

GARVALD AND MORHAM COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting, 6th December 2021
7.30pm at Garvald Village Hall

1. 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), Gary McGregor (GM), John McMillan (JM), Tom Trotter (TT), Patrick Gammell (PG)

Apologies: David Murray, Shamin Akhtar, Craig Hoy.

2. Minutes from Previous Meeting and Matters Arising

Nick Morgan of East Lothian Council has confirmed that the request for a cycling route between Garvald and Haddington is under consideration.

The determination of the progress of the Morham History Board is ongoing.

The request for the repair to the crossroad sign has not yet received a response from East Lothian Council but JM will re-direct the enquiry to another council department.

RH reported that the recycling process of exhausted prescription blister packs is difficult because of the mix of materials they contain. Some retail outlets are looking at the possibility of recycling them. There are unofficial collecting bins for the packs at Mainshill.

3. *The Queen's Green Canopy Scheme Presentation – Patrick Gammell*

PG informed the meeting that in recognition of the Queen's pending 70 years' service, a tree planting initiative, *The Queen's Green Canopy Scheme*, is in operation. The initiative includes the registration of planted trees by members of the public, a fund-raising operation with a target of £70,000 for East Lothian and a supply of free tree saplings for planting by members of the public.

PG asked if the community council could help by encouraging community groups and individuals within the parish to plant trees.

Details of the scheme are available on the internet at:

- <https://queensgreencanopy.org/>
- <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/plant-trees/schools-and-communities/tree-pack-application/?sc=E21QGC001>
- <https://queensgreencanopy.org/map-education-hub/ggc-map>

HC cautioned about planting trees in what could become the wrong place. PG stated that smaller trees for gardens are also encouraged. Guidance on tree types is available. JM stated that the Woodland Trust is offering planting packs of 50 tree saplings.

PG also described the role of the Lieutenancy, who, as the Queen's representatives, are able, for example, to arrange Royal Garden Party invitations and to help with nominations for national honours, for worthy individuals. Contact can be made directly with PG or through the website at <https://eastlothianlieutenancy.co.uk/>

4. Garvald Neighbourhood Watch Report

PW reported that PC Boyd had informed him that there were no crime incidents to report within the area. PC Boyd may hold a public meeting in Garvald. PW stated that the use of the hall would be free.

5. Treasurer's Update

IM reported that previous funding requests had been sent to Fred Olsen and have been acknowledged. The current bank balance is £23,522 and, when outstanding cheques have been presented, should reduce to £21,351. DR reported that the Yester Primary School trip, which GMCC has funded, is unlikely to take place because of the pandemic. The school has asked if the funding can instead be used for separate day trips. IM stated that he thought that would be permissible. PW said that the best way to proceed would be for the school to send a letter to GMCC requesting the change of use of the funding. DR said he would pass that on to the school.

6. Update from Haddington & Lammermuir Area Partnership

PW reported that the Partnership had met the week prior. PW and RH had attended the meeting remotely. Funding had been approved for benches in Athelstaneford and picnic tables, seats and bins for Seggarsdean. New applications for funding are being sought.

7. Garvald & Morham Hall Updates from Representatives

GM reported that one member has stood down from the Garvald village hall committee and a replacement is being sought. The new Gazebo was used at the recent fair and that £800 was raised for the ICU department of the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary, including a £200 contribution from Nunraw Abbey.

GM reported that the Garvald hall is available for renting, renters have to arrange social distancing for their events. JM pointed out that whilst that was true, there could be the risk of reputational damage if there was an incident related to the pandemic.

David Murray provided the following information regarding the Morham village hall by email:

- There was no storm damage apart from the village notice board (to be the subject of a future funding application).
- Hall painting is stalled due to the discovery of rusted roof panels - awaiting builder's comments.
- The cooker/gas supply to be fitted by 'Flogas'.
- 18th January is provisional date for the AGM.
- The Christmas tree arrives this week.
- Best Wishes and a Merry Christmas to everyone at GMCC.

8. AOB

PW asked the attendees if they felt that enough had been done during the recent storm and subsequent extended power cuts. AD noted how useful it had been for the Garvald village hall to be open and available during the power cuts. IS suggested the acquisition of a generator be investigated in order to power the hall's heating and lighting. JM stated that he would discuss the issue of generators with the council. It was noted that Sandy Bapt's bulletin emails had been very useful and appreciated.

PW asked if there was an update on the issue by East Lothian Council of community council email addresses. JM stated that the council do not issue email addresses but he will look into it again.

The forthcoming Garvald and Morham Community Council funded Christmas Pantomime trip is almost fully booked, with just one ticket left.

JM reported that: the new recycling collection system was already providing a better quality of recycled materials; that the county schools and care homes have 60 staff vacancies and 80 staff off due to the pandemic; that the John Muir Trust is planning on replanting trees; and that the Hederwick estate is due for felling but the decision is under review.

9. Date of the next meeting is Monday the 7th of February 2022 in Garvald village hall.

10. Wind Farm Funding

The Pantomime trip funding of £1,400 was formally approved.

The Garvald hall gazebo funding of £435 was formally approved.

A request from Robert Hamilton for rugby strip funding of £400 to £500 was approved in principle.

A presentation by Kirstie Leaper of the Fred Olson wind farm fund will take place at the next meeting.