

GARVALD AND MORHAM COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting, 7th February 2022
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), Craig Hoy (CH)

Apologies: David Murray, John McMillan, (JM), Tom Trotter, Shamin Akhtar.

2. Minutes from Previous Meeting and Matters Arising

There has been no update on the progress of the Morham History board. CH will investigate village noticeboards in general.

DR reported that he had contacted Yester Primary School regarding their request to change the use of funding awarded by the community council. Yester have agreed to submit a modified application.

CH agreed to investigate further the possibility of council operated email addresses for the community council.

AD reported that there have been problems receiving replies regarding road issues that had been emailed to the council. Councilor Akhtar has advised that it would help if she were to be copied in to future email reports.

CH reported that the Roads department cannot repair broken traditional road finger posts, they can only erect new, modern road signs. IS reported that the Morham HGV warning sign has slide down to the bottom of the poles.

3. Report from Phillip White Garvald Neighbourhood Watch

PW reported that there have been no incidents within the parish but that there had been thefts in other areas.

4. Recent Road Closures

RH reported that during recent road works around the Balfour monument, road cones had been moved out of position and that this had led to an accident with subsequent damage to a vehicle. It was further noted that a road cone at Coldale had been moved into the middle of the road. It is feared that both of these incidents were the result of malicious activity. Residents are advised to remain alert to unexpected road obstructions. Further details are available on the Garvald Facebook page.

5. Treasurer's Update

IM reported that the current bank balance is £23,775 and that the previous two funding applications were processed in good time by Fred Olson.

6. Update from Haddington & Lammermuir Area Partnership

PW reported that the Partnership will next meet on Thursday.

7. Garvald & Morham Hall Updates from Representatives

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

- The hall moves back to normal operation during this month – being ready to host the Cyclists Touring Club later this month and in March.
- Following the recent use of the AED stationed at the hall, a debrief involving the first responder, the Scottish Ambulance Service and Heartsafe highlighted a couple of areas for consideration.
 - Illumination of the equipment position;
 - access code to the AED could be made available to households in the immediate vicinity. (Limited [local] knowledge of the code would increase immediate availability without compromising NHS Insurance related to equipment availability and use);
- funding application submitted for a replacement village notice board; and
- funding ‘heads up’ [that a funding application] related to hall interior decoration and solar panels [will be submitted].

RH will check the current status of the hall with David Murray.

GM reported that:

- the recent Garvald village hall AGM had re-appointed office bearers;
- the hall continues to be used and is available for future events;
- there will be a maintenance event in the spring for small snagging items;
- re-varnishing of the hall floor will be quoted for;
- the potential for loft insulation will be investigated;
- the roof structure will be checked;
- water ingress will be investigated; and
- a funding application for a generator has been submitted. DR reported that it was proposed to store the generator in a cupboard or an outside enclosure.

8. Funding Discussion

PW had requested that members give thought to suggesting potential projects for funding:

- RH suggested the installation of three kissing gates on the local paths to assist walkers. The estimated cost would be £3,000;
- HC reported that she was still giving thought to a tree planting project. The current age of the trees in the hall orchard were such that it would be appropriate to plant replacement fruit trees. Additional trees around the village would also be appropriate. For the project to commence, a village meeting would be required to canvas the opinions of the residents;
- HC suggested that the Landscape department of the Council be contacted regarding the creation of a grass based car park on the village green as the lack

of parking spaces within the village was becoming critical. This would also need the approval of residents; and

- HC suggested that the trees around the village telephone exchange need to be tied up. HC and PW to investigate.

9. Council Communication Co-ordination

AD suggested that there is a need for a logging system to record reports of faults to the council. PW offered to circulate reports in neighbourhood watch emails. CH suggested that it is best to use the Council's Reportit system. PW re-iterated that Councilor Akhtar should be copied in to Roads reports.

10. Jubilee Beacons

RH reported that for the Jubilee beacon scheme, Whitelaw hill had been considered as a potential site but that there is a fear now of setting fire to nearby crops during the event in June. The Council think that they need to be kept small and be properly supervised. CH will check if the council have developed a safety policy;

11. Paths

PW suggested the creation of a path around Whitelaw hill. PW showed an image of proposed information posts for walkers that could be installed around the Nunraw estate. PW reported that the owner of Tanderlane farm is not keen to allow a path between Garvald and Morham which would pass near the farmyard. Other potential routes are being considered. AD reported that the current volunteer path wardens do not live locally. RH intimated that he would be happy to be a volunteer warden. PW will check the funding situation with Nick Morgan.

12. AOB

IS reported that the issue of residents in the Standing Stone area of the parish not receiving ballot forms for the recent Community Council elections remained unresolved. CH offered to investigate.

PW reported that the Association of Community Councils could in future be chaired by a rotating Chair on a six-monthly basis. PW called for volunteers from the members. There was agreement in principle, though it was noted that given the number of Community Councils within East Lothian, it would be many years before a Garvald & Morham member would be invited to chair the association.

HC reported that it had been some time since the road sweeping vehicle had visited the village. CH agreed to request a visit by the road sweeping vehicle.

13. Date of the next meeting is Monday the 4th of April 2022 in the Morham village hall.

14. Wind Farm Funding

Haddington Rugby Football Club funding of £500 was formally approved.

Morham replacement noticeboard funding of £897.69 was formally approved.

Garvald Village hall generator funding of £2,619 was formally approved

£100 to repair the Garvald village notice board will be funded by the Local Priorities fund.