

GARVALD AND MORHAM COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Approved Minutes of Meeting, 6th February 2017
@ 7pm, Garvald Village Hall

1. Attendance and Apologies for Absence

Penny Short (Chair), Rufus Bellamy (Secretary), Kelly Burns (Garvald VH), Anna Derricourt (Member), Ian Middlemass (Treasurer), David Murray (Morham VH), Ian Smith (Member), Phillip White (Vice-chair)

Apologies

Cllr John McMillan

2. Minutes from Previous Meeting

Approved and subsequently distributed by e-mail/web.

3. Matters arising from Previous Minutes

Crystal Rig mini-fund for Knox and Yester: Penny has asked for clarification on criteria with Fred Olsen, but she hasn't heard back. IS said that he had talked to the headmistress at Knox – she is very positive about the idea and says that there is a long list of things the money could be used for.

Repair of benches in Garvald Park: PW reported that he had liaised with the Council and that the benches have been repaired by the Community Payback team, with no charge to CC.

Bagpipe funding application: PW reported that he had e-mailed Harry Lee with information on who he should contact for help with bagpipe tuition.

Garvald Woodland Project: No report on funding options from the Councillor as yet.

Action: Cllr McM to follow up.

Local Planning Applications: PW alerted RB when the broadband mast planning application had been put in (Jan). Information was then put up on the Garvald website (along with a press release from Lothian Broadband).

Youth Shelter: This project, funded by the Area Partnership, was moved forward quickly and the shelter was installed in late January. The Council's Amenity Services explained that grass will grow back in around the shelter and that gravel will be laid below the seating area to stop it getting muddy.

Morham Brae road problems: Nothing has been done yet.

Action: Cllr McM to follow up.

Crystal Rig funding for Halloween and Christmas parties – this suggestion has been followed up and acted upon.

New Community Councillor – PS has emailed the candidates to let them know the CC's decision and to encourage all of them to come to future meetings.

Community Liaison rep: It was agreed that AD will take on the role of Community Liaison rep (previously held by Kirstie Shearer).

4. Update from Ian Smith, Broadband Rep

IS reported that Lothian Broadband had submitted a planning application for a mini-mast on top of hill above Garvald playpark (submitted on 5th January).

PW asked if there was the possibility of providing a mobile service using the proposed new mast – IS said that he had looked into this with a mobile phone provider, but had made no progress.

Lothian broadband has helped East Coast FM (by letting them share a mast). The company will also soon be providing telemetry information for a local bus company.

5. Update from Phillip White, Funding Rep

To brief the new Community Councillor, there was a general discussion about funding, how decisions are made and new project ideas are generated.

PS asked that the Community Council focus their minds on any future large projects which could benefit the entire communities of Garvald and Morham. She had previously circulated an email from Tim Flinn amongst the CC members and it had contained very good practical advice about looking forward, investing in the future and planning ahead to a time when windfarm money was no longer provided. Despite many pleas on the website for such funding suggestions no applications have been received so far from the villagers. It was agreed by all that the Community Council would much prefer to fund these kind of projects instead of funding individual requests but unless suitable projects could be found, funding for individuals would have to be continued for the time being.

PS suggested that a separate fund might be set up which would allow the CC to pay out on short notice for things like Fun Days, Christmas and Halloween parties, Christmas trees and lighting, Theatre trips, Easter Egg Hunts and similar community events. It would also give the CC more freedom to pay out on things immediately instead of waiting on approval from Fred Olsen.

Action: An application for this fund will be passed to PW on behalf of the CC and will be considered at the next meeting

PS highlighted good practice guides on community fund management.

AD highlighted the need for a shelter for children waiting for the school bus in Morham and this was heartily supported by the CC.

PW went through the following new funding applications:

Woodland project: Karl Ingram has put in a new application for the Garvald Woodland project. The aim is to earmark money on an annual basis, so that the project can be completed within the next four years. Suggested £6,000 for 2017.

Action: This was agreed.

Uncovering Morham Castle: Kate Bogie from Morham has put in an application for an archaeological project to discover the remains of Morham Castle. The first phase of the project would involve a survey of the potential site of the castle and the digging of a trial trench. Budget for Phase 1: £7,000.

The project will include archaeology workshops, volunteer participation, archaeology walks etc. It would also include community engagement events at the Village Hall. Groups such as primary school classes, the Cubs and Scouts etc. would be involved.

Kate's application notes that the project will give the village an opportunity to understand more about its history, potentially discover the location of the castle, learn new skills and work together on an exciting scheme.

There was debate about the correct location for the dig. AD noted that 2017 is the year of architecture and heritage. It was agreed that, in principle, this was something that the CC would support, but that more reassurance was needed that the project is properly located.

Action: AD to ask Stephanie (the archeologist who will lead the project) if she will come to the next meeting to present more 'proof'. AD will also try and get an electronic copy of the report on which the project proposal is based to pass round the CC. IM to ask Stewart about archaeological findings that have been made in his fields.

Morham Easter Treasure Hunt for kids: Mrs JT Lee has put in an application for funding for a treasure hunt with an Easter theme. This will include all the children in Morham Parish. Asking for £100 - £125.

Action: £125 agreed. PW to ask that Garvald kids be invited and to let him know if this means that more money is needed. Money will be drawn from interim funds, but application will be submitted to Fred Olsen.

Gymnastics funding: Mrs Chloe Clark has put in an application to help Molly Clark with her gymnastic training and competition fees. £691 requested. Molly has represented Scotland at her grade level. She competes with Meadowbank Gymnastics Club.

Action: £692 agreed. PW to let her know.

PS asked about funding for electricity for Garvald Youth Shelter – this will come to £40 a quarter.

Action: It was agreed that this would be paid out of CC funds (Local Priority etc).

PW noted that thanks had been received from Rudie Shearer and from Jo for money for Thomas' new drum kit. Jo had also sent a report on Halloween and Christmas parties.

6. Update from Ian Middlemass, Treasurer

IM reported that all outstanding cheques had been cashed. He also noted that he is trying to set up an internet banking facility for the CC account.

Current balance: £12887.28

7. Local Planning Applications

PW reported that the only significant local planning issue is the Lothian Broadband mast discussed above.

8. Update from Haddington & Lammermuir Area Partnership

PS reported that funding applications to the partnership were now coming in 'thick and fast', particularly as the end of the financial year would soon be upon us. PW said that he was pleased that practical positive action was now taking place.

9. Garvald Neighbourhood Watch

PW reported that a new member had joined the Neighbourhood Watch scheme.

The most recent local police report (Dec – Feb) listed the following ward priorities for Haddington and Lammermuir: anti-social behavior, road safety, substance misuse and litter.

Two issues for our area:

- A cyclist had fallen off their bike just outside Garvald.
- A dangerous driving incident had been reported in the CC area.

10. Garvald and Morham Updates

Morham: DM reported on the following Morham issues:

- There is an ongoing boundary issue with respect to the Hall. This is being resolved.
- Following the meeting of Trustees (due on 27 February), a funding application related to the steps identified in the structural survey may be submitted.
- Burns Supper raised approx. £1,700.
- It is likely that DM will come to the next CC meeting with a funding application for an upgrade of the hall's steps.

It was suggested that AD should ask the bus company to pick children up at Mainshill Steading.

Garvald: Kelly introduced herself and said that she had only just joined the Garvald Hall Committee – she said that she was interested in getting the Committee doing more fund raising. She also discussed how to make the Hall more easily available. She reported that discussions were on-going about Hall lighting and the purchase of a dishwasher.

PW reported that 2,000 daffodils and 1,000 crocuses had been planted in Garvald over two weekends in January. These had been paid for by Garvald Horticultural Society.

Joint: AD said that she had talked to Heidi Ingram about the possibility of making the Garvald website a joint website with Morham. Heidi had made a comment that there is a potential 'Morham' website name that could be used to access the site. There was general consensus that this would be a good idea.

Action: AD will take this project forward.

PW said that Morham could piggyback on the Garvald Neighbourhood Watch scheme.

11. A.O.C.B.

PS highlighted Council support for Safety at Community meetings. Scotrail public meeting to be held on 1st March.

12. Date of Next Meeting

27th March 2017, Morham Village Hall. (NB. This is one week earlier than normal).