

GARVALD AND MORHAM COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Approved Minutes of Meeting, 27th March 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), Phillip White (Vice-chair).

Kate Bogie, Mark Burns, Stephanie Leith, Kirstie Shearer, Andrew Watson.

Cllr Tom Trotter.

Apologies

Ian Smith (Member), Cllr McMillan.

2. Minutes from Previous Meeting

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

3. Matters arising from Previous Minutes

- Road problems at Morham Braes – nothing had changed.
- Woodland Project – proposal agreed as minuted.
- Invitation to Stephanie Leith – done.
- Easter Treasure Hunt – going ahead.
- Gymnastics funding – agreed.
- Electric supply for shelter – agreed (to be provided from Local Priority Fund).
- Morham website – there are now Morham pages on the www.garvald.org.uk website

4. Update from Ian Smith, Broadband Rep

Ian Smith was not able to attend, so no update was given.

5. Presentation by Stephanie Leith

Stephanie Leith gave a detailed and fascinating presentation on the Morham Castle archaeology dig she and Kate Bogie had proposed as a potential project for Crystal Rig funding.

She explained that she had long been interested in the history of Morham and its castle and that the project was one she had long thought of undertaking – “who can resist finding a lost medieval Castle”.

She explained that part of her remit working at East Lothian Council is to get adults and children involved in finding out about their local history and that the project would be a great way to do this.

She gave a brief introduction to the history of Morham from the 12th Century onwards. Castle was first mentioned in 1474. Also mentioned in 1512 and 1585. In 1791 Documents talk of castle on a high point near the Church. She explained that the castle would probably have been a fortified manor house similar to Hailes Castle, with a tower and an enclosing wall.

She presented evidence that it was in one of two places:

- **Near Kirk on west side of river** – Stephanie displayed a map from 1682 and an engraving from 1736 showing a castle near the Kirk on the west side of the river, and an OS map from 1854 showing a castle in a similar position. She highlighted a Name Book from 1853 that described that the castle ‘stood on top of western slope’ of river.

She explained that the Edinburgh Archaeology Field Society had done a geophysical survey in the past in the field behind Kate Bogie’s house - the results of this had been ambiguous.

- **Castle Shot Field** - Stephanie highlighted another history that placed the castle in Castle Shot field near Mainshill. She also said that Stewart Drysdale had found some interesting pieces of dressed stone when ploughing in Castle Shot field.

Project design

With respect to the project itself, she explained that it would be a two-phase project.

Phase 1 – professional geophysical survey of both potential areas using a number of different techniques to map what is under the ground – if this got good results in either location, this would be followed by the digging of some test pits. A village lecture would then announce the result.

Phase 2 - would be a community excavation. This phase would also include village talks, open days etc. – this could then lead to much more community outreach. Any community element would be coordinated by the archaeological contractor that would be hired to do the dig and the work would be included in any contractual brief.

Stephanie noted that the best time for a community dig would be May/June or Sept/Oct.

Project funding

With respect to the funding of the project, Stephanie explained that approx. £10,000 would be needed for the Phase 1 geophysical survey and test dig of the two areas.

The results of the first phase would be used to develop a costed project design for the second phase.

She noted that various funds are available to provide potential match funding – Charities trust, Hunter Trust, Community Lottery Fund, Viridor etc.

Stephanie said that she would help drive the project forward and help secure funding. She explained that the day-to-day management and reporting on the project would be done by a contractor, who would also be tasked with community outreach and the communication side of the project (e.g. blog /website)

6. Update from Phillip White, Funding Rep

PW reported that he had received potential funding applications for £29,500. He explained that these would need to be considered and that decisions needed to be made on what funds we would draw on for each approved application – either Crystal Rig 1, 2 or 3.

It was noted that there was a need for Crystal Rig to clarify what is available from each fund and when the money will be available from each.

Action: PS to follow up on this.

The following applications were discussed:

School funds for Yester Primary and Knox Academy. It was agreed to put in an application for ongoing funds for both schools (£5,000 for each, £10,000 total) that they can draw on as they require. This application will be to the Crystal Rig 3 fund (which covers expenditure that the Council can fund). Note: since the meeting information was received that Crystal Rig 3 fund would only receive £10,350 and so the schools would only now be offered £2,500 each.

Community Fund - money for small-scale social events and projects to benefit the community such as children's Christmas/Halloween parties, pantomime trips etc. It was agreed to put in an application for £5,000 for this on-going fund that will be administered by the CC (funds will be earmarked and placed in the CC bank account and drawn as necessary). This application will be to the Crystal Rig 3 fund. It was agreed that this money could also be used to purchase things that would bring in money and that CC would apply for regular top-ups as necessary.

Morham Village Hall – application received for £10,000 for part of a

programme of extensive refurbishment work involving roof, windows, cladding, floors and doors. Mark Burns gave brief presentation about the application which was made following a recent dilapidation survey. He highlighted that:

- decisions had to be made between short term fixes and longer-term solutions – e.g. patching roof or replacing entirely and patching external cladding or replacing.
- Chalmers was working up a detailed schedule of works and that the total cost would be in the region of £30,000.
- The Village Hall had approached Viridor for funding, but that they would only fund CAPEX expenditure.
- The application for £10,000 would cover remaining revenue costs and expenditure.
- There is a funding slot on 4th July, so they are looking to pull together all admin. before then.

It was decided to support this application fully and that the money should be drawn from the Crystal Rig 2 funds.

Rob Freeland (Garvald) – Rob wants to introduce honey bees to Garvald to improve pollination in immediate area. He is member of East Lothian Beekeepers. He asked for £1,475 for two hives and equipment. It was felt that it was difficult to justify the funding of a hobby, despite the benefits that bees bring to the environment. It was decided to see if Rob would be able to organise beekeeping as a village activity or club – if he could, then it was felt that funding might be appropriate.

Aiden and Lucy Ballantyne – application received for support for their swimming training, club fees etc. Asking for a contribution to their £8,000 total costs. It was noted that they were supported in 2016. It was agreed that they should be given £1,000 in total (In line with past decisions of this type) and that the funds should be drawn from the Crystal Rig 2 fund.

It was decided that in the future for applications of this type individuals should be financed on a one-off basis, unless exceptional circumstances prevailed (e.g. training for Olympics).

Action: PW to contact all applicants to let them know decisions; IM to liaise with Crystal Rig as necessary.

Morham Castle Dig

It was decided that the CC was very supportive of the project, but that as the sums involved were large (and as Crystal Rig funds were running low), Stephanie should be asked to come back to a subsequent meeting with a fully costed application and also to look at what third-party funding options might be available.

Action: PS to contact Stephanie Leith as described above.

7. Update from Ian Middlemass, Treasurer

- All cheques cashed.
- All Crystal Rig applications sent to Fred Olsen.
- Current balance: £13,287.28.

8. Local Planning Applications

PS reported on the East Lothian Broadband Mast proposed for Garvald. She noted that the Council is generally supportive of it, but that enough objections have been received for the planning permission to be called for review. She has been told that its proposed location will be moved so that the mast would be less obtrusive.

9. Update from Haddington & Lammermuir Local Area Partnership

PS and PW reported that:

- LAP members are taking part in a consultation to come up with a 10-year strategy for policing.
- Four wishes project still ongoing.
- Bridge street project had received approval.
- Knox had put in a funding request for extra tuition, but this had not been approved.
- Haddington CC had put in an application for new fencing.

10. Garvald Neighbourhood Watch

PW reported that there had been no significant developments or issues.

11. Garvald and Morham Updates

KB noted that Barry Ash has decided to step down from the Garvald Village Hall Committee. The HC are now looking to see who will take his place. She also noted that there was potential for holding a family fun day in August.

12. A.O.C.B.

IM reported that there had been a lot of poaching in the Morham area and that people had been driving across fields. He noted that the police had attended twice and asked people to please keep an eye out for anything suspicious and to make a note of the registrations of any cars involved.

PS reported that she was planning to contact the Council to ask if the toilets in Garvald could be opened all year round.

Humbie Hub Hustings – @ Kirk on Wed 12th April @ 7.30 pm. Seven candidates will attend – book through Eventbrite.

PS had enquired about purchasing telephone box in Garvald and using it to

house a de-fibrillator. BT responded that the telephone box was still in use and that BT owns the land it sits on as the exchange is there and so they would not be willing to sell.

Public toilets in Garvald – will be opened for summer on 1st April.

Proposed extension of Crystal rig – there will be a 2-day public exhibition at Spott Village Hall on the 24th and 25th April (12-8pm). This is an exhibition only as consent has already been given.

PS reported that she had attended a recent Planning Regulations Meeting.

New signs for villages – it was reported that we could have a falcon on the Garvald sign. It was suggested that Morham could use the Morham family crest, but it was felt that this didn't meet the Council's criteria.

PS reported that she had received a barrage of complaints from one villager about the new village signs – Cllr TT said that CC should not have had to bear the brunt of this criticism as they were installed by the Area Partnership on behalf of the Council. It was reported that the Council is going to come out and look at position of Garvald signs. It was suggested that they should look at position of Morham signs at the same time.

Action: PS to ask about the use of the Morham Crest on Morham sign and to ask Council to look at the position of the Morham sign when they make a site visit to Garvald.

13. Date of Next Meeting

Monday the 5th June, 7.00pm in Garvald Village Hall.