

GARVALD AND MORHAM COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting, 11th October 2021
7.30pm at Garvald Village Hall

1. Appointment of Office Bearers

Councilor McMillan chaired this section of the meeting and began by thanking the members of the previous community council for their work. The following appointments were proposed, seconded and accepted:

Position	Proposee	Proposer	Secunder
Chair	Phillip White	Ian Middlemass	Roger Harris
Vice-Chair	Anna Derricourt	Phillip White	Roger Harris
Treasurer	Ian Middlemas	Phillip White	David Ramsey
Secretary	Ian Smith	Ian Middlemass	Phillip White

Phillip White then chaired the rest of the meeting

2. Introductions

Attendees briefly introduced themselves.

3. Attendance and Apologies for Absence

In attendance: Phillip White (PW) (Chair), Anna Derricourt (AD), Ian Middlemass (IM), Ian Smith (IS), Roger Harris (RH), David Ramsay (DR), Hazel Clark (HC), Garry McGregor (GM), John McMillan (JM), Kirstie Shearer (KS), Jim Shearer (JS)

Apologies: David Murray, Shamin Akhtar, Tom Trotter.

4. Minutes from Previous Meeting and Matters Arising

Councilor Akhtar provided a report on previous items and expressed her congratulations to the newly elected members. In summary:

- The new recycling service will operate with 15 vehicles and 42 staff. Food waste will be collected with the items for recycling. New boxes and a sealed bag will be provided to replace the red and blue bins.
- HGV signs at Morham, a council officer will inspect the signs (AD and IM agreed to meet them on the day).
- A consultation on 20MPH zones has started and is on the council website.
- No response has yet been received regarding the possibility of solar panels on the roof of Garvald village hall
- The council's Sustainable Travel officer is happy to discuss a cycle route to Haddington. DR will contact the council.

GM stated that he had received a reply from the council regarding the solar panels. It stated that it would be up to the hall committee to demonstrate that the panels did not contravene any planning regulations. GM stated that panels might contravene the regulations but will contact the Scottish Energy Trust. JM stated that these types of schemes are under review by the council and offered to arrange a meeting for GM with the head of Planning.

Concern was expressed with the new recycling bin arrangements including the requirement to lift heavy boxes instead of using the wheeled bins. JM stated that the new arrangements were based on the best available advice, that help can be offered to anyone having difficulties with carrying the boxes and that if the previous bin system proves to have been better, then the new system will be reviewed.

KS and JS attended the meeting, representing themselves and their Standingstone neighbours, to report that they had all been excluded from voting in the recent Community Council election. KS contacted the Elections Office and discovered that there had been several Standingstone areas in the database and the wrong ones had been deleted. JM offered to investigate but felt that it may be a matter for the Returning Officer.

JM stated that there is a new organization called Green Tree Canopy which will launch soon and will register any new trees on their website. Funding may be available to facilitate the planting of new trees.

5. Update from Ian Middlemass

IM reported that the balance in the bank account was £23,980-78.

6. Update from Haddington & Lammermuir Area Partnership

PW reported that there have been no recent meetings.

7. Report from Philip White Garvald Neighbourhood Watch

PW reported that PC Boyd had informed him that there were no crime incidents to report within the area but that there had been incidents elsewhere of quad bike thefts. The free session of bike marking is still to take place.

8. Commonwealth War Graves Commission, Local Commemoration 11th November.

Unfortunately, David Murray was unable to attend the meeting to provide a report. JM stated that there were 23 war graves within Haddington and that David is a local ambassador.

9. Garvald & Morham Hall Updates from Representatives

The painting of Morham hall has commenced. An enquiry will be made into the progress of the preparation of a Morham History board which was suspended due to the pandemic. AD will contact Kate Bogie.

GM reported that the Garvald hall is available for renting, renters have to arrange social distancing for their events. JM will provide the latest covid guidance and requirements.

10. AOB

AD reported that the efforts to publicise the Community Council elections had been successful and that the turnout for Garvald and Morham was the highest of all the parish elections in East Lothian

PW reported that the newly erected mast outside Garvald will probably come into operation in the new year.

PW reported that he had written to the council to enquire if the establishment of a footpath between Garvald and Morham would create any liabilities for the farms whose land it passed through. Nick Morgan has informed him that there should be no liabilities created.

AD reported that local residents had been asking her about the broken crossroad signs. AD will re-contact the council regarding repairs to the signs.

AD enquired whether the Garvald and Morham Community Council sponsored annual Xmas Pantomime trip should restart. It was agreed to review this in November. Update, the Xmas trip will take place this year.

RH reported that SP Energy Networks can offer help in the event of a power cut. AD agreed to publicise this within the community.

RH reported that some branches of Superdrug are hosting Zinofi collection boxes which accept used drugs' blister packs for recycling, though not in the Edinburgh area. RH will investigate if some arrangement can be made for local recycling.

11. Date of the next meeting is Monday the 6th of December 2021 in Garvald village hall.

12. Wind Farm Funding

It was agreed to raise the cap on individual applications to £500.

It was agreed to provide a £500 grant to Alasdair Easton as a contribution to his cycling competition expenses, subject to approval by Fred. Olsen Renewables.