

# **GARVALD AND MORHAM COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

Minutes of Meeting, 7<sup>th</sup> October 2013  
@ 7pm, Garvald Village Hall

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

### **Attendance**

Rufus Bellamy (Secretary), Kirstie Shearer (Member), Ian Middlemass (Treasurer), Ian Smith (Member), Phillip White (Vice-chair), Penny Short (Chair), Hazel Clark (GVH)

Gary Galbraith, Jimmy Thomson, Cllr Tom Trotter

### **Apologies**

David Murray, Cllr Broun Lindsay, Cllr John McMillan

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

PS welcomed all to the meeting. RB reported that the minutes from the last meeting had been approved by e-mail.

PS suggested that gritting and dog fouling issues should be discussed under AOCB.

An E-mail from East Lammermuir CC inviting G&MCC to a meeting to discuss wind farm funds was read out. It was decided to discuss this under AOCB as well.

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

(Some issues e.g. repairs to Morham Bridge were highlighted and then discussed later in the meeting at relevant points on the agenda).

**Broadband signs** – PS explained that, unfortunately, the Council's print dept hadn't been able to produce these, but had given details of a possible firm who could do the job. It was suggested that the Community Council print and laminate the signs using its own resources.

**Trees on Green Opposite Garvald Pub** – HC explained that she had raised the issue of trees on the green with the Council as she felt that they were too big. PS said that ELC's Michael Forsyth had said that he didn't

think that this was the case, but that he was happy to talk the issue through with HC.

**Trees around Garvald Telephone Exchange** - HC also raised the issue of trees around the telephone exchange because they 'are a mess'. It was thought that they are BT's responsibility. It was decided that a meeting should be arranged with interested parties to discuss all tree issues.

**Action:** Meeting to be arranged.

**Tennis court** – RB had taken no action on this issue, but would attempt to see what interest there was in taking it forward.

**Action:** RB as above.

#### **4. Councilor's report**

TT reported that there was nothing of particular relevance to Garvald and Morham to report and noted that nothing had been raised to him when he had visited the villages for his surgery. He also noted that attendance at these surgeries was low. HC suggested that the Garvald website be used to alert people to his visit.

JT noted that the Council was always helpful, but that one or two things always keep coming up e.g. gutter on bridge that gets blocked and causes ice in winter. Cllr Trotter said that he would chase it up.

**Action:** Cllr Trotter to contact Road Department over gutter at Garvald Bridge to see if it can be altered to reduce likelihood of blockage.

#### **5. Council Liaison Update**

PS said that Peter Forsyth was the key contact for road issues.

It was reported that two out of three road issues in Garvald (raised in previous meetings) had been rectified, but that the hole in the road on the corner at the bridge still had to be filled.

It was reported that the Morham Bridge repair has been planned, but not yet implemented. The need for extra signage had been queried by the council (to avoid over-proliferation of signs). GG said that the bridge was getting worse and that tractor drivers were moving barriers. IM suggested that farmers should be billed, but that this would need witnesses and police involvement. KS said that it was vital to get this issue resolved as the bridge is of historical significance.

Cllr TT suggested that farmers and councilors should get together to try and resolve problem. He said that he would “ask the question”.

**Action: TT to look into convening meeting as above and KS to keep pressing for action.**

It was reported that the collapsed gabions in the burn near Garvald Bridge had not been looked into yet. JT suggested that the burn could, perhaps, be slightly straightened to resolve the issue. KS said that she would clarify whose responsibility it was. RB said that there was a lot of interest in the village about getting this entrance to the park landscaped, but that the gabion issue needed to be resolved first.

**Action: KS to find out whose responsibility this is and try to move the issue forward (RB happy to help).**

The issue of the gutter at near Garvald Bridge was highlighted again. KS said that she would work with Cllr TT to get this issue looked into.

**Action: KS to follow up as above, in tandem with Cllr TT’s involvement.**

## 6. **Broadband report**

IS reported that the broadband team had increased subscribers by 10-15 subscribers and that they had also conducting a test in Humbie (five locations including Humbie Village Hall) – the results of this were good, so they may be thinking of expanding in this direction.

Hot spot in Morham not yet in place.

**Action: IS will talk to engineer to schedule Morham hotspot work and let MVH know when it will be done so that they can clear the space in preparation.**

IS gave an update on Lothian Broadband’s financial situation: In October 2011, Tyne-Esk LEADER withdrew the grant that they had awarded to Lothian Broadband because they found that they were in breach of EU State Aid law. The sudden unannounced withdrawal of the grant left Lothian Broadband with significant costs which should have been covered by the grant. East Lothian Council’s CEO, Angel Leitch, admitted that they had made errors of administration and stated publicly at the GMCC August 2012 meeting that these costs would be covered by the council’s insurance. 14 months later, in October 2013, Lothian Broadband was informed by the insurance company’s solicitor that they would not pay out. This has left Lothian Broadband carrying the significant costs created by the sudden withdrawal of the grant by East Lothian Council.

## 7. Funding Report

PW reported on the development of the David Connelly archaeology project – he is proposing to get four people from Garvald and Morham involved in the dig and will train them in survey techniques. He is also happy to give a talk on the dig and his findings in the village hall. It was therefore decided that the project should be put up for funding to Fred Olsen. GG said he was interested and that he'd put up information on the Morham website (and pass to RB so that he could put in on Garvald website).

**Action: IM will pass on this decision to Fred Olsen (along with copy of this meetings minutes) for their approval. GG as above.**

PW reported that three new applications for funding had been received.

- From Brigid Hay, asking for a contribution towards swimming equipment and support for her training (total: £6,123). It was decided to allocate her £1,020 to cover her pool club fees – this was decided in light of what had been allocated to others similar requests.
- From Claire Neilans, looking for a contribution to a school trip to China for archeological research (total: £3,760). Based on past contributions to student travel it was decided to give approx. 10% of this request - £350.
- Haddington fireworks committee – looking for a donation towards the funding for the 2013 firework display (total costs £5,000). (GG also said that the committee was also looking for help funding the Christmas lights). PS said that she thought that the amount being spent on the display was shocking. Due to the fact that the request came from outside the G&MCC region, it was decided not to give any money (again in line with past decisions on projects of this nature).

IM reminded that all of the applications had to be submitted to Fred Olsen for their consideration and that they could be turned down.

**Action: IM will pass on the above decisions to Fred Olsen (along with copy of this meetings minutes) for their approval.**

JT suggested that a budget should be set for school trips / music / sports etc – this was agreed. PW said that this would be done when the totals are tallied. PS said that flexibility was important.

IS said that he had been at a meeting at Knox about the school trips that the school organises and that it was clear that some parents couldn't afford to send their children on these. It was suggested that the Wind Farm money should be used to fund school trip places for a limited number of those in straightened financial circumstances if the school could advise on appropriate recipients. This was agreed in principle.

**Action: IS to take this decision to the head teacher for action, with applications then dealt with on a case-by-case basis.**

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

The G&MCC Profit and Loss account was discussed. It showed a deficit of £491 for the year to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013.

Current balance in bank: £2135.11

## **9. Planning Update**

PW said that there was nothing significant to report.

## **10. Garvald Update**

HC reported on a successful flower show and said that the AGM for the flower show would take place on the 24<sup>th</sup> October.

She also reported that a Poetry Competition was going on, that the Halloween party would take place on October 31<sup>st</sup> and the Christmas Fair on the 1<sup>st</sup> December.

She noted that several overhanging hedges were causing problems for those walking round the village. It was decided that a message should be placed on the Garvald website to try and get people to deal with the problem.

**Action: RB and HC to work up message and post it online.**

RB reported that play park painting had been completed by a team of village volunteers. HC noted that the goal posts still needed to be painted.

**Action: PS to chase up goal post painting with council.**

## **11. Morham Update**

GG reported that Morham Village Hall was holding a Halloween event on the 2<sup>nd</sup> November, with the Picts playing live (tickets £10).

He also explained that a meeting was being arranged to discuss plans for the Morham Christmas party and that an e-mail will be sent round when a decision had been made.

It was also reported (by DM in an e-mail) that the Midlothian Cycling Club will be using the village hall from December as a lunch stop on their East Lothian journeys.

## **12. Garvald Woodlands Project**

JT reported on the successful start of the Woodlands Project (which was first mooted in 2003!). He said that the majority of trees were already down and that thinning work in the North wood remained to be done, as did the planting of new trees and shrubs on the cleared bank. These new trees, he noted, would be chosen and positioned so that, when mature, they would not break the skyline.

He discussed the financial basis of the project, explaining that invoices were required from Scottish Woodlands to show that money was being spent on items that had been agreed. He emphasized that if expenditure went over the total amount agreed, then any additional money owing would be the responsibility of the monks at Nunraw.

## **13. AOCB**

RB read out letter from the SES Strategic Development Planning Authority announcing the publication of its approved strategic development plan.

PW said that the DoE Knox group had sent a thank-you for the Wind Farm money which had made its recent expedition possible.

HC raised the issue of dog fouling and she explained that there had been recent flagrant examples of the problem in the park in Garvald – she said that any such incidents should be reported to the council’s “Dog Watch” service website – and that advice to this effect should be put up on the website.

**Action: RB and HC to work up website message.**

RB read out letter from East Lammermuir CC explaining that they wanted to convene a meeting of Community Councils that receive wind farm funding to see if a communal/collaborative approach to using the money would pay dividends (proposed date: 12<sup>th</sup> Nov @ 7.30) – it was felt that it would be good to attend but that we didn’t have a problem with using the money.

Action: IM and PW said that they would go.

KS said that Karen Robinson at Standing Stones had asked whether the CC could help with getting warning notices put up regarding her horses.

Action: KS to write to the Council to chase this up.

TT highlighted the fact that Haddington Community Development Trust is looking at various ways of increasing foot flow in the town centre. He noted that one thing they are looking at are transport links. He asked people to get involved and said that if they wanted to they should get in touch with him.

PW reported that there had been a break-in in Garvald. He asked if anyone knew anything about Neighbourhood Watch. It was decided that this was something worth investigating. TT highlighted CAPP.

Action: PW to get info on Neighbourhood Watch.

#### **14. Date of Next Meeting**

Monday, Dec 2<sup>nd</sup> at Morham Village Hall.