

GARVALD AND MORHAM COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting, 5th December 2022
7.30pm at Morham 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), Davie Murray (DM) Councillor Tom Trotter (TT), Councillor Shamin Akhtar (SA), Councillor George McGuire (cGM) and Conel McGregor (CM).

Apologies: John McMillan

2. Minutes from Previous Meeting and Matters Arising

- cGM is continuing to check with BT regarding fibre optic broadband for the whole of Garvald village;
- IM met with Derick Flyn of East Lothian Council and showed him the flooding problems in the Coldale area. TT will check on the status of this at the Council;
- AD has sent a list of roadside finger posts to SA which need to be either repaired or replaced. SA has approached a company which may be able to supply replacements but has received no reply. SA may try another company; and
- SA has contacted Spring Oscars regarding an after-school club for Yester Primary and is awaiting a response.

3. Treasurer's Update

IM reported that the bank balance was £28,680.50. The grant for Yester Primary school has been applied for. Grant money from the Crystal Rig III fund has been received but not yet from the Woodlands Trust.

4. Update on Newlands Hill Windfarm & Crystal Rig IV

In discussions with the Newlands Hill Windfarm, it was noted that the fund could generate up to approximately £560,000 per year, 80% of which may be applied to residents' fuel bills. It was tentatively agreed that the rest of the fund would be split evenly between Garvald and Morham projects. A Memo of Understanding will be drawn up.

The Cristal Rig IV wind farm is currently scheduled to commence operations during quarter one of 2025.

IS enquired if Crystal Rig wind farm funding can be used to purchase an additional share of the Newlands Hill Windfarm scheme. PW will inquire.

5. Funding Ideas

A discussion took place regarding potential funding initiatives. PW and AD will consider the possibility of a taxi fund to help counter the lack of public transport in and around the villages. AD will consider the possibility of sponsoring insulation grants, up to £20,000 per year. IS suggested the possibility of using a consultant to help guide the Community Council with wind farm funding. This will be considered.

6. Update from Haddington & Lammermuir Area Partnership

PW reported that the Partnership had approved the funding of the Gifford *Soup with a Smile* initiative. The Partnership were concerned by the recent batch of young male suicides in East Lothian. The rate of young female suicides is much lower, by comparison. There is now a new telephone help line which can be accessed by dialing 988. Concern was also expressed that some children have not returned to school after the pandemic closures.

7. Garvald & Morham Hall Updates from Representatives

GM reported that:

- An AGM was held on the 26th of October which was lightly attended. One committee member stood down and two new members were elected;
- The hall finances have a £471 deficit. Fundraising will commence;
- A Yoga class may start up in the near future;
- A Christmas dinner will take place with at least seventy attendees;
- The Horticultural Society made a donation to the hall; and
- There is a problem with the broadband in the hall.

DM reported that:

- The cycling club has been making use of the hall on a weekly basis and will recommence in the new year;
- The Burns' Supper on the 26th of January is sold out;
- The cost of electricity for the hall is starting to become significant;
- SCVO has helped to arrange a discounted electricity supply with Scottish Power; and
- The hall's centenary is approaching in 2027 and a meeting of the hall's trustees will put a celebration plan together. Morham is the smallest parish in Scotland and the centenary may be of interest to the media.

8. Report from Phillip White Garvald Neighbourhood Watch

PW reported that there were no incidents to report.

9. AOB

AD reported that the Yester Estate were donating bundles of logs to the residents of Gifford. On enquiry, the Estate agreed to donate 20 bundles to Garvald & Morham. AD will make arrangements for their distribution.

Conal McGregor asked to be allowed to contact Garvald and Morham's Community Councillors as part of his university course research. This was agreed by all.

10. Date of the next meeting is Monday the 6th of February 2023 in the Garvald village hall at 7-30pm.

11. Wind Farm Funding

A £1,500 grant towards the Garvald Ceildh was approved. A £65.92 grant was approved for the recent Garvald Halloween party. A £500 grant towards the new Haddington Choir was approved.