

## **GARVALD AND MORHAM COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

Approved Minutes of Meeting, 6th October 2014  
@ 7pm, Garvald Village Hall

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

#### **Attendance**

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

Pauline Haggerty

Cllr John McMillan

#### **Apologies**

Penny Short (Chair)

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

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

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

**Gabbions** – Rufus had sent photos to Filtrex and had got info back on how they would approach the bank re-building work.

**Action: RB to get in touch with the company to get costings.**

**Garvald Notice Board** – IM has paid the invoice.

**Local Area Partnership** – It was decided to address this issue later in the meeting.

**Mobile Mast** – PW reported that there are plans to progress one of the potential mast sites at Nunraw and that discussions with the monks' agent are under way (information obtained from Nick Allen at the Harlequin Group).

Elaine McQuade had passed on information about Vodafone's 'Rural Open Sure signal' and this was distributed. The company is looking for

applications from rural areas to bring mobile reception to villages.

Cllr McM said that Vodafone had been in for a provisional meeting with the Council.

**Action: Ian Smith and Cllr McM will review – Cllr will report back on the feasibility of the scheme.**

**Crystal Rigg application from Anna Derricourt** - has been forwarded to Crystal Rigg.

**Woodland Project** - Karl Ingram had sent a message to give an update on the tree project. This read: "Just to let you know there's still no progress on getting a quote for the tree felling work... We have contacted Charlotte at Scottish Woodlands twice in the last fortnight, but have heard nothing. I'll keep chasing."

#### **4. Councilors' report**

Cllr McM reported that his surgeries have been quiet.

He said that, unfortunately, he couldn't attend the meeting of the Local Area Partnership, but that he had heard that it was going well and that the group had been talking about proposals for Haddington's community hospital.

He commented on reports that the Haddington Community Development Trust had turned down a significant funding offer (by Viridor Credit) for the redevelopment of the Corn Exchange, due to concerns over an indemnity clause in the agreement. Cllr McM said there were still avenues to be pursued and that he hoped that the project would still go ahead.

PW noted that the path through Garvald park is in danger of grassing over.

**Action: Cllr McM said that he would let the relevant ELC dept know that the path needed weeding and that, potentially, some new hardcore should be put down.**

Cllr McM said that there was an upcoming meeting in the Town House, Haddington on Thurs the 9<sup>th</sup> October to discuss the roll out of rural broadband and to try and generate interest in and progress funding for this key service. He noted that Digital Scotland and Community Broadband Scotland would be there and that IS would be attending on behalf of Lothian Broadband. He said that this would be a good opportunity to press for better coverage in the CC region.

IS asked why there were so many 'blue light' ambulances heading into East Lothian from Edinburgh and whether this pointed to a lack of ambulances based in the county. Cllr McM said that ELC had been assured that coverage was adequate, but that there were still some questions about anomalies in ambulance response times.

**Action: IS to e-mail any specific concerns to the Cllr.**

KS said that there were problems with flooding at the crossroads half way between Morham and Standingstone Farm and that there was a blocked drain east of Standingstone Farm.

**Action: Cllr McM to follow up these issues.**

## **5. Haddington and Lammermuir Area Partnership**

PS had sent a report on this initiative:

"When these Area Partnerships were initially set up in April attendance by members of the Community Council at these meetings was questioned initially as we wondered what its relevance was to us. Phillip and I agreed to attend these meetings in turn and, at the inaugural meeting, steps were taken to produce an Area Plan which would detail the outcomes that local people wanted to see happen in their local area. These priorities will then form an Action Plan which will detail the actions needed to achieve the outcomes which will then (hopefully) be delivered by the appropriate service providers. My confidence level is high that the issues we believe to be important will be acted upon – I feel that our views are being taken on board.

At the last meeting of the Haddington and Lammermuir Area Partnership on 24 September a presentation was given on the new East Lothian Community Hospital as part of the key theme "Access to Health Services" which had been identified as a priority. The presentation was really interesting although I was bitterly disappointed (which I made clear) to learn that the new hospital would not contain an A & E unit, the reason given that there are simply not enough skilled practitioners available to provide a safe level of staffing. Nonetheless the whole project is very exciting with the first phase planned to begin in March 2016 and a proposed completion date of December 2018. The hospital will be based on the current site but will be significantly larger. We raised the issue of car parking (as obviously any of our residents will need to take their cars) and were assured that there will be large parking areas and no parking charges. There is a proposal to move the current Doctors' surgeries in Haddington to this site and the mental care facility currently based at

Herdmanflatt. The entire hospital will be upgraded and “joined up” (as there are currently a number of separate buildings) with more residential wards with en-suite facilities. There is also the possibility of a cafeteria and McMillan Centre within the hospital. There will be increased career opportunities and benefits to the local community.

The next Partnership Meeting will be held on 12 November but before that a special meeting will be held to discuss Community Broadband on Thursday 9 October. This meeting will clarify what broadband is available in each area of East Lothian and share some of the local ideas and initiatives that have already been implemented to address the problem. A representative from Community Broadband Scotland will outline some options and support available to communities to look at solutions for East Lothian. The meeting will also involve people from the Council’s IT Team, local businesses, members of the local community and representatives from the four Area Partnerships.

The next Partnership Meeting will focus on opportunities for children and young people in the ward. To reflect the focus the meeting will be held in the Knox Academy and young people will be involved – as they have been in all the Partnership Meetings from the onset. At least two pupils attend the Area Partnership meetings and their input is highly valued. This issue is, in my own view, the most important one and I am looking forward to exploring what can be done to enhance opportunities. The remit for this particular outcome is “To support children in our area to get the best start in life and provide our young people with opportunities to become successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens.” and the questions might include “What do you believe are the specific issues affecting the opportunities for children and young people in the ward and what can be done to address them?” The lack of effective broadband is obviously an issue but this of course will be discussed at the 12 Nov meeting. Transport also impacts on opportunities for kids and young people but again that issue will be discussed at a future meeting. If anyone has any thoughts or ideas on this subject I would be happy to convey them to the meeting. I’m also proposing to post something on our websites to try and get some feedback from our local community, particularly from young people and children, to see what they feel we could do to improve opportunities. The rest of the themes identified: Community Cohesion; Volunteering; and Strengthening the Local Economy should all be tackled at the forthcoming meetings with the issue of Transport being discussed at the next meeting provisionally organised for December.”

**Action: PS will attend the next meeting.**

**6. Update from Kirstie Shearer - Council Liaison Rep.**

KS said that there was nothing significant to report.

DM said that newly replaced streetlights in Morham were a distinct improvement.

**7. Update from Ian Smith - Broadband Rep.**

IS reported that Lothian Broadband was starting to establish a service in Midlothian by providing a connection to Cousland.

**8. Update from Philip White - Funding Rep.**

PW reported that no additional applications for funding had been received.

IS said that he had reminded the staff at Knox Academy that Crystal Rigg funding was available to fund European travel for pupils – as was the case last year.

**9. Update from Ian Middlemass - Treasurer**

IM noted that most outstanding issues had already been covered.

He reported that he had paid out all the cheques for the approved funding applications, although there had been a hold-up on the cheque for the Duke of Edinburgh application.

Bank balance: £2,897.86

**10. Planning Update**

PW said that nothing of any significance had come to light.

**11. Neighbourhood Watch**

PW said that he had received a Police report detailing three recent crimes:

1) 17<sup>th</sup> August – suspicious person at Castle Moffat – no persons found – may have been confusion on part of informant.

2) 22<sup>nd</sup> Sept – calls received from Garvald residents about shots that had been fired during the hours of darkness. Occupants of suspicious vehicle had been questioned by police and they had proved that they had permission from land owners to shoot – they were advised to inform Police of what they were up to in the future.

3) 5<sup>th</sup> October – car stolen near Garvald and Monastery had been broken into, tools also stolen from house in Nunraw area.

PW also reported that he had received an e-mail from a resident complaining about speed of tractors, tractor drivers on mobile phones and the size of tractors. IM said that there was legislation about the width of tractors that could travel without an escort (3m). PW said that if anyone was seen using a mobile phone on a tractor (or car) then they could be reported to the police.

## **12. Garvald Update**

HC reported that:

Tea boiler has been installed in the Village Hall kitchen – it is working well.

A '70s Disco will be held on the 25<sup>th</sup> October in the Village Hall.

The Flower Show was a success – numbers a little down, but standards good.

No projects were put forward for potential Crystal Rigg funding at the most recent Village Hall meeting.

Village Hall AGM on Wednesday the 8<sup>th</sup> October.

## **13. Morham Update**

DM reported that:

Picts playing at Morham Village Hall on the 1<sup>st</sup> November.

Ladies of Village holding a craft fair on 9<sup>th</sup> Nov.

**Action: DM will let Heidi know and ask her to put up an announcement on the web.**

The potential costs for the proposed roof repairs of the Village Hall have been questioned by tradesmen who came to give a quote - as additional damage may be found when the roof is taken off. The funding application for this project from Crystal Rigg is therefore on hold. Further research is going to be undertaken to get a better estimate for the scope of work that will be necessary.

**Action: DM will report back after Village Hall AGM.**

SCVO has asked Morham to contribute to the national post-Referendum discussion.

Action: DM to circulate details to CC members.

**14. AOCB**

IS reported that he had been along to a community coffee morning at Cousland (near Whitecraig) – this was thought to be a good idea that might be worth looking into for Garvald and Morham.

Action: HC to mention at Hall meeting.

It was noted that the light that illuminates the path up to Garvald Village Hall was felt to be too bright and that it shone directly into people's eyes.

Pauline highlighted the Gifford Film Club and suggested that a reminder of its existence be put up on the web.

Action: Pauline to get in touch with Heidi to progress this.

**15. Date of Next Meeting**

Monday, December 1st at Morham Village Hall.