

# GARVALD AND MORHAM COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of Meeting, 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2012  
@ 7pm, Garvald Stables.

## 1. Attendance and Apologies for Absence

Attendance

Rufus Bellamy (Secretary), Hazel Clark (GVH Rep), Ian Middlemass (Treasurer), David Murray (MVH Rep), Penny Short (Member), Ian Smith (Broadband), Jimmy Thomson (Vice-chair), David Walls, Julia White (Chair), Philip White (Member).

Cllr Broun Lindsay and Cllr Sheena Richardson.

## Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes were accepted.

Issues arising:

**Repairs to Morham Bridge and Wall:** Cllr B.L. said that it was the landowner's responsibility and that the council was in discussion with him to do something about this issue. JW asked if the roadside barrier is sufficient to stop children injuring themselves (key, especially if the repairs will take some time). JT said he did not think the barrier was safe and that this should be brought to the Council's attention as a priority.

**Action:** Cllr BL said he would follow this up.

**Various other road issues:** Cllr BL said he had forwarded these to the right people.

**Dates for meetings:** HC had sent these to David Murray.

**Planning:** PW has been accepted by the Council as the person who should receive information on up-coming planning issues.

**Broadband:** Broadband money has been transferred.

**Playpark Finance:** JT said it was still on going and that he was pushing to get this completed. IM reported that on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb Viridor had paid £4,180 into the CC bank account. It was confirmed that this was for the Garvald Playpark and that it was the amount of money that JT had been expecting.

**Minutes:** Minutes are now posted on the new community website ([www.garvald.org.uk](http://www.garvald.org.uk))

## 2. Grants and Funding

**Crystal Rigg:** JW said that the application form was on the old website and that an announcement about the fund will in the next newsletter. Deadline is 1<sup>st</sup> of May. She emphasized that it was important to get a sufficient number of applications in.

JW reported that the first application for the fund had been received – a project to bring lunchtime theatre to the Haddington Festival. DM explained that this festival had been developing over the last four years. The idea is to put together a lunchtime show for those who do not take part in evening events. It was noted that any funding would not be available for this year's festival.

**Action:** JW said she would get in touch with the applicant to see if the application could be put through for next year.

**Local Priorities Fund:** JW reported that the allocation had come through – £2,411 is available to spend. She explained that this total is made up from what was left from last year plus this year's allocation - money was carried over due to mix-up with Forward Scotland payments. JT said that the overall allocation was based on the number of people on the electoral role.

JW noted that a number of items have already been allocated to this fund (minuted last meeting). She said that IM needed to be notified of the final costs (3 costs for Garvald and 2 for Morham), so that we will know exactly how much is to be carried over and therefore how much there is to spend.

**Action:** HC and DM to do by 1) supplying invoices to Lillian Pryde and 2) advising IM.

**Big Lunch/Diamond Jubilee:** JW explained that a letter had been received from Garth Morrison re. the Big Lunch encouraging communities to participate.

Subsequently a letter had been received from Katie Mowat explaining that a group of residents were planning to do something to celebrate the event. Katie's letter asked 3 questions: 1) Would Morham be interested in joining in? 2) Is any funding available? 3) Where should a commemorative tree be planted?

It was explained that Morham residents have been 'sampled' and that they were happy to come down to Garvald.

HC explained that a Hog Roast has been looked into (£600 cost). Another idea was that some food would be supplied and people would be asked to bring their own offerings. Commemorative mugs or similar mementos will be provided to the children.

It was decided that the CC would be happy to support this in some way – £250 was agreed.

It was suggested that the Horticultural Society might support the planting of the tree (DM said that this might cost £150 approx).

HC suggested planting the tree at the back of Priest Bank – this would be discussed by the Horticultural Committee.

**Action: HC to take the issue forward with the Horticultural Society.**

**JW will e-mail Katie about the funding for the event.**

**Civic Pride funding:** Various ideas for using this fund had been put forward at the last CC meeting.

JT had followed up the speeding sign idea. He explained that many people had been seen speeding through Garvald, although the average speed of cars through the village had been recorded at 27.5 miles an hour. Therefore there was a problem, but one that was not officially recognised. He therefore thought that a Slow Down sign was the best way forward - £2,200/£2,400 was the budget for this. He explained that it would be quite easy to get a semi-portable sign that could be shared by Garvald and Morham. It was noted that there had been no recent accidents in Morham.

IS asked whether this would be a suitable project for Crystal Rigg funding. It was suggested that if the CC approached the Council and the answer was 'no' then it might comply with the Crystal Rigg Criteria. Cllr SR said that other communities (Humbie CC) were doing this.

JT suggested that we might borrow Humbie's sign or perhaps buy one and share with Stenton and Whitinghame – it was suggested that the CC should approach relevant people to see who would be interested and that we should check with Crystal Rigg to see if it would be something that the fund could consider.

Next Civic Pride funding is in June. There is also potential funding from Safer East Lothian.

**Action:** JT said he would follow up on the issues discussed above.

### **Broadband Report**

IS reported that the grant for the Lothian Broadband initiative was still suspended, but there were encouraging signs (he thanked the Provost for this). He said that he had recently had a meeting with Scottish Government Chief Executive, who said that a decision was forthcoming.

The following correspondence had been received: "We are all now fully aware of what needs to be done with both East Lothian Council and the Scottish Government. We are looking at the additional information supplied by Lothian Broadband over the past week. I think you can also say that we are all hopeful of quick resolution to all the outstanding issues very soon subject to Tyne Esk LAG approval."

IS asked IM if there were any surplus funds to transfer.

### **3. Woodland Report**

JT reported that the Garvald Woodland Project was 'getting closer and closer' to starting and that some work had already been done: the Electricity Board had cleared trees away from the power lines to allow the rest of the woodland work to progress as rapidly as possible. He was hopeful that all the trees would come down by late summer.

He also reported that Father Mark and Scottish Woodland were expecting prices to be finalized within a week and that an order would then be placed. In the unlikely event that the work was not completed, Father Mark had given written confirmation that he would return any grant money received. JT also confirmed that, if it proved necessary, the monks had agreed to pay any extra for the project over and above the grant money allocated and that the sub-committee had only committed to provide £17,000.

JW asked for a copy of the letter outlining these conditions for IM to hold. JW then asked whether the payment of the Woodland Project grant money should be in two tranches. IS said that this would be a good mechanism to ensure that the contractor would do the work. JT said that he had made a commitment and that if all the money was not available before the work started then it would not go ahead.

JT then highlighted that some in the Woodland Subcommittee felt affronted by the stipulations that the CC had placed on the Woodland Project grant money (withholding it, etc) and that some involved felt that there had been the insinuation that the sub committee was being unprofessional. He asked why the Woodland Project had been singled out in this way and said that, from his perspective, the sub-committee was one of the most effective he had ever been on.

JW said that she felt that the discussions that had taken place about the Woodland grant money had been totally appropriate and reasonably stated. It was noted that the Woodland Project had been very drawn out and difficult (due to factors out with the control of the Woodland sub-committee) and that this was why caution had been necessary. It was also noted that most other grant money allocations were significantly smaller in size and that other groups were quizzed about how they spent the money they received.

PW suggested that in future there should be staged payments for large sums of money (decided on a case-by-case basis). Cllr B-L noted that a common account could be set up to provide transparency.

**Action: It was decided that the money should be paid to the Monks as previously agreed.**

## **Councillors' Report**

It was noted that this was Cllr Sheena Richardson's last meeting. She was thanked for all her support and hard work on the CC's behalf.

Bus service cuts were discussed: Garvald won't be the only rural community without any bus service as other communities are having their services removed (unless the Council significantly increases First Bus' subsidy).

Cllr SR said that she would be going to a meeting on the Community Hospital in Haddington. She felt that this project was more likely to happen than not.

Cllr B-L said that the new Council structure is being settled and implemented – shared services will be introduced, but not much will happen until after the election.

It was reported that East Lothian is a trial project area for the planned combined Fire and Police Force.

The opening of the John Bray Centre was discussed. It was reported that no decision had yet been made about what would happen to the old Library.

It was announced that there would be a public enquiry on the 10<sup>th</sup> April about the new one-way system in Haddington.

### **Local Planning Applications**

None.

### **Treasurer's Report**

IM reported that the new financial year had started, so the CC's accounts are to be audited and made ready for the AGM.

Current Balance: £23,225.59.

IS asked whether £1000 could be transferred to the broadband project. This was agreed.

**Action: IM to make transfer as above.**

### **Garvald Update**

JT said that the Council had planted three trees in the park to replace the two big poplars that had been felled. This had caused a complaint and the trees had been moved.

JT reported that branches from a tree in the pub car park had fallen during a recent storm. This raised the question of whether the tree was unsafe. He said that he had asked if the Council would make an assessment (on behalf of the CC).

HC reported that on the 16<sup>th</sup> Feb she had found a plumber from Corstorphine turning off the water in the public toilets because of the frost. He had said that he would come back on the first of April to turn the water back on. She wondered why a local plumber could not be used. She also noted that new doors had been put on the toilets, but that they were still not open.

HC reported that the Hall Committee had made an application from the Environment Fund and that it had received money for a new path across the top of the orchard. Work has also been done at the back of the Hall by Community Service boys.

HC reported that the Hall Committee had received an estimate for painting the outside of the Hall – this will come to over £1,000. Historic Scotland and Leader Fund had been approach, but they had not been able to make any money available. The Hall Committee will therefore be putting in an application for this work to the Crystal Rigg fund.

There is to be a plant sale on the last Sunday in April.

The last printed newsletter has been sent out; from now on this will go onto the community website.

#### **10. Morham Update**

DM reported that the Village Hall Committee had joined the SCVA and that this would give them full access to many items such as free legal advice. In addition they will have a mentor to look after their initial needs and move them towards Stage 1 of the Key Stone awards. This will allow people to take part in the management of the Hall without having to hold a named position. The committee has also been invited to an ELC meeting on good management techniques.

Patio area will be completed by the end of the month. The intention is have a party on the 28<sup>th</sup> April to celebrate.

#### **11. A.O.C.B.**

The upcoming AGM discussed. This will take place at the next meeting – it was agreed that the election of office bearers should be placed as the first item on the agenda.

The Draft East Lothian Open Space Strategy was circulated along with other flyers.

#### **12. Date of Next Meeting**

Wednesday the 6<sup>th</sup> June 2012 at Morham Village Hall.