

GARVALD AND MORHAM COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting, 6th February 2023
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), David Ramsay (DR), Davie Murray (DM), Shirley Evatt (SE), Hazel Clark (HC), Leonie Alexander, Graham Barnes (GB), George Mackintosh (GM) (Papple Steading), Verity Sinclair (Papple Steading), Councillor John McMillan (JM).

Apologies: Roger Harris, Gary McGregor, Councillor Tom Trotter, Councillor George McGuire, Councillor Shamin Akhtar

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 – no update from BT;
- Coldale flooding: IM met on site with the Council, who excavated the source of the flooding. A pipe was found but unexpectedly it crosses under the road. The pipe will be tested and if it is functional, a man-hole cover will be placed over it;
- Replacement road signs still ongoing; and
- SA still looking at the proposed Spring Oscars after-school club.

3. Papple Update

GM presented a progress update of the Papple Steading. The main points were:

- A new architect has been appointed - Richard Murphy. Minor changes were proposed and these were submitted to East Lothian Council as a new planning application;
- Planning permission has recently been granted and a building warrant is expected to be issued soon;
- The renovations will then go out to tender for a main contractor;
- It is anticipated that the work will start within the next few months and complete by 2025 but some facilities are already open;
- Papan Wood is open to the public;
- GM proposed the creation of "Quiet Roads" on unclassified roads within East Lothian. East Lothian Council are considering the concept;
- GM has had discussions with landlords regarding improving access to the countryside. Some landlords were more positive than others;
- GM highlighted two examples of countryside access being frustrated;
- It is anticipated that the site, when complete, will become carbon neutral; and
- GM highlighted the charitable work of Give 400 which helps those in Scotland who are in need.
<https://www.give400.scot> .

4. Treasurer's Update

IM reported that the bank balance was £25,496.66 with two cheques for £4,500 and £50 uncashed. HC enquired about whether the wind farm funding can be used beyond the parish boundary. PW responded that there were signs of growing flexibility.

5. Funding Ideas

AD contacted Change Works and The Energy Saving Trust to discuss the possibility of funding some of their initiatives for applicants from within Garvald and Morham parish. Both organisations responded positively and they would like to know our priorities. Change Works can promote their current initiatives and point to other funding, including for fuel poverty. Historically they have worked with communities and are returning to that mode of operation. The East Lothian scheme is well funded and should be contacted, though their applicants need to be already in receipt of benefits to be eligible.

JM stated that the Council's Community Windpower Energy Fund energy grants, which helps individuals who are having financial difficulties, opened 10 weeks ago and has used 50% of its allocated funding so far.

6. Update from Haddington & Lammermuir Area Partnership

PW reported that the next Partnership meeting will take place on the forthcoming Thursday.

7. Garvald & Morham Hall Updates from Representatives

Garvald Village Hall

Gary McGregor reported by email that:

- Office bearers : The following have been confirmed for this year:
 - Chair - Gary McGregor;
 - Treasurer - Brian Hills; and
 - Secretary - Shirley Evatt.
- Yoga - Monday evening class run by Leonie Alexander is proving very popular. Approx 20 villagers attend each week; and
- Fundraising - Coffee & cake event on 5th February, organised by Isla Evatt & friends, raised approximately £180

SE reported that the structure of the hall had been inspected along with a builder. Cracks in walls and water ingress were noted. The builder estimated that £45K would be required for the external repairs. Two other contractors will be contacted and asked to provide quotes for the work. Internal work is also required but the priority is for the external work. The hall windows may also need to be refurbished. Advice from an architect regarding grants, fees and permissions will be required.

Morham Village Hall

DM reported that:

- The hall was seeing increased usage;
- The heating boiler has sustained burst pipes which will need to be repaired – a funding application has been submitted for the work;
- The Burns Night had been very successful and raised £2,500 for the hall funds;
- The cyclists' group will be using the hall weekly during the spring; and
- There may be Brewer Pop-up events during the summer.

8. Report from Phillip White Garvald Neighbourhood Watch

PW reported that there were no incidents to report.

9. AOB

PW reported that the O2 and Vodafone networks were now operating from the new local mast.

A letter had been received by Garvald residents regarding a proposal to use the village as a set for a new film entitled *Murder is Easy*. If it were to go ahead, the film company would consult with residents and a donation might be made to the Garvald village hall. GB raised some potential logistics issues and PW suggested that if any residents have questions at this stage, they should contact the film's scouting agent whose details were provided in the letter. JM stated that the council have an established policy for dealing with such filming activities and that the film company will need the Council's approval for any temporary road closures or building alterations.

10. Date of the next meeting is Monday the 3rd of April 2023 in the Morham village hall at 7-30pm.

11. Wind Farm Funding

The committee considered a proposal to change the Crystal Rig 3 windfarm funding applications method from a per grant application to Fred Olsen (via the Community Council) method to an annual lump sum payment from Fred Olsen to the Community Council (who then make autonomous decisions on grant applications). The committee unanimously approved the proposal.

- A £500 grant for East Lothian Girl's Rugby Club was approved.
- A £1,240.44 grant for repair to the Morham village hall heating system was approved.
- Further information was requested regarding Yester Primary School's application for funding for a water sports event. [**note, the application was subsequently withdrawn**]