

## **GARVALD AND MORHAM COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

Minutes of Meeting, 8<sup>th</sup> April 2013  
@ 7pm, Morham 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).

Gary Galbraith, David Walls

Cllr McMillan, Tim Flynn

#### **Apologies**

Jimmy Thomson

### **Minutes from Previous Meeting**

Minutes approved.

### **Matters arising from Minutes**

**Repairs to Morham Bridge** – KS reported that she had been in touch with ELC, but had received no response. It was noted that the bridge had been hit again.

**Drainage issues** – as above: again no response

**Speed reactive sign in Garvald** – this had been installed and activated, so no more action needed.

**Play park repairs** – RB explained that these had been put on hold due to poor weather.

**Dangerous tree** – HC and PS said that they had met with Michael Foy from ELC who had explained that, although the tree was not his responsibility, it would have to come down. Cllr McM said that the Nunraw Estate needed to be chased for action. Penny thought that we would have to write to monks to ask for specific action (they had previously accepted

responsibility following a letter from HC).

**Action: PS will write a letter to Nunraw Estate.**

**Broadband** – IS reported that a poster had been produced and flyers placed in relevant locations. He asked Cllr McM to help with printing of notices outside both halls.

**Action: Cllr McM said he would be happy to help.**

**Crystal Rig** - Change in the web application form – PW and RB had done this.

**Money to playgroup** – this had been processed and thanks received.

**Eve McGregor Funding Application** – IM said that he had received a 'definite maybe' from Crystal Rig on whether this would be funded and that it was worthwhile Eve putting an application in. IM said that he had suggested to Eve that she put in an application.

It was noted that Eve's application was for orangutan conservation and not for her travel. It was decided to discuss this further when her application was received.

**Crystal Rig Publicity** – PW reported that this had been kick started (see below).

**West Door of GVH** – HC said that she had received notification that Local Priorities Fund money is on the way to the GVH account. She explained that the paintwork had not cost as much as previously thought. £1,113.26 now needed from Crystal Rig to cover the balance.

**Action: HC to put in an application for this amount.**

**Slippery slope on Garvald Flying Fox** – RB to look into this as part of play park painting job.

**Gabions near bridge** – Cllr McM said he had asked about this but had not got anything back.

**Action: Cllr McM said he would pursue the issue.**

#### 4. **Police report**

In light of last Police Report PW noted that there had been a break-in in Garvald (on Saturday just before last CC meeting). It was agreed that

vigilance is important.

Cllr McM passed on leaflets about rural crime threats such as diesel thefts, wildlife crime etc.

Action – leaflets to be handed out in village and scanned and put up on the web. Gary will scan and send on to Heidi.

## **5. Councilor's report**

Cllr McM said that there was nothing significant to report in terms of developments at the Council.

He said that he had been chatting with IS and DW about broadband provision with a view to moving this forward.

He said that a flooding study is being commissioned for the area covered by the Tyne.

On Roads and potholes – he explained that he had been trying to keep an eye on things when travelling round the region. He said that Danskine residents had lodged a number of concerns in relation to this issue. He explained that a prioritization process governs the Council's response and that he will continue to prod to get action in the Garvald and Morham area.

IS asked about the deterioration of verges. Cllr McM said that this was an important issue and that some repair work had been done. He said there were problems with size of vehicles and weather. IM said that it was not possible to put curbs on many country roads in the region, as they are not wide enough as it is.

HC said that hardcore should be used to make running repairs – Cllr McM said he would raise this.

Action: Cllr McM as above.

## **6. Council Liaison Update**

KS said that there was nothing to report.

Cllr McM suggested that KS should meet Colin Baird and Peter Forsyth (who has taken over from Brian Cooper).

PW said that a hole has opened up beside the culvert opposite Broomfield and that the culvert at the bottom of village still hasn't been fixed (tarmac has been cut with saw but still not fixed).

Action: KS to follow up.

## 7. Broadband report

IS reported that the Garvald upgrade had been finished – now looking at Morham and then moving on to Snawdon.

Current bad weather has held up progress.

Now mapping broadband speeds across East Lothian in readiness for Council and Community Broadband Scotland funding.

He also said that the Broadband team was thinking about a ceremonial 'switching off' ceremony for the old system in Garvald in next few weeks (hosted in pub).

## 8. Funding Report

PW reported that he had updated the Garvald website with the current application forms and that this had been placed on the Morham website.

Reminders of the fund had been placed on all relevant notice boards and he had also e-mailed Knox Academy and other key community groups (Village Halls, horticultural group, kids groups etc).

He said that he had received no feedback on potential young 'sports stars' or musicians who were looking for support and made a general appeal for such applications.

Action: In May PW will put up reminders on websites.

PW reported that one application had been received for the Garvald Children's Christmas Party (from Lorraine Hay) and for funding for the local Poetry Competition (from Heidi Ingram). It was agreed that the poetry competition was something that the CC would definitely want to support.

Action: KS will talk Victoria Simpson to suggest that Morham put in a separate application for the Morham Christmas party.

## 9. Treasurer's Report

IM reported that, as we were moving into a new financial year he was working on the CC accounts for audit. He noted that would be a fairly large deficit due to the fact that we had been holding onto woodlands fund money. Accounts will have all been done by the CC AGM in June.

IM reported that:

Current balance: £2,378.59

Current balance in Crystal Rig: £3,535

PW passed on a spreadsheet itemising the status of the Local Priorities Fund and admin grant.

## **10. Planning Update**

PW reported that nothing significant had come up.

## **Garvald Update**

HC reported the following key developments:

- Outside paintwork on village hall has been finished – all happy with job and patching inside (part of ceiling fell down).
- Work has started on West Door.
- Pricing is being requested for remedial work on rot in vestry – an application will be put in for this.
- Community Service boys have been helping with weeds around back – they waited until snow had cleared to start.
- Plant sales provisional for 5<sup>th</sup> May – but there may well be nothing to sell due to weather.

## **12. Morham Update**

DM reported the following key developments:

- Morham Mix events kicking off in April – history walk and kids event.
- SCVO work going ahead and has been very beneficial.
- GVH has started a new electricity contract based on the group's guidance; the plan is then to move to a 'bulk buying' approach.
- Hall insurance – on advice of the SCVO a trustee indemnity clause has been added to the policy (for minimal outlay).

- Heating system is now in – costs as anticipated. However the installation work uncovered gross negligence on part of the contractors who undertook the work five years ago (eg. soak-away system not properly implemented). This has led to more outlay and the need for a potential grant application to ‘tidy things up’.

Action: KS to send e-mail with Morham Mix contact to PW – perhaps with a view to launching a Garvald Mix.

### 13. Garvald Snow Plough Proposal

The proposal for a Garvald snow plough (put forward by Tim Flynn) was discussed at length. The following key points were made:

PS reported that the CC had asked Crystal Rig whether they would fund such a project and they had said ‘no’ as it was Council responsibility. She noted that the amount required was probably too much to come out of the Local Priorities Fund (or similar).

HC said that she had not met with much support for the idea. PS said that there had been a few positive comments on the Garvald website.

Tim Flynn said that the problem was that many people living in the closes and cul-de-sacs in Garvald were left to fend for themselves and that many were unable to clear the snow from outside their homes due to age, infirmities, etc. He said that the Council had told him that they were pushed to do what they do and cannot service every little place in the community. He therefore felt that the CC had a responsibility to do what it could to help.

He said that he felt that Crystal Rig should fund the proposal, as it actually was for something that the Council is *not* doing. He said that an investigation into the project should be carried out and that people should be contacted to see if they want it.

Costing for the project was £8,000 for one machine. Tim noted that if VAT could be avoided, then this would save 20% of the cost. Insurance would be £150.

KS said that she was sure that a cheaper option must be available.

David Walls said that twice in recent years he had almost missed a plane due to snow and that if a snow plough had been available then this might have been avoided. He said that he had a mower unit that could take a plough attachment and that he would be happy to make it available if such

an attachment could be procured. The cost of the blade for David's machine was thought to be about £800

A number of problems were raised including liabilities, costs, health and safety, storage and who would be responsible for the maintenance of the unit. In light of these concerns, and the fact that Crystal Rig had indicated that they would not fund the project, the idea was not given CC support.

RB highlighted the fact that the issues Tim Flynn had raised were valid and needed to be addressed in some way. It was suggested that the scope of the problem should be assessed (ie. a list made of the side roads that need clearing and of the people who need assistance) and that a group of people should be convened who would be willing to help dig out the elderly and infirm. It was also felt that the CC should apply for snow shovels and extra grit bins.

Action: RB to put up questions on website and see if such a response was feasible.

#### 14. **A.O.C.B.**

**Garvald Woodland Project** – a letter and e-mail from Jimmy Thomson were read out. These outlined areas of progress and reasons for delay.

HC suggested that in view of the delays, it might be beneficial to appoint someone from the current GMCC to be a member of the Woodlands sub-committee, and it was agreed that Phillip would be appointed.

Action: PW said he would get in touch with Charlotte Cavey-Wilcox and open up a dialogue to try and drive the project forward.

#### 15. **Date of Next Meeting**

Monday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> 2013 @ Garvald Village Hall.