

GARVALD AND MORHAM COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting, 15th October 2012
@ 7pm, Garvald Stables

1. Attendance and Apologies for Absence

Attendance

Rufus Bellamy, Hazel Clark, Ian Middlemass, Kirstie Shearer, Penny Short, Phillip White, Ian Smith.

Cllr Broun Lindsay, Cllr McMillan

Apologies

David Murray had sent apologies.

2. Allocation of Community Council Posts

Cllr BL and Cllr McM congratulated all present on being elected in recent CC election.

Cllr BL asked for nominations for Chairperson and other posts. The following decisions were made:

- **Chair:** Penny Short. Proposed by IM, seconded by PW.
- **Vice-chair:** Phillip White. Proposed by RB, seconded by IM.
- **Treasurer:** Ian Middlemass. Proposed by IS, seconded by PW.
- **Secretary:** Rufus Bellamy. Proposed by IS, seconded by IM.

Minutes of Last Meeting

The spelling of Kirstie Shearer's name was corrected.

It was noted that the key message with respect to mobile phones was "No 4G before 3G".

Minutes approved pending corrections.

4. Matters arising

Crystal Rigg: IM said that the Crystal Rigg money hadn't been paid in yet and explained that the organisation had asked for copies of all the applications and that this could, unfortunately, delay things.

Action: IM will send the required paper work.

Speeding sign: PS reported that she had followed this up and that she had got an e-mail from Brian Cooper saying that the sign will be put in towards West End of the village in three weeks time. This was welcomed.

Mobile Phones: RB hasn't got in touch with Graham yet – he will do this.

Morham Bridge: It was reported that Morham bridge has been hit again on the southside parapet. KS suggested that a sign should be put up saying 'road narrowing' as her son had almost been injured by a car when crossing the bridge on his bicycle. Cllr McM said that he would take this forward.

Action: Cllr McM as above.

Hopes Road: Cllr McM said that he didn't think that this issue was before the Council yet and that it would have to go for public consultation. PS advised that we look at the 'Tell Me' Scotland website which gives alerts of planning and road closures. It was decided to keep a watching brief on developments.

Garvald Woodland: It was reported that Jimmy Thomson had sent through an 'update' e-mail on 15th October 2012. This highlighted the following key points:

- Everyone concerned is very keen to bring this to a conclusion - the aim is still to have these trees down later this year.
- The exceptionally late harvest has pushed thing back significantly. However the tenant, Mr Hamilton, appreciates the position and is happy for the trees to be taken over this land, and is prepared to replant where necessary.
- Scottish Woodlands are totally frustrated at the Scottish Forestry Commission for the delays in finalising the documentation required to allow them to proceed. However it appears this is not an unusual situation for them to be in.

PW said that as there was a lot of interest in the village about what is

happening. RB to ask JT to send an update to the Community website and to keep Community Council in the loop.

Potholes: The potholes highlighted by Toni Bunch have been fixed.

Drain near Garvald Bridge: Cones have been placed next to it. HC also highlighted a second deteriorating drain further up the village (in vicinity of Hall).

5. Review of Responsibilities

The different responsibilities managed by the CC were discussed and the following jobs were allocated/decisions made:

- 1) **Broadband rep.** – IS happy to continue as part of a sub-committee with David Walls.
- 2) **Funding rep.** – PW to lead on funding, with key responsibilities being Crystal Rigg windfarm money and local priorities fund; PW, RB, KS and IM to form a Crystall Rigg subcommittee. It was decided that PW should distribute 'signpost to funding' to key community groups and look into ELVON (East Lothian Volunteer Network) – Cllr McM said that he would do some research for this. on.
- 3) **Planning applications** – PW said he would be happy to continue fielding these.
- 4) **Minutes secretary** – RB as before.
- 5) **Woodlands project rep.** – it was decided that co-opted members HC, Jimmy Thomson and Lorraine Hay would be asked to keep CC in touch with developments.
- 6) **Council Liaison Officer** – KS volunteered for this role.

6. Grants and Funding

The local priorities fund was discussed. £1,875.30 remains in the kitty. Garvald Village Hall has yet to claim £149 for insulation – therefore £1,588.30 left to spend.

GVH looking into buying a tea urn.

Action: RB to send e-mail to MVH to say that money is available.

7. Broadband Report

Lothian Broadband's constitution was discussed – it needs to have a community councilor on board.

Due to his position on the board, IM has not taken part in discussions with

respect to the financing of Lothian Broadband. It was emphasized that this was as per the CC's written constitution and that this approach will continue to be adhered to by all members whenever there is a relevant external interest.

IS reported that he had recently been in London at the NextGen conference and in Skye at a Broadband conference. At the Skye conference, a new fund for rural broadband was announced. First funding round closed, subsequent rounds to be open. Websites have been set up to promote Scottish rural broadband.

IS reported that Lothian Broadband was more developed than most of the groups around Scotland.

8. Councillor's Report

Cllr McM reported that ELC's economic development in tourism strategy had been recently launched and that it focused on creating jobs, being sustainable etc.

He discussed broadband connectivity and noted that although BT says that there is good broadband in the region (because urban areas are well served), rural East Lothian is still missing out.

IS said that there was possibility of Lothian Broadband providing broadband to the Open – Cllr McM said that he knew that BT had put in cabling.

Cllr McM explained that a Main Issues report was being prepared on the East Lothian Local Development Plan and that the main concern was that the rural voice wasn't being heard.

It was noted that the road priorities were being changed in part of Haddington's one way system.

Lack of parking for new football pitches was discussed.

HC highlighted that visibility is poor at the T-junction opposite Cockles Smiddy.

Local Planning Applications

None

Garvald Update

HC invited CC to have meetings in the Hall – it agreed that this would be the new 'Garvald venue' from now on.

HC reported that Lothian Broadband's offer of wifi connection in the hall had been discussed by the VH committee and that it would be much appreciated.

9. Morham Update

No further update on last meeting.

10.A.O.C.B.

PS said that she had contacted Andrew Hogarth at ELC about the Garvald Playpark bench – he is still trying to locate bench.

The Garvald Playpark equipment was discussed. This is checked weekly for sharp edges, monthly by a 'Play Officer' and annually by an external engineer. However, it was felt that on-going maintenance was lacking.

Action: RB to look into whether the playpark equipment needs a reapplication of preservatives and to see how this can be progressed.

11. Date of Next Meeting

Monday, Dec 3rd at 7.00pm Morham Village Hall.