

## **GARVALD AND MORHAM COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

Approved Minutes of Meeting, 3rd January 2014  
@ 7pm, Garvald Village Hall

### **1. Attendance and Apologies for Absence**

#### **Attendance**

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

Bernie Haggerty, Pauline Haggerty

David Neillans

Cllr John McMillan

Sandie Baptie

Kelly Brown

### **2. Minutes from Previous Meeting**

Approved and distributed by e-mail/web.

GG noted that the Haddington Christmas Lights group didn't request for £21,000 – they were just asking for a donation. He also noted that the Morham website wasn't down and that the problem was that his computer was broken.

### **3. Matters arising from Previous Minutes**

Trees around telephone exchange – HC said that 'dial before you dig' would come out to trim trees. PW said that some trees had been trimmed around the flying fox.

Dog fouling message has gone up on website.

Hockey club application has been approved

PW has talked to Peter McQuaid about his suggestion that a flood risk assessment should be carried out.

KS has talked to Anna Derricourt about the bus shelter in Morham.

PW has written to the Haddington Festival of Lights asking for more information. PS said that Haddington Events Group (a sub-division of Haddington Community Council) had a three-year plan to purchase Christmas Lights for Haddington town centre and this would be the second year of the plan.

Speeding issues – signs have been put up and ‘slow’ markings have been painted on the ground. Kelly Brown (Police Officer) said that officers had been up to do speed checks.

Renewing Garvald Website domain – this was approved.

First Responders – RB to chase up with Heidi.

Meeting of Lammermuir CC – PW attended on behalf of GMCC.

#### 4. **Councillor’s report**

Cllr McM reported:

**Local Area partnership (LAP)** – This involves three partnerships reporting into an East Lothian partnership. LAP is responsible for ensuring that the single outcome agreement is achieved. Beneath this level are six local area partnerships, made up of councilors, reps from CC’s, reps from secondary and primary school clusters.

This is a bottom-up planning process – LAP will work through a Local Area Officer to have a say on how local money is spent. It is likely that in six months’ time the Haddington/Lammermuir LAP will come into being.

**Budget** – this is being finalized, it will be published on Thursday - before the cabinet meets to accept it on the following Tuesday. One area that Cllr McM has tried to push for is a better rural bus service.

**Broadband** – Cllr McM reported that a consultant had been commissioned to look at local needs – they will report back in about two weeks time – this will give the council a feel for what they can do legally to get better coverage. He noted that Midlothian paid £500,000 to BT in this year’s budget and that they will ‘get nothing for it’ for the next two years.

He said that he would look at the issues relating to the wall and gabions in Garvald.

## 5. Police Report

Kelly Brown reported:

- No incidents reported since she had last checked the incident sheet (i.e. since end Dec). Speed checks have been carried out in Garvald and are still being carried out.
- Neighbourhood watch meeting went well and has already produced info on possible poachers.

She asked whether there was anything that GMCC would like her to raise at the next CAPP meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup> March.

- KS said that people are driving too fast on the road from Luggate to Morham.
- GG noted that 'boy and girl' racers have set routes that they follow.

It was agreed that the Community Warden will look into dog fouling issues.

Kelly's contact details: e-mail – [Kelly.brown@scotland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Kelly.brown@scotland.pnn.police.uk)

## 6. Sandy Baptie Report

PS introduced Sandy Baptie (SB) and explained that he had been invited on the advice of Cllr Trotter and because one resident had looked into getting a flood risk assessment done.

SB said that he was attending the meeting to explain his role as Emergency Planning and Risk Manager for ELC.

He explained that there was one of 'him' in each Local Authority and that each authority has a statutory duty to draw up and implement an emergency response plan of action. He works with various other departments in the council and with external agencies (fire, police, etc) – all the groups that need to work together when things go wrong. He explained that he is not an engineer, but that he could pass on any technical questions.

He said that he looks at risks and if a risk is presents then he draws up a response plans and implements it where necessary (he also deals with

emergency recovery). He said that there have not been many incidents this year due to relatively good weather.

He explained that among the incidents he has dealt have been: a fire at the fire station in North Berwick, coastal flooding in North Berwick harbour, the Whitecraig gas explosion, the discovery of phosphorous grenades at MacMerry Primary School, and severe snow.

He explained that the main threats in Garvald are severe weather, flooding, utility failures, high winds and falling trees. This was discussed.

He explained that the Scottish Government has highlighted the strain placed on responder agencies created by bad weather – and that it has been acknowledged that communities will increasingly have to do something for themselves. He explained that government is not asking people to pick up the slack and that responder agencies will still respond, but that it is important to know what to do before the agencies arrives.

He handed out the *Guide to Emergency Planning for Community Groups (How to help make your community more resilient)*. This document sets out insurance and health and safety implications.

He explained that East Lammermuir has taken this issue to heart. For example, Spott has created its own plans.

He asked whether GMCC wanted to create a plan (2-3 pages) containing resources and assets to help vulnerable people. He suggested that a small group be brought together to progress this and that it should contact the general public to see who would be willing to be involved.

HC said that it was about formalizing good neighbourliness. PS said that it was something that GMCC has discussed and would be interested in discussing further.

PS said that anyone interested should visit the [www.readyscotland.org](http://www.readyscotland.org) website – which contains lots of information and guidance. She also said that she would send through any relevant information (to RB) for distribution.

She noted that a emergency planning meeting workshop was due to be held on the 25<sup>th</sup> October 2014 (at Brunton Theatre) and that RB and PS had said that they would attend on behalf of GMCC.

PS said that she would raise the question of flood risk in Garvald with the relevant officer.

Action: PS to act as above

## 7. Council Liaison Update

KS reported that no one has come forward with any problems. She noted that the corner by Garvald bridge is being attended to and that drain works have been done.

PS said that she would raise the issue of gabions at the bridge in Garvald with the relevant officer.

Action: PS to act as above

## 8. Broadband report

IS reported that the broadband hot spot had been installed in MVH.

He reported that they had connected a few more subscribers (four more this week), but that things had been quiet over the New Year.

## 9. Funding Report

PW reported that Hannah from Fred Olsen was going to get back with clarification on what is allowable under the Crystal Rig funding mechanism. PS volunteered to write to Hannah Acquokoh for further clarification on funding guidelines.

Action: PS as above.

PW also reported that two new funding applications had come through:

- 1) From a young man living just outside Haddington, for funding for participation in the National Youth Orchestra of Scotland.

It was felt that this was out-with the scope of the fund as it was not for the benefit of the local community (as stipulated in funding criteria).

Action: PW to write back to suggest that he apply to East Lothian Educational Trust.

- 2) A supplementary request from GVH for repairs – an additional £661.95 is required. This was agreed.

RB reported that Heidi Ingram had suggested that an 'annual report' of approved projects should be produced and put up on the web so that

people could see what decisions have been made. This was agreed and will be incorporated into March/April request for projects.

Action: PW to act as above.

IS asked whether he should advise Knox Academy to re-apply for funding for travel purposes. This was OK'd.

## **8. Treasurer's Report**

IM reported that funding for the Hockey Club had been OK'd and that the cheque had been written and sent.

A question was asked about how much was left in the Local Priorities fund.

Action: to find out, PW will e-mail Lillian – if enough is left, then this will be used to help fund GVH repair work (see Section 7 above).

GG said that the Local Priorities Fund could also be used to get MVH painted

IM reported that current balance in CC bank account was: £2,085.62

## **9. Planning Update**

Nothing significant has come up.

## **10. Neighbourhood Watch**

PW reported on developments with the new Garvald Neighbourhood Watch scheme.

This has been set up and 30 people attended a meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup> Jan. The scheme now has 48 members. Signs have been ordered and will be up in the next 2/3 weeks. The scheme is already working and has channeled information to the police on illegal hare coursing.

## **11. Woodland Update**

It was reported that replanting on the cleared bank in Garvald would take place in the next two months (weather permitting).

The wood that has been thinned and sold to James Mowat – he intends to chip a lot of the fallen/felled branches and to create a walk.

## 12. Garvald Update

HC reported that:

- GVH waiting for Community Service people to come and paint porch.
- A leak has been detected in the hall.
- Doors have been damaged by wet weather.
- Dog fouling is still a problem in the park and around the Village Hall precincts.

GG suggested that we highlight the disease problems that dog fouling to catch people's attention.

**Action: HC to write a letter for delivery/e-mail to each house, highlighting the problem.**

- AGM took place in Hall last week - one new Committee member has joined and two others have shown interest.
- DM suggested that GVH look into the Keystone Award Scheme to take pressure off individuals.
- Six weddings definitely booked for the Hall, along with a school Ceilidh.

## 13. Morham Update

DM reported that:

- MVH had a couple of good hires at the end of 2013 and some good hires in 2014 – so everything looking good.
- A great Burn Supper had been organised (which raised £600).
- Hotspots have been installed.
- Contractors have been up to look at door and drains.
- A summer-fruits hedge has been planted in the patio area.

## 13. AOCB

Tim Flynn had sent a letter asking whether Garvald be included in the Gifford circle bus run – it was suggested that he should be asked to write to the Councillor.

**Action: RB to write to this effect.**

A proposal for a change in the routing of power lines in the fields below the Grange had been received. Dave Neillans said that he had been in contact with the Church of Scotland and that there are concerns that the new wires will be visible from the Church.

Information had been received about the Scottish Rural Parliament – this is a new agency designed to encourage rural bodies to deliver policy ideas and priority themes to central government. A request has gone out to see whether individuals are interested in taking part.

**Action: KS will e-mail info to Rufus for circulation.**

**14. Date of Next Meeting**

7<sup>th</sup> April 2014 in Morham.