

GARVALD AND MORHAM COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of Meeting, 6th August 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), Kirsty Shearer, Penny Short (Member), Jimmy Thomson (Vice-chair), David Walls (Broadband), Julia White (Chair), Philip White (Member), Ian Smith (Broadband), Garry Galbraith (MVH).

Cllr Broun Lindsay, Cllr John McMillan, Angela Leech, (Chief Executive, ELC)

Apologies

Kirstie Shearer

2. Discussion with Chief Executive

The CC members introduced themselves to Angela Leech, the new Chief Executive, of East Lothian Council. This was followed by a general conversation about the Garvald and Morham CC and its work.

JW explained that GMCC is a small but busy group. She described the yearly Crystal Rigg grant allocation process and explained that the fund has been used for projects such as the upkeep of the two village halls, for broadband, for young people, for environmental projects etc.

She talked about the CC work on wind turbine issues which had been a big focus of many meetings and had generated high levels of public feeling. She also explained that Garvald and Morham was one of the first areas to set up community broadband and that the CC had been integral to its development. She explained that the broadband group had been having some difficulties and asked whether the council could look into developing a rural broadband policy.

JT said that the CC was also proud of the role it had played in developing the play parks in each community. He also explained the CC's role in the Garvald woodland improvement project and how this would come to

fruition in 2012. He then outlined other small-scale projects that the CC had been involved in - such as the renovation of the Garvald bus shelter and the renovation of the bridges on the 3-bridges walk.

JW said that the CC was looking at how to encourage more young people to be involved.

HC discussed the range of activities that took place at the Village Hall – dances, exercise classes, fetes, table tennis, annual events etc.

Angela Leech said she was very impressed by everything she had heard and by the numbers round the table. She asked what the big issues are.

She said that the Council is taking the broadband issue very seriously and explained that a revised economic strategy for East Lothian was being developed (with help of Glasgow University) and that broadband connectivity was a key part of that. She said that a clear Digital Strategy was vital to allow bidding for any new funding streams.

DW said that it was vital that broadband should be considered as an integral part of the region's economic development and IS outlined how the Garvald and Morham system was planning to expand and that they had planning permission for a mast on Garleton Hill which would allow Broadband to be provided to many more out-lying communities.

JW said that it was important to have more contact with the Council and that the CC was very keen to ensure that the Broadband should not disappear. Angela said that she would arrange a meeting with the Council's IT team.

The lack of mobile phone signal in Garvald was noted as was the fact that this was a key issue in terms of connectivity.

JW highlighted some concerns about local community planning and how the CC could and should be involved – she said that more should be done to make the process more inclusive. Angela said that a new model was being developed to make it less bureaucratic and meeting-based. She explained that she was keen that it shouldn't be another committee of the Council.

Angela also explained that the Council was looking at ways to get greater co-operation between officers and the community, how to build on existing structures or, where they don't exist, build new ones. She said that they were looking at using the secondary schools as a main focus / hub.

JT said that, in his experience, Council officers had been very good on

local day-to-day matters, but that the CC had never been able to get any legal advice. DM said that SCVO was a good way to get free/cheaper legal advice. Angela said that ELC legal team could not help because of legal indemnity issues – she said that SCVO would be a good way to go.

Angela flagged up youth employment and said that the ELC was aiming to make sure that young people have every opportunity to gain employment and experience. She said that they were also looking at a mentoring scheme. Angela said that they were also looking at a mentoring scheme.

Cllr JM said that the CC's informal networks could be an important element of this work. JW said that the CC would follow this up. She noted that she had come across people who wanted to give work placements but that they needed more support from the Council. Cllr JM noted that there were a number of bureaucratic hurdles – Angela said that she would look at how to streamline this and make things easier.

Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes were discussed. One change noted – section describing CC's work change 'meetings' to 'bi-monthly meetings'.

Issues arising:

- Local priorities fund - invoices have been sent.
- Garvald website – letter has been circulated
- Invoice from Scottish woodlands – has been sent.
- HC asked about when money for GVH would be available – IM said that it would come today.
- JT asked when woodland money would be paid – Today!

2. Grants and Funding

JW reported that a letter had been received from the Food Bank asking for financial support – it was agreed that the CC should provide £50.

JW reported that approx. £22,500 was available from the Crystal Rigg Community Benefit Fund, although more might be provided as more turbines have been installed recently.

The applications for this year's fund were discussed and the following decisions were made:

- GVH West Door replacement – £2,874 requested. It was agreed that this should not be awarded this year but rolled over to 2013.

- Lothian Broadband – £15,000 requested. (This request had been rolled over from last year). It was agreed to give the project £10,000 and that £5,000 should be rolled over to next year.
- Knox youth group – DOE canoeing award – £5,450 requested. It was agreed to award this project £700.
- Oil central heating for MVH – £7,451 requested. It was agreed to fully fund this project.
- Garvald Village Hall Outside paintwork – £4,176 requested. It was agreed to fully fund this project.
- Morham Mix - Arts and outdoor activities – £354 requested. It was agreed to fully fund this project.
- Brunton Lunchtime Theatre at Townhouse. - £5,000 requested. It was decided that this project would not directly benefit the community (*ie.* not local enough) and therefore that no funding should be allocated.

TOTAL allocated: £22,681

It was decided that if there is a need for the extra £181 then this will come from the £300 funding surplus from the woodland project.

Action:

RB will contact the projects to let them know about the funding decisions and to tell them that the money should come through in October.

Councillors' Report

Cllr McMillan said that he had spoken to Brian Cooper at ELC and that he had a speeding sign that could be used in Garvald. He said that Brian would be happy to be contacted with a suggestion for where the sign should be located. JT gave the Cllr his contact number and the Cllr said that he would set up a meeting.

Action: JT as above.

Cllr McMillan said that he had booked surgeries in Garvald. A request was made for surgeries in Morham and he said that he would be happy to oblige.

The hole in the wall at Morham Bridge was discussed and it was agreed

that the Council had a duty of care to make sure that the situation didn't deteriorate. Cllr McMillan said that he had raised the seriousness of the situation and that he would take it up on his return.

Broadband Report

IS reported that the Broadband Group had received planning permission for a mast on Garleton Hill which would allow Broadband to be provided to many more out-lying communities.

Garvald website

PW had attended the meeting of the Garvald Website team and said that he was very impressed by their vision and experience. He said that it was a good meeting to go to and that it will be a valuable resource.

He reported that they want to set up a prize draw and had asked whether the CC could fund a prize draw – to do a data capture exercise to get more people involved. Approx £30 was needed. It was agreed that this should be provided (covered out of ordinary funds).

Action: IM to send funds over.

PW said that the website team had asked whether it would be possible if salient points from CC meetings could be put up on the web (eg. news item). RB said he would do this.

Action: RB as above.

DW said that the responsibility of managing the website would be taken on by Heidi and her team.

The community newsletter was discussed and it was reported that the intention is to go to a digital format – a printed copy will be put in Hall and in the pub. It was agreed that the CC will fund the printing costs, which will now be very minimal.

3. Woodland Report

JT reported that everything is going smoothly.

Local Planning Applications

PW reported that nothing contentious had come through the system.

The proposed closure of Hopes Road was discussed. It was decided that

PW would register the CC's interest and say that we want to be kept in the loop and that 'we are not happy' with the proposal.

RB to get in touch with Suzie Vestri to see what they are saying and to ask her get in touch with PW.

Action: PW and RB as above.

Garvald Update

HC reported that the Garvald jumble sale had raised £750. She also highlighted the following upcoming events:

- Flower show – last Saturday in August
- Christmas Fair – 1st Sunday in December.

9. Morham Update

DM reported that they had had to cancel the Picts night and that this had been rescheduled to Halloween.

He also explained that the Morham website has been regenerated (it is being administered by Gary Galbraith) and that Morham now had an 'open' Facebook page.

10. A.O.C.B.

HC raised the issue of the bench in Garvald play park and explained that she had been told that the old plaque would be put onto a refurbished bench – this had been promised in May, but nothing had materialised yet.

It was announced that there would be a meeting run by ELC at the end of August for anyone interested in being a Community Councillor. This meeting should be advertised on noticeboards – RB to put up announcements.

CC Minutes to be placed on Morham website – RB to send to Garry Galbraith.

Action – RB as above.

1. Date of Next Meeting

Monday 1st October 2012 at Morham Village Hall.