

GARVALD AND MORHAM COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting, 7th April 2014
@ 7pm, Morham Village Hall

1. Attendance and Apologies for Absence

Attendance

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

Bernie Haggerty, Pauline Haggerty,

Cllr Tom Trotter
Cllr John McMillan

2. Minutes from Previous Meeting

Approved and subsequently distributed by e-mail/web.

3. Matters arising from Previous Minutes

PW had written to Festival of Lights as requested – no response so far.

First responders – RB reported that Eric in Garvald had expressed an interest.

Flood risk in Garvald – PS said that she had talked to various people and that Dave Northcoat at ELC had explained that flooding issues fall under SEPA. She had then looked at the SEPA website and found lots of info, flood maps, flood line etc. HC said that as long as gullies and drains kept clear there was no major issue to be addressed.

The gabions in Garvald – PS said that she had spoken to Dave Northcoat and that Andrew Hogarth had come out to look at the problem and had met with PW and HC. He had explained that there was not a lot of money or manpower available to deal with the issue. He said that he would get an external contractor to provide a quote on fixing the gabions. It was suggested that the Civic Pride fund could be used for this – PW said that he would look into this when the quote came through.

Action: PW as above

Funding report – PS said that she had written to Hannah at Fred Olsen to find out how much money was left in this year's allocation and to get clarification on funding criteria. About £7,000-plus remains (up till 30th September 2014). Guideline letter on clarification has been promised.

Action: PS to ask for clarification on whether money can be rolled over and used next year.

Funding issues - PW has written back to the applicant about National Youth Orchestra funding. PW reported that a Local Priorities Fund request for Garvald village hall repairs had been received and approved and that the village hall has received the funds.

Dog fouling letter – HC said that she had written and delivered this letter. She noted that although this has had some effect, it is not curing the problem. ELC has said that they will put up a notice at the entrance to the park.

Tim Flynn correspondence - RB has written to Tim Flynn as requested and has circulated information on the Scottish Rural Parliament.

4. Councillors' report

Cllr TT announced that the Local Area partnership meeting was coming up on the 30th.

He addressed recent allegations of drug taking at Knox Academy - it was felt that this issue had been blown out of proportion and that the school was handling it professionally.

He also noted that the Council was getting to the end of its Broadband Consultation and that progress was being made with Open Reach and that Community Broadband Scotland is looking at how best to deal with 'not-spots'.

He highlighted the importance of supporting the CAPP (Community and Police Partnership). Cllr McM highlighted the fact that any community policing issues can be raised through an e-mail to Lynn Black or to one of the Councillors.

5. Resilient People – Emergency Planning

PS explained that this item had been included on the agenda in response to Sandy Baptie's visit to the last CC meeting. She said that she proposed

sending out a notice to the community to see who would be interested in joining a working party to draw up Community Response Emergency Plans for Garvald and Morham (one for each village). She explained that these plans could be put up on the two village websites and notice boards and could also be posted through people's letterboxes.

PS read out a letter she had written to gauge interest and to, potentially, recruit a team of people to provide an emergency response to problems such as severe weather, missing people or medical emergencies.

It was agreed that this should be taken forward to see what interest there might be, although there was a general feeling that the approach might not be needed or feasible.

Action: PS as above.

IS suggested that the villages might benefit from having a defibrillator. Cllr McL said that these days such devices were pretty 'idiot proof' (cost approx - £1,700) and that other Community Councils (e.g. Gifford) were looking into them.

6. Update from Kirstie Shearer - Council Liaison Rep.

KS said that most of the issues she was covering had already been dealt with.

PW raised the issue of a flickering lamp (outside Garvald Village Hall). Another lamp problem was also highlighted (outside Tim Flynn's house).

Action: KS to follow up.

7. Update from Ian Smith - Broadband Rep.

IS reported that Lothian Broadband had been awarded a contract from Humble community to design a broadband scheme. For more details on Lothian Broadband see <http://lothianbroadband.coop/>

8. Update from Philip White - Funding Rep.

PW reported that he had received one funding application (for £627.99) from Garvald Village Hall to provide equipment to increase the volume of hot water available for dishwashing etc. This was approved.

PW asked for guidance on how to raise the profile of the Crystal Rig fund – it was felt that the current arrangements were doing fine and that publicising it outwith the village (i.e. through newspaper ads) would just

produce applications from further afield that would have been be turned down.

KS said that there had been a number of new people moving into the area – she asked if they had linked up to the broadband and made aware of the various mailing lists. HC suggested that a letter be put together to alert them to all relevant issues/contacts/funds etc.

9. Update from Ian Middlemass - Treasurer

IS reported that the current balance in the CC's bank account was: £2,231.62

He explained that a new financial year was starting and that he would therefore get the accounts audited.

HC noted that the latest Local Priorities Fund allocation is £980, which is down from last year.

10. Planning Update

Nothing significant reported.

11. Neighbourhood Watch

PW explained that all the neighbourhood watch signs had been put up (paid for by the Local Priorities Fund). He also explained that he is now sending out regular information round-ups on Neighbourhood Watch issues via e-mail.

12. Woodland Update

PW reported that he had sent out a letter and e-mail asking for help to clear the felled timber off the bank in Garvald. He explained that he had got an excellent response and that over five weekends the bank had been partly cleared (about 10 people per weekend had showed up to help).

He explained that the cleared wood had been stacked up and was ready to be taken away by anyone who could use it. He said that if anyone needed wood but was unable to fetch it themselves, then he should be alerted and would then get someone to deliver a load round.

PS thanked PW for setting up the clearance project.

13. Garvald Update

HC reported that there would be no plant sale at Garvald this year and that the jumble sale would be on the 6th June. She passed on the thanks of the Village Hall Committee for the money for repairs.

She said that the ELC's Unpaid Work Team had brought the paint for the refurbishment of the boiler cupboard and back porch and that this work will be done shortly.

RB reported that the wood down one side of the Garvald notice board had split and that a joiner would be needed to fix it. It was suggested that this could be paid for through the Local Priorities Fund.

Action: RB to contact Barrie Rollo for a quote for this work.

14. Morham Update

DM reported that the damaged wall in Morham is being repaired by the unpaid work team, that there is now wifi access in the hall, that drainage work has been completed, that doors have been installed and will be painted and that the village hall has taken delivery of some chairs from Nunraw Guest House.

He also noted that a price had been obtained for the replacement of the Village Hall's corrugated iron roof (there have been some leaks). He explained that this is a start of a future project that may result in a funding request. IS suggested that this work might be eligible for VIRIDOR landfill tax funding.

DM let everyone know that the village hall is hosting a musical play (on the 27th May). This is featured in the Haddington Festival programme.

He said that a Neighbourhood Watch scheme for Morham (along the lines of the one that has been set up in Garvald) is being looked into.

15. AOCB

It was reported that Lynn Black (community police contact) had sent a Police Report from the last CAPP meeting. This listed three priorities: drug issues in Haddington, anti-social behaviour in Gifford and parking issues in Haddington. The next CAPP meeting is scheduled for Monday the 28th. It also said that there had been a suspected poaching incident at Morham and that the police were launching a campaign against doorstep crime.

It was reported that Heidi and Karl Ingram were organising a woodland meeting in Garvald to gauge opinion on extending the woodland work in the village.

The Civic Pride fund's closing date is the 30th May - Stuart Pride is the key contact for applications.

Details of the Haddington Area Partnership (HAP) meeting on the 30th April were read out and it was explained that this new group is looking for two people to attend. HC said that a letter should be sent through asking for clarification of the purpose of the HAP group, as it was generally felt that its relevance was unclear. It was decided that PS would talk to Gifford Community Council, the Council Leader and Paolo Vestri about the idea.

Action: PS as above.

16. Date of Next Meeting

Monday, June 2nd at Garvald Village Hall.