had been to call the Council when there are any specific problems.

Pamela said that police response time to the recent boy racer incident in Garvald was 40mins and that this was not fast enough.

Action: PW will speak to Lynn about this.

Neighbourhood Watch – PW reported that he and RB had a meeting with PC Lynn Black and her Community Policing colleague. Subsequently, PW had put a leaflet through everyone's letterbox asking them whether they'd like to be involved in the scheme. As a result 32 residents have signed up and the scheme has been registered. A survey has also been done regarding possible locations for neighbourhood watch signs. PW said that the next stage would be to spend local priority money to get ten signs put up (at a cost of £215.40). The aim will be to have someone at every part in the village involved. A meeting is planned for the ninth of January – this will be an informal get-together to explain what the scheme involves.

HC reported on the children's fund raising concert that had recently taken place in Garvald Stables – approx. £1,000 had been raised by the children for Syria. She also gave advance details of the Hall Christmas Fayre, the Hogmanay Ceilidh and Burns Supper on the 1st Feb.

HC also reported that the work on the hall boiler room has been finished and that community service people (who had painted the village goal posts) are going to do painting at the West Door vestibule, and will paint the revamped boiler room.

HC finished her report by noting that the bill for the recent drain work had been higher than expected and that extra cost had also been incurred by the need to fit a draught-excluder strip at the door. She asked whether an extra £661 could be made available.

Action: HC to put in an application for Crystal Rig funds for above amount.

11. Morham Update

DM reported that the last few months have been very good for the Village Hall, he said thanks for the money that had come through from Crystal Rig and said that the work was going to be done in the New Year on two new doors and external drainage.

He explained that the last internal audit for the Keystone Award Scheme had taken place and that there had been no major problems, although the

Village Hall needs a performing rights certificate, an equal opportunities policy and a policy on young persons' responsibility.

It has been decided that the Morham Christmas party is a 'no go' and that Children from the village will be going down to the Garvald party.

GG reported that the Morham website has been down as his computer has been broken – this will be revamped over Christmas.

12. Garvald Woodlands Project

PW reported on the current situation with the project - that the wood along the top of the bank above Garvald Park has been clear felled; that brash clearance by the bank of the Papan Water has been finished; and that thinning of the wood adjacent to the play park has been finished and a new path through the wood has been created. Once the timber from this bit of woodland has been extracted, then the 'no entry' signs will be removed. She explained that Scottish Woodlands has said that planting on the bank is to be done in the spring. Bonfires at the top of the bank will also be burnt in spring.

HC said that she was disappointed that the tall pines along the edge of the park had not been removed.

Karl Ingram asked why all the trees on the Abby side of the burn had not been removed (i.e. why the felling had stopped 'half way' along the bank). He said that it was felt that the people in the west end of the village were missing out on the extra sunlight that other were enjoying as a result of the felling. It was explained that the reasons for this were primarily financial. The pros and cons of continuing the felling were discussed and it was agreed that the current Woodland project team had done an excellent job in often trying circumstances. It was also agreed that, if any more work was to be done, then a new round of community discussions would be required to gauge support and get a team together to take it forward (if agreed).

Action: Karl said that he would be happy to convene a public meeting to gauge the strength of feeling for moving forward with more felling.

13. AOCB

PW reported on the Lammermuir Community Council Meeting that he had attended. He said that it was apparent that other CC's get a lot more money per Megawatt than Garvald and Morham (he calculated that if we were paid the same as some CC's then we would be paid over £100,000

per year). He said that, as a result, other CC's were going in for much bigger projects such as new Village Halls.

The meeting had been convened because the LCC had hoped that there were some schemes that could be done jointly amongst a number of CC's. However, PW said that it had not been clear what there would be as the mooted schemes were for things such as transport which, he felt, were not that 'transferable'.

GG suggested that the terms with Crystal Rig should be re-negotiated.

Action: There is another meeting of the LCC towards the end of Jan to which PW and IS will go.

PS attended the recent meeting of the Association of East Lothian Community Councils and reported on what was discussed. Presentations had been given on Waste Services and the shortage of land for burial in East Lothian and while both presentations had been very interesting, it was felt that it wasn't a necessity to attend future meetings.

RB passed out a public consultation document on housing land policy.

RB read out letter from the community police officer asking for anyone who sees anything suspicious to report it to the police.

Winter readiness information from SPEnergy was read out.

14. Date of Next Meeting

Monday 3rd February 2014 at Garvald Village Hall.