

GARVALD AND MORHAM COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting, 29th March 2021
7.00pm – By Zoom

1. Attendance and Apologies for Absence

In attendance: Phillip White (PW) (Chair), Anna Derricourt (AD), Ian Middlemass (IM), Ian Smith (IS), Hazel Clark (HC), Caroline McGregor (CM), Tom Mallows(TM), David Murray (DM), Shamin Akhtar (SA), John McMillan (JM), Tom Trotter (TT), Craig Hoy (CH)

2. Minutes from Previous Meeting and Matters Arising

PW reported that the water flowing off of the fields around Whitelaw and on to the road have now been diverted by Robert Hamilton. JM reported that the escaped water issue around Coldale is ongoing. SA reported that BT may decommission the phone box in Garvald if its use does not increase.

3. Update from Ian Middlemass, Treasurer

IM reported that the balance in the bank account was £44,949 with a surplus of £13,989. £9,791 has been received from the Crystal Rig 2 fund for grant applications and £10,000 has been received from the Crystal Rig 3 fund for the school donations.

The audited accounts for 2019/20 have been recently returned from the auditor and will be circulated shortly.

The cheques for Knox Academy and Yester Primary School will be issued on the 1st of April. £708 in uncashed cheques remain outstanding.

4. Update from Haddington & Lammermuir Area Partnership

JM stated that there had been good Partnership and Grants meetings.

5. Report from Philip White Garvald Neighbourhood Watch

PW reported that there were no Neighborhood Watch or Police reports.

6. Garvald Woodland Project 2

PW reported that the Garvald Woodland Phase 2 project had completed in December 2020. The project started in 2015 with an initial estimated cost of £29,850 but the cost reduced to £9,000 by the time of completion. The extra daylight that now reaches the village has been widely welcomed. The hillside has been re-planted with 1,100 broadleaf trees.

7. Commonwealth War Graves Commission

DM highlighted the activities of the War Graves commission and the Kantor Speakers who, until the end of May, will be encouraging members of the public to contact the Commission or DM directly to help organise presentations of history, architecture and horticulture of the grave sites and to encourage membership. War Graves week will be around the 21st of May.

8. Garvald & Morham updates from Representatives

DM reported that:

- Roger Harris had resigned as Chair of the Morham Hall Trust and that the remaining four trustees would be calling a meeting to discuss the way forward and to arrange an AGM. There are two trustee vacancies for the trust.
- Current thinking is for the trustees to move away from organizing events and to focus on hall maintenance. A new and separate committee may be formed, subject to AGM approval.
- Repairs to the hall are ongoing and there is a small area of wet damage to a floor joist which is receiving attention.

SA enquired about the bakery that had been proposed for the hall. DM stated that the local residents felt that it was an unsuitable use of the hall as they were concerned that local access to the hall could be lost. JM offered the help of the Council's Economic Development department if required.

CM thanked the Committee on behalf of the Garvald village hall committee for funding the purchase of a security camera and passed on the thanks from the Church to the Committee for its help in the refurbishment of gravestones.

9. A.O.B

PW stated that it is the Committee's view that the village would welcome the introduction of a 20 MPH speed restriction. PW has discussed the issue with SA and SA has passed the suggestion on to the Council's Roads department who will examine how it might operate. SA will follow up its progress but stated that for the scheme to be progressed, a formal request would need to be made by Garvald. JM suggested that all that would be required would be a request from the Community Council.

JM suggested that he could be a conduit for any reports on the identity of the vehicles involved in speeding and the reports would be confidential. Phone calls are the best reporting mechanism.

Community Council elections will take place on the 6th or 7th of October

PW reported that the mobile mast that had been proposed 3 years ago but never built, looks like it might now be built at Carfare. It would provide 4G connectivity for Garvald. JM reported that there was now fibre to the cabinet (FTTC) in Humbie and East Saltoun. PW pointed out that fibre runs through Garvald

village. IS suggested contacting local suppliers to enquire about the installation of fibre to the premise (FTTP).

HC expressed concern about pavement surfaces and overhanging hedges. JM stated that he would look into it.

HC also reported that Disabled access to the Garvald village hall is being blocked by vehicles parking too close to the opening to the driveway and that road markings are required. JM stated that he would look into this too.

JM reported that rural toilets will remain closed due to a lack of funding. The Council can provide cleaning materials if the community volunteers to clean them. CM stated that the toilets should be kept open and wondered if the hall cleaner could be paid to clean them.

10. Date of Next Meeting – Monday 7th June by Zoom