

GARVALD AND MORHAM COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Approved Minutes of Meeting, 2nd February 2015
@ 7pm, Garvald Village Hall

1. Attendance and Apologies for Absence

Attendance

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

Fiona Sheldon
Karl Ingram

Cllr Tom Trotter
Cllr John McMillan

Apologies

Ian Middlemass (Treasurer),

PS distributed documents relating to the ELC's Local Development Plan and explained that they could be accessed via the web. TT said that it was important to give feedback if there were any problems or concerns (deadline for this feedback was the 4th of Feb).

2. Minutes from Previous Meeting

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

3. Matters arising from Previous Minutes

RB has replied to the Filtrex quote (saying out of our price range and that we were looking for alternatives).

Local development plan – to be discussed later.

Haddington & Lammermuir Area Partnership – to be discussed later.

Parking in Garvald – PS said that she had spoken to Peter Forsyth and that there was, unfortunately no quick solutions. It had been explained that this would be an issue that would fall under housing.

Action: Penny will look into this in more detail.

IS suggested that the rates should be put up by 10% to mitigate funding squeeze. TT said that, for those in financial difficulties this would create problems. He explained that there was a need to have a balance between funding and service provision.

TT said that he was going to have to reassess his surgery visits/times as attendance was very low as most now people e-mailed him their concerns.

It was reported that the gully that had been blocked near KS' home was still blocked.

Slippery wooden bridges (and other issues such as gates etc) – these had been raised with Stuart Pride and he will respond in the Spring.

4. ELC's Proposed Local Development Plan

PS circulated a letter she had drafted as a response by the CC to the ELC's Main Issues Report (MIR) – this said that area covered by the CC has little capacity for new development and set out the reasons why the proposed development at the Garvald Glebe was a "very poor" idea. She said that she had also raised the lack of off-street parking in Garvald, and the issues of poor broadband connectivity and mobile phone reception.

HC suggested that the lack of public transport should be raised; although it was thought that "only a few people" would use it.

Cllr JMcM talked about discussions that had taken place at a recent rural development workshop at the Corn Exchange in Haddington – this had focused on how the MIR report would affect rural communities in East Lothian.

PS read out the online MIR consultation questions (accessed through ELC's website – online consultation on the East Lothian Local Development Plan Main Issue Report). Everyone was encouraged to put in their comments – deadline for this was Sunday 8th Feb.

PS also noted that the Haddington and Lammermuir Local Area Partnership would be meeting soon to discuss it (@ Bolton on Wednesday the 4th Feb).

Cllr McM talked about the economic development aspect of the MIR and noted that the area around Garvald had little / no potential for this.

FS raised an anomaly that she said was unique to the planning system in East Lothian – that a person could only renovate a derelict cottage if its walls were a certain height. She said that this was an issue that was stopping the development of much needed homes.

5. Councilors' report

The Cllrs reported that the Council budget is the “big thing just now” and that all the political groups were focusing in on it. TT explained that “there are difficult decisions to be made and there are going to be some areas hit harder than others.”

Concerns about the loss of community police officers were raised (TT hoped that this would not be the case).

It was reported that the Castle Park Golf Course outside Gifford is closing and that the area will revert back to farmland.

6. Haddington and Lammermuir Area Partnership

PS passed around newsletters relating to the work of the LAPs – these showed what the LAPs have talked about and who is involved in each – she noted that in some areas Local Councillors and CC's are not represented.

She explained that the H&L LAP is looking at access to health services, broadband access, the usage of and demand for community resources and opportunities for children and young people.

PW explained that he had been to a meeting in Dec. and that this had dealt with Health and Social Care – key issues had related to services for children and the challenge of bed-blocking.

FS raised the issue of a lack of good psychiatric care in East Lothian.

PS explained that the LAP are being given a budget of £100,000 to spend on key amenity services – this spend will be prioritized based on the discussions the LAPs have had / will have. She said that it is hoped that this will give the LAPs a stronger voice and more credibility.

7. Update from Kirstie Shearer - Council Liaison Rep.

KS said that, to her knowledge nothing significant has happened – she therefore assumed that all is fine.

8. Update from Ian Smith - Broadband Rep.

IS reported that “everything is ticking away”.

Cllr JMCM reported on a survey relating to broadband provision that had been put out by Community Broadband Scotland. He explained that the group is looking at demand and so they roll out adequate provision across the country. He said that they need evidence – so that it was therefore important to highlight any problems fast service and the need for alternative provision. He asked everyone to go onto the consultation site (link on the ELC’s Website).

9. Update from Philip White - Funding Rep.

PW reported that there had been two recent applications

1) From Brigid Hay asking for support for her swimming training – she has been doing very well with her swimming and has won a number of medals and awards. Based on previous awards and the support given to Scot Thomson it was decided to award her £2,000 pounds.

2) Haddington and District Swimming Club asking for support for a trip to France, involving seven swimmers from the CC area. It was explained that the club has already raised approx £4k towards the £11k costs and that more fund-raising activities planned. It was agreed to award them £3,000.

PS read out a lovely e-mail from Katie Corstorphine regarding the Morham Candlelit Carols – she said that this had been a great evening and thanked the CC for its generous support.

10. Update from Ian Middlemass – Treasurer

IM had sent the following report by e-mail: “I've nothing much to report anyway, as there's been no activity on the account since the Christmas party cheques were sent out. The current balance stands at £2195.29.”

11. Planning Update

PW reported that nothing untowards had come up.

12. Neighbourhood Watch

PW read out a report from Police Scotland covering the period from the 10th – 12th Jan 2015. This highlighted a number of break-ins and incidents in the area around Garvald and Morham, including the theft of a sat nav, agricultural equipment and three cars. He said that images of the crooks

had been caught on CCTV in Garvald and that this had led to an on-going investigation.

13. Morham Update

KS reported that the recent Burns' Supper had been fantastic and that it had raised about £1,100.

14. Garvald Update

Concerns were raised that a tree had almost be planted in an inappropriate place in the park (was being planted as a memorial) – HC had reported the incident to the council and the tree had been taken away.

A survey of the Hall has been completed to see which windows need replacing – this had raised the potential for secondary glazing.

HC pointed out that curtains have been put up at the back of the stage (everyone noted how nice they looked).

It was reported that a small tanker had been seen speeding through the village (from Nixon), this had been reported to the police.

15. AOCB

PS highlighted the current CAPP policing priorities – 1) anti-social behaviour issues in Bolton; 2) dog fouling 3) parking in Haddington. She asked if anyone would be able to attend the next CAPP meeting to raise the issues relating to the recent crimes around Garvald and Morham.

It was reported that East Linton was going to get a defibrillator for public use (bought by Dunder CC) – PS suggested that one should be obtained for each Village Hall.

PS reported that Dunder CC had got in touch for the CC's views on Drinking in Public Places as the police had been badgering them to push for a ban on drinking outside. They were resisting this request.

Action: It was agreed that PS should respond to say that we hadn't been approached by the police, that we didn't have any problems and that we therefore wouldn't be asking for a ban.

The Chief Executive of East Lothian Council, who is the Chair of the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives in Scotland (SoLACE), has been asked to speak at their Annual Conference in May in North Berwick to talk about what can be achieved by windfarm funding in the community

and PS had been approached to provide information on the many positive accomplishments that GMCC had assisted with through the funding process.

Action: It was agreed that PS would offer the CC's help with this.

Mobile mast – PW said that this was still an on-going project that is progressing (no time scales as yet).

An e-mail from Tim Flynn was read out regarding the hut along the Carfrae road half a mile from Garvald. PW said that it was owned by Malcolm Patterson's son who used to live in village – no PP needed as it is mobile.

Action: RB to pass this information on to TF.

Karl Ingram gave an update on the second stage of the Garvald Woodland project. He said that: 1) the Monks had stipulated that Scottish Woodland should be used and that they wouldn't stand in the way of trees being felled. 2) Charlotte at SW had been asked for prices - £34k for the whole project (+VAT).

It was agreed that the project should be broken down into two bits (large area and small area near bridge) and that a new costing should be obtained for both parts. It was also agreed there was no way that all of the money could be paid upfront and that the percentage that could be made available would need to be agreed after further discussion.

Action: KI will draft letter to reflect above decision.

Cllr McM said that there was a community intervention fund that may be available.

Action: Cllr McM to talk to Mike Foye about this.

FS raised the issue of funding for the repair of Garvald Church roof. It was agreed that this would be brought up at the next meeting.

16. Date of Next Meeting

Monday 13th April @ 7pm, Morham Village Hall.