

GARVALD AND MORHAM COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting, 3rd February 2020
7.00pm – Garvald Village Hall

1. Attendance and Apologies for Absence

In attendance: Phillip White (PW) (Chair), Ian Middlemass (IM), Ian Smith (IS), Kelly Burns (KB), Hazel Clark (HC), Andrew Watson (AW), Garry McGregor (GM), Roger Harris (RH), Shamin Akhtar (SA), Tom Trotter (TT)

Apologies: Anna Derricourt David Murray, Sara Hills, PC Boyd, PC Duncan, John Macmillan, and Craig Hoy

2. Minutes from Previous Meeting and Matters Arising

Minutes have previously been approved by e-mail and subsequently distributed by e-mail/internet.

3. Update from Ian Middlemass, Treasurer

IM reported that the balance in the bank account was £44,084 with no cheques outstanding. The funding application for the Play Maps has been approved by Fred Olsen.

4. Update from Haddington & Lammermuir Area Partnership

There has been no meeting of the Partnership since the last Garvald & Morham Community Council meeting.

5. Garvald Neighbourhood Watch/Police Report

Two crimes have been reported: an attempted break in at Garvald Grange and an apparent accidental demolition of a wall by an unknown vehicle at Garvald Grange. There have also been reports of hare coursing including one where IM pursued a vehicle across his field. The vehicle made off.

6. Morham to Garvald Path Update

PW, RH, IS and Nick Morgan (Nick Morgan, Access Officer, East Lothian Council) walked the route between Morham and Garvald. The route chosen was very promising. Further consultation will take place between Nick Morgan and the land owner.

7. Morham De-Fibrillator Update

Funding has been received for training in the use of the defibrillator. Training will be arranged.

8. Morham Interpretation Board Update

No update.

9. Resilience Update

Communication of weather alerts is being facilitated by the use of WhatsApp, moderated by Penny Short.

10. Garvald and Morham Updates from Hall Representatives

RH stated that Morham village hall held a successful weekend of music, with a Piping Spectacular on the Friday (100 attendees), The Picts ceilidh on the Saturday and a pipe band on the Sunday. The event, which was very successful and raised £1,000 for the hall, will be repeated.

Garvald hall held Christmas activities, a successful Burns Supper with 40 attendees and a ceilidh. The hall currently has three weddings booked with two further wedding enquiries ongoing.

There are concerns about the structure of parts of the Garvald hall and these will be investigated by a structural engineer. Separately, a snagging list is being compiled and will be addressed by volunteers in March.

11. A.O.C.B.

- PW reported that Nick Morgan has been asked to consider paths in the Garvald and Morham areas
- PW stated that the Garvald defibrillator will need routine replacement of the pads this summer.
- The issue of whether the village halls require a public entertainment license will be investigated.
- TT was asked to look into the regular flooding of the road at Chesters. This has previously been reported to the council.
- SA reported that the council's climate strategy has been passed and that schools in the county are engaged in looking at the use of plastic.
- TT reported that the result of the Nungate parking consultation was being compiled.
- SA stated that there was a fund in the council's draft budget to cover the cost of public entertainment licenses for small community events. A brief discussion on potential noise issues followed.
- SA stated that once the Scottish Government has confirmed its budget, East Lothian council will confirm their budget. The Scottish Government will allow a rates increase of up to 4.8%.
- IM highlighted the presence of a growing mound of debris in the middle of the Tyne river, just to the north of the Victoria bridge in Haddington. The concern is that this could cause or exacerbate flooding in the area. He noted that dredging used to take place but no longer does.
- SA reported that more electric vehicle charging points will be installed in the county.
- It was noted that so far, no planning application for an electric charging point in Garvald had been submitted. This makes it unlikely that it will be approved before the end of the financial year,

12. Date of Next Meeting - Monday the 30th of March, 2020 at 7pm, in the Morham village hall.

13. Funding

- Request for funding for a marquee for the Garvald Village Flower show was approved.
- £1,050 was approved for a 3-seater bench in Garvald.
- £1,500 was approved for Yester Primary school's Primary 7 camping trip to Benmore. KB declared an interest and did not take part in the discussion.
- £150 was approved for the Morham Easter egg hunt. The application was subsequently withdrawn by the applicant.

Approved Crystal Rig funding applications will be submitted to Fred Olsen for consideration.