

GARVALD AND MORHAM COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Approved Minutes of Meeting, 5th October 2015
@ 7pm, Garvald Village Hall

1. Attendance and Apologies for Absence

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

Cllr Tom Trotter
Cllr John McMillan

Apologies

Kirstie Shearer

2. Minutes from Previous Meeting

These had been approved and subsequently distributed by e-mail/web.

3. Matters arising from Previous Minutes

Community Intervention Fund – Cllr McM reported that he hasn't had any further feedback from the Council.

Action: Cllr McM will explore this further.

Morham party – PS has been talking to Anna Derricourt at Morham about planning a trip to Edinburgh to watch a couple of shows. This may happen in lieu of a children's Christmas party for Morham.

Windfarm funding changes – PS has been speaking to Craig Potter of National Power about the funds available per megawatt from Crystal Rig - she reported that we would be eligible for this new amount for any new projects (e.g. Crystal Rig 3). This new amount will be in the order of £5,000 per megawatt that the turbines generate (current funding is calculated at £1,000 per megawatt). She has also been in contact with the Chair of East Lammermuir CC. It appears that we've to work out between us (i.e. the two community councils) what would constitute a fair split of potential funds, although details are sketchy at present.

Falago Rig 2 - PS has been in contact with Euan Glen of PPS Scotland acting on behalf of Falago Rig 2. She had asked for clarification on the position as it would seem that communities are eligible for funding if they fall within 15km of wind turbines and from the map provided it would appear that Garvald and Morham ward is within the 10km circle of the proposed turbines. Euan had promised to investigate and get back to PS but hasn't as yet.

Action: PS to chase up East Lammermuir and PPS Scotland.

Riverbank: PS has spoken to Stewart Pryde about this issue and he has visited village to look at the broken section of riverbank. As a result, he has produced a proposal for the bank's restoration using gabion baskets faced with natural stones and backed with concrete. He estimates the cost of this at £5,775 (for 15m of repair). He has also looked into the possibility of improving the path and has said that this could be done for £1K. Stewart has advised that the work would probably be best done next spring (2016).

With respect to funding: Stewart has suggested that we could get up to £5,000 pounds for this work through the Civic Pride fund. Other sources of funding might include Viridor. Cllr McM said that Local Area Partnership money might also be available. He also highlighted the potential of using Leader funding (he explained that the strategy for this was due to be approved shortly by the Scottish Gov. and that the Leadership Action Group (that will organize its distribution) will be elected soon.)

Action: PS to get the ball rolling and look into using Civic Pride money. She will also argue that this maintenance work should be the responsibility of the council (and that they should pay!). She will also ask them to ensure that the aesthetic appeal of the bank and path is maintained.

Halloween party and Poetry Competition – IS said that this request had been processed and that the money would be being sent. PW said that he and IM had conferred with Lorraine Hay about this.

Insurance: IM has followed this up and all is in order – although he is chasing up the potential of a cheaper deal.

LAP meeting: PS and PW went to the most recent meeting. A new chairman was elected. The next public meeting will take place on 21st October in Knox with a big drive to explain what the area partnership does and will be doing. Haddington Skate Park project has been approved with funding from Viridor.

It was reported that the LAP currently controls the following budgets: Road services (£50k – £5k spent); Amenity Services – (£50k outstanding; nothing appropriated – Cllr McM said that this fund could possibly be used for repairs in Garvald park); General (£50k – spent £7k on Athelstaneford skate park; Haddington skate park and RUTS project).

The group is also looking into transportation to Garvald. PS said there was the potential of using school buses to provide transport to villages that don't have a bus service. She also said that she was looking at potential bus services for children linked to clubs in Haddington.

Action: PW will go to the next LAP meeting.

Courier – PS chased up the Courier; they will try and run the swimming piece. They said it was important that we continue to send them stories.

4. Councilors' report

Cllr TT said that there was not a lot happening, but raised the following points:

A planning application for Woodburn Cottage in Garvald was being discussed after representations had been made in opposition to the proposed changes (changes to the property's garden to move steps and put in a hedge), which had been passed, but which has subsequently been called in.

Moves have been made to solve drainage issues in the sports field at Yester School in Gifford.

TT left some info on the Care and Repair scheme that offers financial help for small service repairs and 'access' work for the elderly and infirm.
www.careandrepaireastlothian.co.uk.

PS handed out leaflets for Help to Adapt www.helptoadaptscotland.co.uk which offers support to those over 60 to help them live independently at home.

Cllr McM mentioned LEADER funding again. He also highlighted that a problem in emerging as Edinburgh College has stopped laying on transport to Eskbank campus – as a result some youngsters have stopped going to college. Other key issues as follows:

- Local Development Plan –Main Issues Report is still being considered.

- Broadband – new director of Community Broadband Scotland has met with Council and is looking at how they might fund better broadband in East Lothian in ‘Not spots’. East Lothian Broadband will be approached. Work should be happening in summer 2016.
- Planning – a developer wants to put up a large chicken shed at Bankrugg (Humbie CC is concerned); also there are plans for an anaerobic digester at Ballencrieff – there are concerns that this will take away farm land, and cause traffic problems, congestion etc. He also noted that there is a strong case for it and that the project is being promoted by United Utilities. He emphasised that the project has not been registered yet.
- Changes to the catchment area of Knox Academy is being considered to try and help East Saltoun, Humbie and Bolton, places where the communities are being split as kids go to different secondary schools.

5. Update from Kirstie Shearer - Council Liaison Rep.

No report as Kirstie not present.

6. Update from Ian Smith - Broadband Rep.

Lothian Broadband Co-operative has been replaced by a commercial venture Lothian Broadband Networks (which has eight employees). All of the ‘old’ co-operative’s subscribers have been transferred to the new network. For information see: www.lothianbroadband.com

The new company has already set up a new mast at Barney Hill and is now looking at a new site at Hill Head (just north of Cousland). This will put them in a good position to extend coverage around the region. It has also won the contract to connect houses (up to 250 homes) in and around Humbie. It will eventually build four masts in the Humbie area. It will be talking to the Council about its expanding work west and east of Humbie and potentially into Fife.

7. Update from Philip White - Funding Rep.

PW highlighted the following Crystal Rig fund applications:

Morham Community Initiative – DM explained: this is an application to fund a change in the way that Morham Village Hall is set up and managed. The idea is that it should change from Trustee Community status to a Limited Company with charitable status. It would mean that a Board of Directors would be set up; this would be made up of people from all sections of the Parish to make it more inclusive. This move would not only

help widen the scope of people involved with the management of the Hall, but would also give access to various charitable funds.

DM explained that this project has already received funding of £2,000 from the Cray Trust, which provides small grants to charities and community groups for a wide range of charitable activities. The Trust has generously agreed to help the Hall with this project. Therefore the application to the Crystal Rig fund is for £3,000 (to pay for a total legal bill of £5k).

IS asked whether CC would have a representation on the committee. DM said yes.

The application was passed by a unanimous vote. (NB: IM declared his interest as a trustee of Morham Hall during the discussion on funding for the cost of changing the hall's legal status and didn't take part in the vote.)

Action: IM to send application to Crystal Rig and process payment.

Gullane Playgroup – PW explained that this group was looking for something for the kids – it was decided that as this group is outwith the G&M area it would not qualify for the funds.

Action: PW to let the group know that, unfortunately, they don't fall under the scope of the fund.

Gifford Community Woodland – PW explained that this group (led by John Wrinn) is looking to buy a community wood in Gifford so that Yester School could use it. They were asking for £6,000. It was argued that few residents from Garvald would use it and that the strict criteria covering Crystal Rig funding meant that it would not qualify.

Action: PW to let the group know that, unfortunately, they don't fall under the scope of the fund.

Community Christmas trips – PW read out an application from Anna Derricourt – a joint application for Christmas Theatre trips to Edinburgh for Morham and Garvald. The money will go towards subsidizing the cost of the bus and tickets. Asking for £1,164. It was felt to be a good idea and approved by vote.

Action: IM to send application to Crystal Rig and process payment.

Primary School Choir – PW read out an application from Sonia Lee from Mainshill, Morham for funding for a Primary school choir. This would involve children and parents/carers in an 8-week block of rehearsals (in Morham Village Hall), leading up to a show at Christmas and another

block of rehearsals leading up to a show at Easter. About 10/14 families have signed up with a number from Garvald and Morham. The costs of this project (for hall hire, music, choir master, etc) will be £640 - £680.

It was agreed to offer £320 for the first block and then, if this is successful, to fund the next block as well. (Sonia to be asked to make a follow-up application after the Christmas concert for the second tranche.)

Action: PW to let the group know the CC's decision; IM to send application to Crystal Rig and process payment.

Garvald Christmas Ceilidh – it was noted that Anne Raitt would be putting in an application for funding for this annual event. It was discussed and agreed that once details had been received, these would be sent round by e-mail for a 'remote' decision.

8. Update from Ian Middlemass – Treasurer

Provided the CC's profit and loss account.

Payouts from Crystal Rig: £6,407

Surplus for the year: £935

Current account balance is currently: £12,976.45 (includes money that will be paid out to the Garvald Church Roof).

9. Planning Update

Nothing of significance.

10. Neighbourhood Watch

PW said that everything was OK.

11. Garvald & Morham Updates

Garvald: HC reported that the Hall AGM would take place on the 21st October. She noted that the Hall Committee was desperate for new members and that a letter had been sent to each house in village.

In general, the Hall was very well booked, with another wedding coming up. The New Year party had been booked.

An issue was raised about cars coming out of Burnside Court – the tree in the tub on the corner needs to be trimmed or pulled back.

Morham: DM reported that the usual kids parties have taken place but that it had been a quiet summer; a number of things are, however, planned in run up to Xmas.

12. AOCB

PS read out the Community Council police report we had received from Scot Nicholson Community Support Sgt. Key items: Confused male near Nunraw; possible hare coursing near Nunraw; Traps stolen from Mayshiel estate; Suspicious vehicle near Tanderlane.

PS highlighted a consultation from ELC – the proposal is to loose one councillor and to change boundaries slightly to bring new areas within ELC.

RB read out a letter the CC had received from MSP Iain Gray saying “thank you” for our fine work.

13. Date of next meeting

Monday December the 7th in Morham Village Hall.