

# GARVALD AND MORHAM COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting, 2<sup>nd</sup> October 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), Roger Harris (RH), David Ramsay (DR), Hazel Clark (HC), Shirley Evatt(SE), Councillor George McGuire(cGM), (JM), Councillor Shamin Akhtar (SA), Garry McGregor (GM), Dr Lucy Phillips (LP)

**Apologies:** Davie Murray, Councillor John McMillan, Councillor Tom Trotter

## 2. Minutes from Previous Meeting and Matters Arising

- SA reported that:
  - No planning permission would be required to replace the damaged finger posts but public liability could be a difficult issue so it might be better to fund it through the Area Partnership; and
  - Spring Oscars is not a charity but a commercial business. A new organization called Thrive has been incorporated as a Community Interest company to offer child day care in the Haddington area. Thrive has submitted a £4K application for startup equipment.

3. Dr Lucy Phillips, a consultant psychologist, has established Lucy's Place to help improve people's wellbeing. Lucy's place, a Community Interest company, offers therapy and outward-bound activities. The £1,620 funding application would provide for 9 group meetings consisting of 8 people. Some of the consultancy treatment costs would fund the next set of community activities. Outdoor activities are scheduled for the coming spring. The wind farm funding would allow 2 of the spaces to be rotated amongst members of the local community.

## 4. Garvald & Morham Renewables

Discussions have continued with Advice Direct Scotland on funding renewables projects.

AD stated that:

- £15k/year could provide a fuel security/hardship fund for people in receipt of benefits;
- An EPC project could fund an energy survey for properties in the parish;
- A project to improve the average energy rating of properties from E to D energy band, perhaps as phase 3.
- The bulk buying of energy but the required funding for this is more than envisioned by GMCC. More discussions to follow. A budget of £50k/year recommended by the company.

IS suggested prioritising the hardship and insulation projects. SA will investigate using the Council's credits list to channel funding for help with fuel funding. IM asked how to ensure value for money if we funded the consultancy. SA to find out how many within the parish would likely qualify.

## 5. Broadband Update

RH reported that there was still a lack of understanding of why one side of Garvald can be connected by fibre to the internet and the other side can't. Another mystery is why BT fibred the houses at Mainhill but have not connected the fibre network to the internet. East Lothian Council's Billy Agnew intends to re-contact Openreach about Mainhill and continue his dialogue with the Scottish Government regarding the broadband voucher status for the area. Local MPs and MSPs have also been contacted.

## 6. Treasurer's Update

IM reported that there is a new contact at Ken Olsen Renewables – Joe Bright. Funding applications totaling £9,613.20 have been acknowledged but not yet paid out by Fred Olen Renewables. The current GMCC bank balance is £37,198.69.

## 7. Funding Ideas

Funding was covered at item 4.

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

The last meeting was poorly attended and was not quorate.

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

### Garvald Village Hall

GM reported that:

- there will be a fundraising coffee event on Sunday;
- The hall was used for the Lammermuir festival and was well attended;
- Village Horticultural show took place on the 26<sup>th</sup> of August;
- The Post Office use of the hall continues as normal;
- The hall is being regularly used by the drama, yoga, table tennis and children's parties groups; and
- Four weddings are booked for 2024 so far.

SE reported that funding applications had been made for surveys of the walls and windows of Garvald village hall.

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

PW reported that there were no incidents to report.

## **11. AOB**

IM reported that:

- There have been a further 3 water pipe bursts and road closures around the Coldale area.
- The house on Coldale Brae also appears to have a water leak.
- Whether the rainfall flows have been cured awaits the return of significant rainfall.
- The driveway of the house on Coldale Brae is being encroached on by passing traffic and the owner has requested that the council move the kerb to widen the roadside. SM noted that the Council's road fund is underfunded.

DR will investigate the provision of email accounts for the community Council.

The police had no incidents to report.

There will be a presentation by the Haddington Camera Club in the Garvald village hall on the 16<sup>th</sup> of November, immediately after the hall's AGM (at 7-30pm).

PW reported that there had been complaints about the unfinished state of the repairs by East Lothian Council to the Garvald toilet block. SA stated that she will determine the correct paint colour.

## **12. Date of the next meeting is Monday the 4<sup>th</sup> of December 2023 in the Morham village hall at 7-30pm.**

### **13. Wind Farm Funding**

Six applications were considered:-

1. Garvald Village Hall Survey
2. Rosie Simpson
3. Lucy's Place
4. Knox Academy
5. Yester Primary
6. Thrive (After School Club ) Yester School

#### **Lucy's Place £1,620**

This request was approved

#### **Rosie Simpson £500**

This request was approved to be taken from our **CR3 Advance**

#### **Garvald Village Hall Survey £8500**

This request was approved to be taken from **CR3 Advance**

#### **Knox Academy £6000**

This request was approved and will be taken from **CR3 Advance**

#### **Yester Primary School £4000**

This request was approved and will be taken from **CR3 Advance**

#### **Thrive After School Club £4000**

This request was approved

**Total Funding approved £24,620**