

GARVALD AND MORHAM COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Approved Minutes of Meeting, 5th December 2011
@ 7pm, Garvald Stables.

1. Attendance and Apologies for Absence

Attendance

Rufus Bellamy (Secretary), Hazel Clark (GVH Rep), Ian Middlemass (Treasurer), Cllr Sheena Richardson, Ian Smith (Broadband), Tim Flinn (Member), Hannah Stenhouse (Morham Village Hall Rep). Jimmy Thomson (Vice-chair) and Julia White (Chair).

Apologies

Cllr Broun Lindsay, Wilma Marwick (Member), Philip White, David Murray

2. Election of new members

JW explained that there were two spaces available for new members and that several applications had been received.

She proposed that Philip White and Penny Short join as full members and that Ian Smith and David Walls be invited to continue as co-opted members. JT seconded this and said that he would advise the two new members that they had been elected.

Action: JT as above.

JW noted that full CC elections will be held in the Autumn of next year and that all places will be up for election at that point.

She also suggested that there should be an evening out or a drink at the Garvald Inn to get to know the new members – this was generally agreed. The 27th of January was suggested as a date. JW said she would organize the get together.

Action: JW as above.

3. Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes were checked. The woodland section was queried – JT said that there was nothing more to report.

TF proposed minutes be accepted and this was agreed.

4. Matters Arising from Minutes of Last Meeting

JW said that she had gone with Anne Hunter to talk to Cllr Broun Lindsay at his surgery about the danger posed by the wall at Morham bridge (to traffic and to young children going down to the burn) – she reported that Ludovick was of the opinion that the wall was the council's responsibility and that he would look into it. Cllr Richardson said she would also ask the inspectors what they were going to do about it.

Action: Cllr Richardson as above.

5. Correspondence

The following correspondence issues were discussed:

1) A Letter from head of adult social care (Murray Leys) which asked CC's for any support that they could give to older people – eg. clearing paths, providing 4x4, highlighting isolation etc. - HC said that perhaps the Council's Social Work dept might get in touch with CC to alert them to anyone they felt might get into trouble in an emergency or in bad weather. Cllr Richardson said that it was more a case of highlighting people in isolation. There was general agreement that most old people in the area had good support from their neighbours. The letter was noted for future reference.

2) A public consultation on police station counters.

3) a feasibility study on Amisfield Stable Block (not in area, but just looking for ideas).

4) A letter from East Lothian Bus Users group which said that the group was potentially not able to continue and that the members were looking for advice/feedback.

5) ELC Community Outreach Strategy – this was noted. Julia said she would review.

6) Letters from Fiona O'Donnell and Ian Grey (MPs) thanking us for our work and asking if anyone wanted to get in touch.

7) An invitation to ELC Christmas reception on 14th Dec.

8) Details of a new Care at Home service called Bluebird Care.

9) A letter about the Civic fund – HC said she had looked into using the funding to clear the area around the entrance to the burn in Garvald but had felt that it was within the purview of the Council – therefore not eligible for the fund. It was reported that Morham had applied, under the fund, for a Patio area, seating and retaining wall.

6. Grants and Funding

1) Crystal Rigg

IM reported that all Crystal Rigg grant money was now in CC account. JW explained that all applications had been considered and ‘winners’ approved. RB said that letter confirming awards had been sent to IM. It was agreed that all cheques could now be sent out, except the one for the Woodlands project (see below).

IM said he would get cheques counter signed by JT and send off the money. Paperwork was passed over to him.

JW asked everyone to let all community groups know about the Crystal Rigg money. It was agreed that Garvald Hall repairs and Broadband would be considered in the next tranche of awards.

Action: JT and IM as above.

It was noted that, in the future, the application forms should be amended so that we know who to make the cheques payable to.

2) Woodlands Project

JT reported that Father Mark had apologized to him for the project dragging on and that this was due to the land agent and the illness of the rep. from Scottish Woodlands (Charlotte Cavey-Wilcox).

JT noted that the Woodland Committee had not been disbanded (as per Newsletter) and that it could be called upon if needed. He concluded by saying that the whole project should be completed by the beginning of the Summer.

3) General

Christmas Party funding – a letter has been received from Garvald Village Hall asking for a donation for a children’s party on the 23rd December;

Morham VH had also requested funds for a similar party on Saturday 10th. – it was decided to allocate £150 to each.

It was reported that £950 was available in the Local Priorities Fund and that applications are needed – HC said that GVH needed £149 for insulation plus £300 to put a broken beam right. It was decided to put forward this request and to wait for further applications. HS said she would look into the situation in Morham.

Action: HS as above.

7. Broadband Report

IS presented an in-depth report on developments, starting with a brief history of the project and finishing with an update of recent events. He reported that, since October, the project and funding had been suspended when East Lothian Council/Tyne-Esk LEADER realised that the grant award contravened EU State Aid rules.

He said that Lothian Broadband activities had therefore been reduced to a minimum to conserve funding. Planned upgrades to the existing legacy system had been put on hold and that they were investigating alternative funding models.

He said that: “We have submitted a reconfigured funding model to East Lothian Council/Tyne-Esk LEADER which divides the project into several phases. The first phase is to be funded by a reduced grant. Further phases will be funded by community share issues. We await East Lothian Council/Tyne-Esk LEADER’s decision.”

He also explained that additional costs have been incurred by:

- Having to maintain the legacy broadband system instead of replacing it with the new equipment;
- Being unable to add new subscribers; and
- Having to continue to pay the running costs of the co-operative whilst it has been unable to progress at the rate it should have done.

However, he said that Lothian Broadband is optimistic that the project will be resumed shortly and that it can make a fresh start as soon as possible. He said that the Directors are determined that they will roll out our next generation broadband system to the community in 2012. He finished by saying that “it promises to be an exciting time as we start to engage the community in the activities of its broadband co-operative”.

8. Councillors' Report

Cllr Richardson reported on ELC's plan on how road repairs will be managed – over the last few years a lot more money has been put into the local roads and a structured programme is now on the table.

She reported that the 'big issue' has been the shared management of services in Education – it has been agreed that there will be some shared joint management (a joint head of Education has been appointed) and this will be done on a cautious, incremental basis and if things go wrong it will be reviewed.

Despite this caution, she said she has serious doubts about this plan as it was not so long ago that Education in the Lothian region was broken up. She felt that it would be better if management remained close to schools and that the plan had been limited to sharing services.

She reported that there had been no movement on the Community Hospital (which is planned for the Roodland's site) - hopefully this will happen in January. She explained that part of the delay is due to the fact that the funding depends on the sale of Eden Hall.

The proposal to put community services under a trust has been put off until after the election.

There has been a lot of interest in selling council houses and other properties back to the Council.

Hazel noted that there were white lines along the road from Barro to Tanderlane and asked 'why?' The Cllr explained that this was to keep vehicles from the edge of the road to lessen damage.

9. Local Planning Applications

Cllr Richardson reported that the Standingstone turbine decision had been turned down. Cllr Richardson (who was on review panel) said that it was obvious that it would have had a significant visual impact and that it would therefore be a conspicuous item in the landscape. This meant that – in line with the recent consultancy document on windfarm development – the decision to turn down the application had been relatively easy to make.

10. Treasurer's Report

IM reported that the total balance in the CC account stood at £25,129 – most of this is Crystal Rigg funds, £430 is the CC's own funds (plus marquee hire), and 2,200 from Broadband.

11. Garvald Update

HC reported that Garvald had just had its Christmas Fair. No Burn's supper this year, but a Ceilidh at New Year – tickets £10, school children £3 and under fives free.

It was noted that the village hall is looking for help with its Committee – those on the committee are finding it hard work.

12. Morham Update

HS reported that the Halloween Dance had been a success and that proceeds will be used to buy new Christmas decorations.

She said that there would be a children's party on the coming Saturday followed by drinks and the switching on of the outside tree. She noted that there were plans to have an event on New Years day.

DM said that the fire extinguishers in the village hall needed replacing (corroded) and that various other items (eg. lighting for patio) had been asked for.

13. A.O.C.B.

It was reported that snow shovels have been supplied by the Council.

14. Date of Next Meeting

Monday 6th Feb at Morham Village Hall.