

GARVALD AND MORHAM COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting, 4th February 2013
@ 7pm, Garvald Village Hall

1. Attendance and Apologies for Absence

Attendance

Rufus Bellamy (Secretary), Hazel Clark (GVH), Ian Middlemass (Treasurer), David Murray (MVH Rep), Kirstie Shearer (Member), Penny Short (Chair), Ian Smith (Member), Phillip White (Vice-chair).

Cllr McMillan

Apologies

Deborah Gray (Lothian and Border Police), David Walls (Broadband), Cllr Broun Lindsay

Minutes from Previous Meeting

Addition of co-opted members noted and approved.

Matters arising from Minutes

Repairs to Morham bridge – KS reported that she had got a reply from Peter Forsyth at ELC and that arrangements have been made to repair the bridge and put in signage to advise on width limitations.

She also reported that arrangements had been made to look into the drainage issues that had been raised and to investigate flooding at the Standing Stone crossing.

Playpark repairs – RB reported that he had got costings for the required paint and stains (£374). It was agreed that a working party would be put together by RB in the spring to do the work.

IM said that there was money sitting in the CC bank account specifically for the play park – RB will contact IM to access money to buy the necessary items (paint, preservatives and metal primer).

Action: RB as above.

Penny reported that she hadn't been able to make it to the Assoc. of CC.

Dangerous Tree near phone box – Cllr McM said he had got a note back on this issue saying that ELC was not sure who owns the tree – PW said that the trees had been circled with a white circle, indicating that it is due to come down (Ian McMillan Cllr contact).

Action: Cllr McM was asked to confirm what was happening.

4. Police report

Deborah Gray (Lothian and Border Police) sent the following message, which was read out:

“I have checked reported incidents since the last community council meeting and thankfully, there have been no reported crimes in the area. I would again re-iterate to people to be extra vigilant with respect to domestic oil heating tanks, as we are still experiencing thefts from oil tanks, as well as diesel thefts from farm areas.

Please contact me if there are any issues arising from tonight's meeting and hopefully I can make it along to the next one.”

5. Councillor's report

Cllr McM said that there was nothing significant to report as the current budget negotiations had been taking up everyone's attention.

He echoed general concerns about the poor state of the roads and noted that this was worrying given the current weather.

HC asked whether the Council checks those bits of roads that hold water – Cllr McM said he had enquired, but that the response had been disappointing.

6. Council Liaison Update

PW raised the issue of the Garvald speed reactive sign – she noted that this has appeared but does not seem to be activated.

Action: KS will look into this.

7. Broadband report

IS reported that upgrades are “getting there” – a few houses in Garvald and Snawdon are left to be complete and that MVH hotspots are to be

installed. There has also been some reorganization at the Abbey.

Ian was pleased to note that the new GVH Hotspots have been well used.

IS highlighted a poster he had put together to highlight the broadband services in the village halls.

PW suggested that a sticker should be put up on the bench outside in the Orchard at GVH. IS said he would look into this. Cllr McM said he would ask if ELC could fabricate this.

Action: IS and Cllr McM as above.

Cllr McM highlighted the problem of areas in the region with no broadband coverage – said he would be looking at working with mobile phone mast operators.

IS reported that Scottish Govt has sent a consultant who was doing a case study on the East Lothian broadband project and that he was very excited by the project, particularly the ‘rescue’ of an East Linton company that had almost left area due to lack of broadband.

8. Funding Report

PS noted that downloadable application form for Crystal Rig funding had incorrect details on it.

Action: RB to change.

PS reported that the Gifford Under-5 group has applied for funding. They are looking for £381.45 for craft material, stereo, toy farm building, a book stand and beanbags.

This was discussed: It was reckoned that there are three Garvald Kids at the Playgroup and a lot from Morham. It was also noted that there have been many attendees in the past and that there will be more in the future.

It was decided that some of the balance from the Local Priorities Fund would be used.

Action: PS said she would follow this up.

PW read out a letter from Eve McGregor who is going to Borneo to help conserve Orangutans – she is going to cover cost of travel and accommodation and is looking for a contribution towards the fundraising for the Orangutan Charity.

Action: IM will contact Crystal Rig to see if this type of project is covered by the fund. If it is, then Eve's application will be considered alongside other submissions.

Tim Flynn has raised the issue of whether the fund could be used to buy a community snow plough. Various questions relating to liability, storage and transport were raised. It was also noted that this type of project would fall under the remit of the Council and therefore not be applicable to the fund. It was suggested that Tim should be asked for more information.

Action: RB to e-mail Tim.

It was agreed that publicity for the fund should be kick-started.

Action: RB to do a paragraph on the Crystal Rig fund for the community websites (and to be mailed to relevant community groups).

HC noted that the replacement of the West Door at Garvald Village Hall still needs to be done – a revised quote has been obtained – now total for the job is £2,874.

It was agreed that this money could come from the remaining allocation of last year's Crystal Rig money and the balance of the Local Priorities Fund.

Action: IM to liaise with HC on this issue.

9. Treasurer's Report

IM reported that the balance in the CC account was £2,580.59.

MVH has given IM bill for CC use of the hall – IM said he will sign cheque.

Funding for Morham and Garvald Christmas parties – it was agreed to pay £150 for both.

10. Planning Update

PW said that there was nothing significant to report.

Garvald Update

HC reported that:

- Ceilidh had been a great success and covered costs.
- Plant sale planned for 1st Sunday in May

- Jumble sale in June
- Hall being well used.

12. Morham Update

DM reported that:

- The installation of the village hall's new heating system is ahead of schedule and that it's due to be turned on before the end of Feb. 2013.
- The Village Hall's application to the Keystone award is going well – most sections are complete and ready to go to East Lothian Council.
- There had been a very successful Burns Supper and that a number of other parties had been held.
- The Midlothian cycling group will be using the Village Hall weekly as a stop over for lunch.

13. A.O.C.B.

PW raised the issue of slippery slope on the Garvald flying fox – RB to look into this with manufacturer.

HC said that the gabions in the burn near the bridge are being washed away.

Action: CllrMcM said he would look into this.

14. Date of Next Meeting

Monday, 8st April at 7.00pm in Morham Village Hall.

NB: This was rescheduled due to the Easter holidays.