

GARVALD AND MORHAM COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Approved Minutes of Meeting, 4th August 2014
@ 7pm, Morham Village Hall

1. Attendance and Apologies for Absence

Attendance

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

Apologies

David Murray (Morham VH)
Cllr John McMillan

2. Minutes from Previous Meeting

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

3. Matters arising from Previous Minutes

Gabbions: Penny had been in touch with Filtrex – they asked for photos of the damaged riverbank so that they could get a feel for the scope of the problem. RB to reply and ask them for a quote asap. PS will ask for more details about whether the ‘council option’ for the bank repair could be covered by the next tranche of civic pride funding.

Action: RB and PS as above.

Garvald Notice Board: Work has been carried out and invoice passed onto IM.

Action: IM to pay the invoice and contact Lilian Pryde for money to be reimbursed from Local Priorities fund.

Local Area Partnership: PW went to the first meeting of this organisation; PS went to second. They raised the following issues: the lack of opportunities for children and young people and the problems rural communities face accessing A&E.

There was some complaints from some attendees about the LAP process and that ideas were not being backed by any funding, however PS felt that it would be beneficial to be involved as the comments that people made seemed to be taken seriously. She also thought that it represented an opportunity for smaller CC to have a voice. It was decided that a GMCC representative should continue to attend to “see how its pans out”.

Action: PW to go to next meeting.

Poetry competition: Heidi Ingram has sent an application for Crystal Rigg funding for the village poetry comp – this was OK'd.

RB meeting: Nothing had progressed over the summer. It was decided that it was something to “keep it in mind” and act on when there is an opportunity.

Woodland project: Heidi and Karl Ingram (and Allan Nicholson) have been following this up and are looking at costs. PS expressed concerns about the inefficiency of Scottish Woodlands in the development of the previous Garvald Woodland project, although it was acknowledged that once the project had started they had been good.

Garvald and Morham Kirk funding request: PW wrote to Fiona Sheldon and explained the position on funding – he had received no reply as yet. HC has offered the village hall for fundraising purposes.

Other Crystal Rigg applicants – PW has contacted them to pass on the decisions made at the last meeting – OK's have been received.

Benches in Orchard – no reply received as yet.

Tim Flynn – Rufus got in contact with TF to ask him to talk to PW about access to the Guest House. PW had not heard from him.

| **4. Councilors' report**

No report provided as no Councilor present.

5. Update from Kirstie Shearer - Council Liaison Rep.

KS said that there was nothing significant to report, as most developments covered in review of minutes (see section 3).

6. Update from Ian Smith - Broadband Rep.

IS reported that:

- The community broadband team had put East coast FM on the air for a charity event.
- David Walls and Norrie McKinley would be going to a meeting with the council to discuss broadband roll out.

PW said that he had received a phone call from the Harlequin Group explaining that Garvald has been designated as a telecom black spot and that government funding was available to put in a mobile phone mast.

IS and PW had subsequently met a rep from the group with a view to getting a mobile signal into the village. They had walked up to the Abbey to get a view of the grounds. It was made clear to them that the key issues were the problems of getting a direct signal into the village and the visual impact of any mast. It was hoped that it might be possible to put up a 20m mast that would blend into the trees. If these challenges are resolved and the mast gets the go-ahead, then it should be up and running within six to nine months.

IS hoped that, if a mobile phone mast was put in, then the broadband could 'piggy back' on it.

Action: PW and IS will be kept "in the loop" by the mast developers.

7. Update from Philip White - Funding Rep.

All previous funding applications for Crystal Rigg money had been OK'd.

Action: IM to send out the cheques.

It was reported that Finlay Hay, who had received support to study guitar, had secured a place at the prestigious Yehudi Menuhin music school.

PW reported that one application had been received from Anna Dericourt for £400 for the Morham and Garvald Christmas Party. All were happy to support this request.

Action: IM to put up her application up to Crystal Rigg.

8. Update from Ian Middlemass - Treasurer

Ian distributed the profit and loss account for the year to 31st March 2014. This showed that there was a deficit for the year of £593.

He reported that:

- there was £1,164 left unspent from the Crystal Rigg fund and that everything that has been applied for has been paid (ie. all agreed items from last meeting).
- the minimum allocated under the Crystal Rigg scheme for the coming year was: £25,073.
- the current balance in the CC accounts stands at: £8,625.05 – current balance.

9. Planning Update

PW reported that nothing significant had come up.

10. Neighbourhood Watch

PW reported that the scheme was “ticking over nicely” and that it now had 49 members (two moved, two joined). PW said that he was continuing to send out info on scams etc. via e-mail to residents.

11. Garvald Update

HC reported that not a lot had happened in the previous two months. She highlighted that:

- The unpaid work team had finished the painting work in the hall.
- There had been three recent weddings and that a lady had been contracted to clean the hall and takes on organisational duties. She said that this had made things much easier for the Village Hall Committee.
- Sylvia Murray was doing an upholstery course at the Village Hall.
- The Flower Show would be on the 30th August. She said that schedules were on the website and that hard copies were available from Ken Mallen or Norma Thomson.

12. Morham Update

DM had sent a report by e-mail. This highlighted a good summer for Morham Village Hall with a general upward trend in use.

DM also flagged up a potential £7k spend for the replacement of Morham Village Hall’s roof, however he noted that potential bidders for the work

have highlighted that it would be reasonable to assume that the removal of the corrugated sheets would reveal damage to the sub-structure and that costs might therefore rise.

He said that a couple of the Village Hall Committee were looking into this matter and that their application for Crystal Rigg financing for structural repairs would land on the table in the future. He recommended that leaving the project as 'potential' would be the safest course of action for the time being.

13. AOCB

PS said she had a message from Crystal Rigg saying that they are looking to expand the wind farm.

RB passed on an invitation for the World War One Drumhead Service to be held at the Esplanade, Edinburgh Castle.

Action: RB to pass the invite on to Jimmy Thomson.

IS reported on a recent meeting of a community group that has got together to buy the old market in East Linton with the aim of turning it into a community centre – the idea is to lease out offices to small businesses. It was highlighted that they were having an open day in East Linton Village Hall in August.

PS read out a letter from the East Lothian Care and Repair charitable trust asking for support.

An update from the Climate Change challenge fund was read out – grants are available for community groups to reduce carbon emissions etc.

14. Date of Next Meeting

Monday, October 6th at Garvald Village Hall.