

GARVALD AND MORHAM COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Approved Minutes of Meeting, 5th August 2013
@ 7pm, Morham Village Hall

1. Attendance and Apologies for Absence

Attendance

Rufus Bellamy (Secretary), Ian Middlemass (Treasurer), David Murray (MVH Rep), Ian Smith (Member), Phillip White (Vice-chair).

Gary Galbraith

Apologies

Penny Short (Chair), Hazel Clark (GVH), Kirstie Shearer (Member), Cllr McMillan, Cllr Broun Lindsay

2. Minutes from Previous Meeting

Last minutes had been approved by e-mail.

An e-mail from HC raised the following point: "At the last meeting I should have stressed that from my visit to Penston House I learned that there is a very great difference in the cost of dealing with enquiries by email rather than by letter, phone or in person, and that email is much to be encouraged."

3. Matters arising from Minutes

Repairs to Morham bridge – Nothing has been done since last meeting.

Signs at Morham Bridge – an additional sign at Morham Mains has been installed. It was still felt that the village needs a new sign in a better position.

Action: KS to follow up.

Playpark Repairs – A 'painting party' took place on Saturday the 3rd August with very good support from the Garvald Community. All equipment was re-painted apart from the flying fox. The plan is to finish this in mid-August.

Dangerous Tree in Garvald – Scottish Woodland have surveyed the trees in Garvald and marked a selection of trees for felling/thinning including a number overhanging the road. First to come down will be the dangerous tree highlighted at the last CC meeting.

Broadband Signs – These are in the hands of Cllr McMillan who has passed the project on to the relevant department for manufacture – they should be delivered shortly.

Gabions at Garvald Bridge – This issue has been raised with by Cllr McMillan with the ELC's Peter Forsyth and countryside rangers – they will report back.

Snow Drift Preparedness – nothing has been done since last meeting. RB to keep a watching brief.

Applications to Crystal Rig – PW has sent out e-mails to all recipients saying that they will receive the funds decided at the last CC meeting pending the agreement of Crystal Rig. IM has sent last CC minutes to Crystal Rig to brief them on the deliberations that took place regarding the allocation of this year's funds. The £2,200 outstanding from last year's funds has been paid to Haddington and District Swimming Club to pay for recent exchange visit (as agreed by e-mail).

Road issues in Garvald - KS reported by e-mail that she is having problems getting the various potholes dealt with.

Action: PS to be asked to take this up with the Council and highlight health and safety issues, particularly with respect to the hole near the play park.

Dangerous Ditches - No reply had been received on the safety of ditches that had been cut at 90-degree to the road.

Action: KS to be asked to follow up.

4. Councilor's report

PW passed on the following update that had been sent by Cllr McMillan by e-mail:

- Garvald Fingerpost sign – message received from ELC's George Machray saying that, as part of county-wide work, he is going to refurbish this sign. He is hoping to see this work start in the Autumn.
- Peter Forsyth is aware of the various drainage problems in Garvald.

- Crumbling wall on the road up beside the Old School House in Garvald – tender has been put out for repair.
- Digital strategy for ELC is being developed and is progressing.

5. Council Liaison Update

No update available – but many issues covered during rest of the meeting.

6. Broadband report

IS reported that the Community Broadband group has got everyone upgraded to the new faster system and that they have added a few new customers along the way. A test system is also being run in Humbie.

He said that the new Hot Spot would soon be installed in Morham Village Hall – he explained that he would need access to the cupboard to do this and that he would give notice so that the cupboard can be cleared.

7. Funding Report

PW reported that he had received two new enquiries about funding from local residents (Mairi Neillans and Lorraine Hay). He said that he would ask each to submit applications for consideration at the next meeting.

Action: PW as above.

PW also highlighted an application he had received from David Connelly – a local archeologist wanting to look at the Iron Age Fort at Garvald Mains. David had requested £300 for the survey work and £600 for training and materials.

This application was discussed and it was agreed that, if David could give an assurance that local people would be involved and trained and if he could commit to giving feedback to the community (eg. through a display in the Village Hall or via a talk), then the application would be OK'd.

Action: PW to contact David Connelly as above.

RB said that he had been approached by a lady in the park (? Bob Hamilton's mother) and asked about the possibility of a tennis court being set up in Garvald. It was suggested that a working group be convened to look into this. IS said that the Lawn Tennis Association may give grants for this sort of thing.

Action: RB to look into this.

8. Treasurer's Report

IM handed out the profit and loss account for the last financial year:

Total income: 51,699

Deficit: 52,190

Deficit for the year: -491.

Current bank balance: £2191.24

9. Planning Update

PW reported that nothing significant had come up.

10. Garvald Update

PS had sent an e-mail explaining that she had followed up a request for the gate that leads into Garvald park to be repaired. It has been confirmed that the gate's spring will be replaced and a latch added. It is hoped that this work will be done by ELC's Landscape dept in August.

PW reported that the pavement at the Garvald Inn is to be repaired in August.

HC reported by e-mail that: Next event in Garvald Hall is the Flower Show on 31st August. Five weddings are already booked for 2014. The Village Hall Committee expect the minor upgrading of the "boiler cupboard" to happen soon.

Problems with the Post Office equipment are being rectified, and the regular Thursday service is to be from 9.30pm-11.30pm from 15th August.

11. Morham Update

DM reported that Morham Village Hall Committee had formally joined with ELC on the Keystone Award Scheme. The Village Hall will be mentored through the process by Kaela Scot – she is the Community Learning and Development officer at ELC.

IM noted the sad news that much loved Morham resident Mary Stenhouse had passed away. She was a long-standing Community Counsellor and respected local historian.

12. Garvald Woodlands Project

PW passed round an e-mail from Charlotte Cavey-Wilcox at Scottish Woodlands. This explained that thinning work will commence on the Garvald Woodland project in the last week of August. It also stated that the power shut down at Garvald for the main work will take place on the 2nd/3rd September.

The e-mail also noted that the timber from the project “will be stacked at roadside and will then be sold to partially cover the cost of the operation and as such members of the Public should be discouraged from taking the timber for their private firewood supply”.

The e-mail also stated: “I will be writing an invoice for our time to date spent dealing with gaining approvals etc and shall send you a copy via email. I will also send you a copy of the Sancta Maria Client Account statement showing the balance of the £17,000.00 grant from the community council.”

Action: PW will contact Charlotte to clarify the financial status of the project and ensure that no extra monies are due.

13. Date of Next Meeting

Monday, 7th October, Garvald Village Hall.