

Garvald & Morham Community Council

2 February 2026

7-30pm at Garvald Village Hall

Minutes

1. Attendance and Apologies

Attendance: Philip White (Chair) PW, Dave Ramsay (Vice Chair) DR, Ian Middlemas (Treasurer) IM, Ian Smith GMCC, Chiara Brand GMCC, Councillor John MacMillan (ELC), Councillor Tom Trotter (ELC), Gary McGregor (GVH)

Apologies: Councillor Shamien Aktar (ELC), Councillor George Maguire (ELC), Roger Harris GMCC, David Murray (MVH)

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.

Nursery Funding Changes / Consultation

A statutory consultation is currently underway for parents and carers of children 0 –5 years old. The survey covers childcare entitlement, usage, access, future plans and willingness to pay for additional hours. The consultation is open until 8 March 2026 and is available online. Concern was raised that families whose children are not yet nursery age may not be receiving the survey. Emma Hogg is leading a group of concerned parents connected with Yester School. CB will liaise with Emma.

It was agreed that wider dissemination through local networks would be beneficial.

3. Funding Ideas for 2026

Potential future expenditure, including the creation of a 'community fund' was discussed. JM mentioned a number of related organisations that would be worth investigating. It was agreed that further work is required to explore future community funding opportunities and longer-term investment options. CB will liaise with JM regarding recommended contacts and advice. PW will work with the wind farm to develop a strategy for drawing down funds for long-term community projects, including a fund that could benefit the community in the future.

Martin Hammond (Community Development Trust) was noted in relation to a community fund.

4. Treasurer's Report

Current balance: £30,970.89.

Payments are outstanding for the Christmas tree and Village Hall hire, these will be paid imminently.

5. Update: Haddington & Lammermuir Area Partnership

Nothing to report.

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6. Update: Garvald & Morham Representatives

Morham

Events

All hall activities have returned to normal, with regular and one-off bookings.

War Memorial

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission is willing to support the creation of a rural war memorial within Yester Kirk, subject to progress on building works. Discussion took place regarding possible internal changes at Yester Kirk to improve flexibility of space.

Garvald

Events

Three successful events were held in December, Christmas Dinner (approx. 80 attendees), Children's Christmas Party (approx. 20 children), Hogmanay event (approx. 100 attendees including visitors from outwith the village). Thanks were extended to all organisers. A new committee member, Kirsty Malcolm, has joined with a remit to help develop further

The Post Office Outreach Service no longer uses the side room, which has now been reclaimed as a meeting space. Equipment belonging to the service remains stored and requires removal. JM will raise the matter with the Council to identify appropriate contacts for removal.

Building Works Update – Windows

Planning officers wish to retain as much of the original fabric as possible. Listed Building Consent is required, supported by a window condition survey. Two local firms, (Andersons, Gladsmuir and Art Construction Duns), have been approached. The Conservation Planner is Paul Zochowski).

Members agreed that a full, high-quality solution is preferable to temporary or partial repairs.

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7. AOB

Councillors' Update

Budget, Parking, and Development

There is a projected budget gap of £3.2–£3.8 million following late confirmation of Scottish Government funding. Parking management discussions in Haddington are ongoing; it is unlikely that any scheme will be implemented before autumn/winter 2026. Issues extend beyond the town centre and include enforcement around schools and residential areas. Parking and traffic management should be considered as part of a wider area strategy.

Housing and Development

New housing contributes to council tax revenue but also increases demand for services. Concerns were raised about developer contributions, road adoption, and responsibility for winter maintenance. The need for greater council influence over housing mix, particularly smaller properties, was noted.

Community Policing

PC Greg Mill is the Community Police Officer for the area. Police coverage is based in Haddington, Dunbar and along the A1 corridor. CB will post a community policing update on the Garvald and Morham website. JM will send relevant contact details to the Community Council.

Polling Places

Morham Village Hall will no longer be used as a polling centre, however Garvald Village Hall will continue to be used. The reduction in polling places across the area may result in voters being redirected to Garvald. The hall calendar shows polling station bookings commencing Wednesday 6 February (from 1.00 pm) and continuing Thursday 7 February. Members noted that the Community Council should be consulted on polling place changes.

8. Dates of Future Meetings

| | |
|--------------|---------|
| 30th March | Morham |
| 1st June | Garvald |
| 17th August | Morham |
| 5th October | Garvald |
| 7th December | Morham |

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Addendum 1

Funding Requests Approved

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| 1. Kirsty Malcolm (10 weeks of hall hire). | £540 |
| 2. Philosophy Event | £300 (pa for two years) |
| Total | £840 |