

GARVALD AND MORHAM COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Approved Minutes of Meeting, 1st December 2014
@ 7pm, Morham Village Hall

1. Attendance and Apologies for Absence

Attendance

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

Fiona Sheldon, Liz Leather

Cllr Tom Trotter
Cllr John McMillan

Tom Reid (East Lothian Council's Waste Services Manager)

Apologies

Kirstie Shearer (Member), Phillip White (Vice-chair), L Broun Lyndsey

2. Minutes from Previous Meeting

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

3. Matters arising from Previous Minutes

Restoration of Bank of Papana Water – RB reported back on the quote that had been received from Filtrex to use special seed-impregnated bags to rebuild the collapsed section of bank (£10,670). This was considered to be too significant an outgoing and it was queried as to whether Crystal Rig would cover what might be considered a Council project. It was decided to put this item on the Agenda for the next meeting to discuss in more detail. PS suggested that the Scottish Flood Forum should be invited to give their opinion on best approach.

Action: RB to reply and say that we are looking at other options.

Mobile Mast – no news.

Blocked Drain at Standing Stone – this has been dealt with.

Morham VH Roof – DM reported that the AGM at which this will be discussed hasn't taken place yet and that there has been no change from when the issue was brought up at the last CC meeting.

Post-referendum Discussion – It was reported that, as G&M is not a part of the organising group (the SCVO), our views would not have been taken into account.

4. **Tom Reid's presentation on waste**

TR (East Lothian Council's Waste Services Manager) explained that he has been going round Community Council's in East Lothian to explain the changes that are going on in the management of the county's waste.

He explained that the Council is responding to guidance from Europe and is working to encourage recycling and to create an economy that reuses waste. ELC is also looking at potential for producing energy from waste. He said that this makes good sense for taxpayers as sending waste to landfill costs money, both in terms of lost income from reuse and disposal costs.

He said that the Scottish national target is to get 50% of waste recycled. Most councils have missed this and East Lothian has managed 45%. Bin analysis has been undertaken to see what people are doing/not doing – this found lots of paper, glass, food waste etc. that could be recycled and wasn't.

He explained that a new strategy is coming in on the 27th April. This will involve a weekly food waste collection across the entire county. The aim is to capture 3,000 tonnes of food waste. In March households will receive an information pack about the new collection. CC will also be sent information.

He demonstrated the type of food waste container that will be given to properties. He explained that the bins were made of a special plastic to keep disease problems at bay. He also explained that liner bags would be provided.

Concerns were raised about the weight of the boxes – TR explained that he could supply households with multiple boxes, to allow them to be half-filled so that they would be easier to handle.

TR also noted that from 1st April legislation will allow ELC's anti-social disposal team to issue on-the-spot fines for people who leave the lids on bins up and who make a mess with their rubbish.

He also explained that his team is working with schools to get kids excited about recycling and suggested that CC could come and visit ELC's waste processing facility at Strawberry Corner.

5. ELC's Proposed Local Development Plan

PS introduced East Lothian's Main Issue Report. She explained that this is the first stage in the production of ELC's proposed local development plan (scheduled for publication in late 2015). This will be used to assess local planning applications.

She said that East Lothian has been tasked to identify sites for 10,000 new homes over the next decade and that the main focus for this new development will be in the west of the county.

The Main Issue Report shows that the area covered by Garvald and Morham Community Council has little capacity for new development – however it does contain an assessment for the development 10/12 new houses at Garvald Glebe (on the hill above the church), which has been put forward by the land owner as a potential area for development. This is contained in Appendix 7 of the report. The report rates the potential of this proposal as “very poor” due to the lack of road access and facilities such as schools. This means that it is unlikely to be taken to the planning stage. It was also noted that Garvald is not mentioned in the overview of potential locations that could be developed.

It was suggested that no assumptions should be made about whether the Garvald development will/will not go ahead and that the CC should respond to highlight community concerns about the Glebe proposal. Cllr JMcM said that the Council is looking for a co-ordinated rural response to this plan (as it is quite town-centric) and that comments should address issues such as the sustainability of rural schools, broadband etc.

Action: PS will write a response from the CC detailing reasons why we do not consider that Garvald is an appropriate location for the proposed development.

6. Councilors' report

Cllr TT said that there was not much to report apart from an upcoming planning meeting at which an application for new houses at the back of Aberlady Road in Haddington (behind the vet) would be discussed. Both

Cllrs said they felt that the development was a bad idea and that local views had not been given the right priority.

Cllr Mc said that work on developing a broadband strategy for the county was going forward. He explained that the Council was trying to work out a strategy to both highlight demand and to see how this might be met. He said that they will be having a meeting with Digital Scotland and others on this issue. He also reported that there was no possibility of Viridor funding being re-instated for the development of the Corn Exchange in Haddington.

PW raised the issue that, as yet, no action has been taken to spray the weeds on the path in Garvald park.

PS asked whether it would be possible to put a gate across the opening in Garvald Park behind the flying fox (i.e. where the park track joins the main road).

Action: Cllr McM said he would look into these issues.

The Cllrs were also asked if anything could be done to make the wooden bridges on the Three Bridges walk less slippery (e.g. put down wire mesh).

Action: Cllr McM said he would ask the core paths team.

7. Haddington and Lammermuir Area Partnership

PS reported that she attended a meeting of this group on the 12th Nov. This focused on opportunities for children and young people. It was held at Knox academy and pupils from the school did a presentation that showed the results of a survey of their priorities.

It was clear that children who lived in rural areas were reliant on their parents to take them to where they wanted to go. It was suggested that a list of existing after-school events should be publicized and that a mini-bus might be hired to provide transport. This will be explored in future meetings.

PS said that she was still really enthusiastic about how the input of Community Council's is being used by this Council initiative. She also said that she felt that the rural communities had a valued and strong voice within it.

The next meeting will be on the 10th Dec and will focus on the integration of health and social care.

Action: PW will attend next meeting and report back.

8. Update from Kirstie Shearer - Council Liaison Rep.

KS had sent an e-mail update to say that PW had contacted her about a broken street light in Garvald which, she was happy to report, had been fixed ("although it did take two attempts for it to be seen to"). She reported: "Morham seems to be alright once again as I haven't heard a squeak from anyone".

9. Update from Ian Smith - Broadband Rep.

IS reported that he had attended an area partnership meeting about Broadband (along with PW and reps from other Community Councils). This meeting had highlighted the poor quality and poor coverage of broadband in rural areas.

10. Update from Philip White - Funding Rep.

PW reported that a further request for applications for the current Crystal Rig funding had been placed on the Garvald and Morham web pages in October. Unfortunately this had, so far, resulted in no further applications.

PS said that she had talked to Mrs Hilsley, the Head Teacher at Yester School in Gifford to ask if she knew any child that might need support. She said that she had also explored the issue of encouraging applications from the parent/council rep. for help. HC suggested that money might be made available for a school trip to the theatre.

Fiona Sheldon raised the issue of the application for funding for the repair of Garvald Church roof. She said that the fund-raising committee has already secured £6,000.

FS said that she had been disappointed with the response to her previous application for Crystal Rig money for this project. It was explained that there was strong support amongst the Community Council members to help the church, but that more information was needed about the 'funding gap' the Church was facing before a decision could be made. The ensuing discussion covered the other sources of funding available (eg. Viridor) and it was suggested that Fiona contact the Council's Economic Development department (contact: Richard Baty) and that she put a note on the Garvald Website to ask for donations.

Fiona said that a pledge to provide £10,000 through Crystal Rig would allow her to move forward with fund-raising.

Action: A full discussion of this issue will be conducted at the next meeting. FS will be asked to report back on how her fund-raising has progressed.

11. Update from Ian Middlemass – Treasurer

IM reported that he was about to send out the funding for the Garvald and Morham Christmas parties.

He noted that the current CC bank balance stood at: £2,578.86.

12. Planning Update

It was reported that there have been no applications of any concern made in the last two months. However it was noted that an application for 16 Solar Panels had been submitted to ELC from a resident in Garvald and that this had been passed by Planning. These panels will be fitted on the roof at the rear of the property and may be the first of many in the village.

13. Neighbourhood Watch

PW said that there was nothing current to report on this subject. He highlighted a police report from PC Lynn Black that said that there had been no recent crimes in the CC area.

14. Garvald Update

HC reported that Lorraine Hay was organizing a village Children's Christmas party.

It was thought that a Hogmanay party would be going ahead.

The problem of parking in the village was raised and it was noted that four houses in the village had a total of 11 cars between them. It was suggested that the council should create a new parking area similar to the one installed in front of Stenton Village Hall.

Action: PS to talk with Peter Forsyth (ELC's Senior Area Officer East) to look at options.

15. Morham Update

DM reported that Morham had enjoyed a good couple of months. In particular, the village's Vintage Fair had been a great success with £180 raised. This event will be repeated in March.

He said that a play to do with the local Cranston Family was featured on BBC's Armistice Day.

He highlighted that the Morham Family Christmas party was due to take place of Dec. the 17th.

16. AOCB

RB and PS reported back on the ELC's Resilient Communities Conference they had attended on behalf of the CC in October.

This had been funded by EDF and Scottish Government, with the aim of getting community groups thinking about how best to prepare for and cope in an emergency.

Both RB and PS said that they had found the event useful and that it had highlighted the resources and organisations that could help the community if/when the weather gets very bad or there are accidents and emergencies.

They suggested that the following issues should be looked into:

- The provision of plug-in landlines for all homes in G&M (to use if power goes down).
- The provision of generators in both village halls.
- The provision of a de-fibrillator in both communities.
- The provision of portable flood control devices for Garvald.

17. Date of Next Meeting

Monday 2nd February @ 7pm, Garvald Village Hall.