

# GARVALD AND MORHAM COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting, 3<sup>rd</sup> October 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), Gary McGregor (GM), Councillor Shamin Akhtar(SA), Councillor George McGuire (cGM), Sam McMillan (SM) (Newlands Proposed Windfarm), Matt Olley(MO) (Newlands Proposed Windfarm), Alison Brown (AB) (Volunteer Centre East Lothian), Meg McGuire (MM) and Chiara Brand (CB).

**Apologies:** Davie Murray and John McMillan

## 2. Minutes from Previous Meeting and Matters Arising

The six footpath signposts have not been installed. cGM will check with BT regarding fibre optic broadband for the whole of Garvald village. SA has identified a company who may be able to supply replacement roadside finger-post signs. Details of the signage will be required. SA reported that the Council's Roads department will visit Priest Brae to consider requested warning signs.

## 3. Treasurer's Update

IM reported that the bank balance was £18,829.90. The grants for Knox Academy and Yester Primary schools have been applied for but may take a few months to be processed. £3,160 is due to be returned by the Woodlands Trust.

## 4. Update on Newlands Hill Windfarm

MO and SM gave the following update points regarding the proposed wind farm:

- There has been a slight redesign of the scheme to take into account the heritage areas and feedback from residents;
- The maximum blade tip height has been reduced from 230m to 200m;
- Full consultations will be delayed and expanded: Garvald/Stenton, Gifford and Haddington will take place on the 8<sup>th</sup> 9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> of November;
- The planning permission submission to the Scottish Government will now be later than originally planned, perhaps late spring 2023;
- The expected funding for the communities will be £5k/installed MW or approximately £560k/year over 40 years;
- The communities within the area will be granted a 1% ownership of the scheme at no cost. A further 4% will be available for purchase by the communities (not individuals);
- An energy discount scheme will be established for residents within a 15Km radius;
- There will be no effect on public access to the land once the scheme is installed; and
- It is envisioned that mainly B class roads will be used for delivery of the turbine components.

## 5. East Lothian Poverty

AB, who is a Locality Partner for the Volunteer Centre East Lothian

(<https://www.volunteereastlothian.org.uk/>), briefed the meeting about the organization's activities.

There is a volunteer centre in Tranent which helps local groups over a wide area. A new Community Mental Health fund is about to open and free two day certified mental health first aid courses are available.

## 6. Removal of East Lothian Funding for Haddington Nurseries

A discussion took place regarding the removal of Council funding of Brightstar Nurseries by East Lothian Council. MM and CB detailed the effect on parents of the funding removal. SA and cGM explained the background to the Council's funding decision.

## **7. Flooding at Coldale**

Leaks from a water pipe which runs through Coldale regularly fails at various locations along its length. This is particularly dangerous in the winter when it causes a sheet of ice to form on the brae. AD stated that she had been in touch with the Roads department and learned that they are keen to solve this problem. A plan has been developed and is awaiting agreement with the landowner. IM stated that neither of the two landowners who would be involved had been contacted by the Roads department. IM offered to speak to them. SA offered to pass IM's contact details to the Roads department.

During a recent repair to the water pipe, the road was closed without warning. This appears to have caused a large vehicle to divert across Morham bridge causing significant damage to one of the bridge walls. Repairs to the bridge have now been completed and AD wanted to express her and the community's gratitude to the Council's officer, Andy Hunter who co-ordinated the repairs and ensured that during the repairs, the school bus was still able to cross the bridge.

## **8. Update from Haddington & Lammermuir Area Partnership**

There was a meeting of the partnership on the 25<sup>th</sup> of August. Notable points:

- This year's General budget is unchanged at £50,000;
- The Roads budget is £47,500;
- £10,000 of additional funding is available for cycle racks, kerb lowering and signage, etc; and
- An AGM (in-person) will be arranged, probably during the remainder of 2022.

## **9. Garvald & Morham Hall Updates from Representatives**

GM reported that there will be an AGM on the 26<sup>th</sup> of October and that the play group is going well with good attendance levels.

## **10. Report from Phillip White Garvald Neighbourhood Watch**

PW reported that there were no incidents to report.

## **11. AOB**

PW reported that he and IM had had a discussion with Kirsty Leiper of Fred Olsen Renewables to review the methods available for making funding claims from Crystal Rig Wind Farm. Good progress was made and Kirsty will pursue proposed suggestions.

RH reported that as part of East Lothian's electric vehicle strategy, they will be surveying homes in the centres of population for the suitability of home vehicle chargers, including the placement of cables within cable ramps.

RH further reported that due to the mains wiring arrangement of the garages at Mainshill, installing electric vehicle chargers could be complicated.

AD reported that she had been unable to find a suitable Christmas pantomime trip that hadn't already been recently attended or was going to be attended by schools.

## **12. Date of the next meeting is Monday the 5<sup>th</sup> of December 2022 in the Morham village hall at 7-30pm.**

## **13. Wind Farm Funding**

A request for funding to help enable a residential camp for primary 7 pupils of Yester Primary School was discussed and a grant of £2,500 was approved.