

GARVALD AND MORHAM COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting, 4 December 2017
7.00pm, Morham Village Hall

1. Attendance and Apologies for Absence

In attendance: Penny Short (Chair), Phillip White (Vice Chair), Ian Middlemass (Treasurer), Ian Smith, Anna Derricourt, Kelly Burns (Garvald Hall Rep), Davie Murray (Morham Hall Rep), Councillors John McMillan, Tom Trotter and Brian Small

Apologies: Councillor Akhtar

2. Minutes from Previous Meeting and Matters Arising

Minutes has previously been approved by e-mail and subsequently distributed by e-mail/internet.

Matters Arising

The following items were transferred to the full agenda:

School Bus Stop at Morham
Garvald Defibrillator
Core Paths in Garvald & Morham area
Discussion on next round of funding from Windfarms

'Welcome' Road signage for Morham

Anna advised that she had not received a reply from Keith Scott regarding moving the signs to the correct place.

ACTION: Councillor McMillan offered to chase this up

Possibility of '20' speed limit sign being installed in centre of village

It had been minuted that Councillor Trotter was to take this forward but he had not arrived at the meeting at this point. However Councillor McMillan discussed a new initiative which was looking at making it much easier to have '20' speed limits installed in villages and towns and the CC agreed to await an update from Councillor McMillan at the next meeting

ACTION: Councillor McMillan to update at next meeting.

3. Position of Secretary

It was noted that Rufus Bellamy had sadly resigned from the Community Council and subsequently his position as Secretary. Penny stated that Rufus would be very much missed and that he had been an excellent secretary and member of the CC. Penny noted that no current members of the CC were prepared to take on the position of Secretary and explained that this important position needed to be filled as soon as possible. Penny also pointed out that a new Community Councillor was being sought and that an advert would be placed on the website shortly. The CC agreed that the advert should invite interest from Garvald residents (as there were now only two Garvald residents on the CC) who were able to commit to attending regular CC meetings and other relevant meetings as required, and would be able to take over responsibility as Secretary i.e. prepare agendas and minutes and deal with all other CC correspondence and pass it on to the members of the CC.

ACTION: Penny to post advert for new Community Councillor.

4. Defibrillator at Garvald

Phillip had taken on this matter and advised he had spoken to an architect at North Berwick who would be able to take forward the planning application required for the defib on behalf of the CC for £200 plus the Planning fee of £101 – a total of £301. The CC agreed that this should go ahead. They also agreed that a locked cabinet would not be suitable.

ACTION: Phillip to arrange with architect.

5. School bus stop at Morham

This item had already been discussed in detail but Penny advised she had since spoken to Ross Prentice and he advised there would be no prospect of the bus going up to the Steading as it couldn't turn up there. The CC talked again about a bus stop being installed at the road end to shelter the children who had walked from the Steading – currently 12 primary school children wait for the bus there. Penny told the CC she had spoken to Keith Scott at the Council who advised he could provide a shelter for £1,800 for a fully enclosed 2 bay shelter or £2,100 for a fully enclosed 3 bay shelter. This cost would increase if hardstanding was required. Penny had also spoken to the Area Partnership Manager to ask if there was a possibility that the AP would fund this and it looked likely if it could be linked to the AP Plan – which it could under rural transport provision. However the main issue here is location – the bus stop would need to go on private land and the Council would be unlikely to approve this. The best option would be if the bus could drive up to Mainshill Steading (as it had done in the past).

ACTION: All three Councillors present were asked to speak to Ross Prentice to ask for a re-think.

6. Christmas trees and Lights at Garvald & Morham

As previously agreed by CC members by email, £240 had been approved to buy new Christmas lights for the tree at Garvald. This was paid from the Local Priorities Fund. The tree this year had been generously provided by the Council. It was agreed that the tree and the lights looked wonderful and had already received many positive comments. Penny explained that she had asked if a 15ft tree could be provided this time and it was agreed that this looked much better in the space than the smaller trees had in the past. Dave Ramsay had made a wonderful job of putting the lights on the tree. Morham had ordered their tree from Beanston and Davie would pass on the invoice (approx. £56).

7. Christmas Theatre Trip

This year's Theatre Trip had been arranged by AD for 17 December at the Lyceum, Edinburgh and 87 people from Morham and Garvald were attending this year. The total price for the trip was £1,955. The application had previously been approved by CC members via email. It was suggested that the application for the trip next year should be received in time for the October meeting. A cheque for £1,660 had already been made out to the Lyceum and this had come from the Local Priorities Fund as the cheque was needed quickly. A further cheque was written for £295 which, together with £705 which had been paid by those attending, would pay for the two buses required.

8. Core Paths in Garvald & Morham Area

As part of the push to link Garvald and Morham with each other and Gifford and Haddington a new improved Core Path had been finalised from Garvald Mains up to the Donolly Reservoir. The whole path has been fenced off from the cattle in the fields and a new gate and bridge installed. This is great progress and will help encourage walkers from Garvald to Gifford. This was funded by the Area Partnership.

Penny advised she had written to the owner of the land from Whitelaws Hill to ask if he would meet to discuss options of expanding a core path from Garvald to Morham at Mainshill. She is still awaiting a reply.

9. Issues with Traffic at Nunraw Tower

Penny advised she had received three different complaints regarding dangerous driving by employees working at Nunraw Tower. They had raised concerns about the speed of the vehicles and the fact that the drivers had no consideration either for other vehicles or indeed any pedestrians. As the road from Nunraw to the village has no pavements it has become very dangerous for people, particularly children, to walk on.

Penny advised she had contacted PC Lorna Bairden and asked her to look into the situation and ask if it could be made a priority at the next CAPP Meeting on Monday 8 January 2018 and was awaiting a reply.

ACTION: Penny to update at next meeting.

10. Update from Phillip White, Funding Rep

Phillip advised that £5,500 would be carried over from CRII and we expect to receive approximately £28,000 around this time from Fred Olsen in the CRII fund. It was agreed that we need to discuss how this will be spent and the CC members resolved to come to the next meeting in February with some ideas. It was also agreed that all CC members would ask villagers how they would like it to be spent.

ACTION: All CC members to consider and consult on best way to spend funds.

11. Update from Ian Middlemass, Treasurer

As previously agreed by email, Ian advised that a cheque had been made out to Heidi Ingram who had already paid £109.45 for website hosting fees from the Admin grant. He advised that the current balance is £24,004.87.

ACTION: Penny to contact Fred Olsen to find out what amount we should receive and when.

12. Update from Haddington & Lammermuir Area Partnership

The Partnership had held two meetings in November – the AGM on 2 November and the business meeting on 23 November. Phillip advised that the AGM was held at the new hospital and that its theme was Health and Wellbeing. He advised that it was well attended and a good venue.

PS advised at the 23 November meeting that three funding proposals had been approved:- £11,603.10 for Dunbar Fashion School to carry out a year long project with children from Knox and elderly people with dementia, £11,000 for Haddington 700 to promote the 700 years since the Charter had been signed and £26,000 for year two of the Loose Parts project. The Budget Report showed that of the £50,000 budget for general spend only £24,000 had been spent and of the £100,000 for education only £55,000 had been spent. This budget underspend will not be carried over to next year's budget. The next AP meeting will be held on 25 January 2018.

13. Garvald Neighbourhood Watch

Nothing to report.

Penny had received the Police report and advised:

On 2 December 2017 an accident had occurred where a cyclist had been injured by a vehicle outwith Garvald. He was taken to the Royal Infirmary with minor injuries.

On 20 October 2017 an incident was reported where a female was found at Nunraw Abbey with significant injuries and she was taken to hospital. Police were concerned for the safety of the male who had left her there and an extensive search was conducted. On 21 October the male was traced north of Gifford and subsequently charged and remanded in custody.

On 19 November 2017 Police received a call re possible badger baiting between Tanderlane and Chesters Farm. The area was searched but no persons or vehicle was found. Police asked if anyone sees anything to let them know.

14. Garvald and Morham Updates

Kelly advised that Garvald Village Hall AGM had been held recently. The hall is to be repainted and they are applying to the Civic Fund to cover the costs. The Christmas Fair had been well attended but only just covered costs because of the new licence fee for market traders. Councillor McMillan advised that there would be a review of this fee taking place on 14 December.

Davie advised that things were ticking over and that a Burns Supper would be held in the hall on 23 January 2018. He advised that the hall was no further forward with the progress of work on the hall – as there is so much to be done there is a need to prioritise work on this huge project.

15. A.O.C.B.

Jennifer and Angus from Lothian Broadband had met with Penny and Phillip to discuss the proposed changes and upgrade to Lothian Broadband Network in Garvald. The following actions will be taken:

1. Straighten the bent mast at the back of the village hall as soon as possible as a temporary measure.
2. Removal of this mast and replacing it with a new mast of a 3 metres or less telegraph pole approximately 8 metres further up the hill at the back of the hall. Power and cables would come from the hall (this to be agreed with the Hall Committee).
3. Free wi-fi would be installed to the shelter in the park and would also reach a small radius outside it.
4. Installation of new pole on the other side of the village on abbey land at the edge of the trees – on the hill overlooking the park. The pole would be 3 metres in height and power would come from the shelter.
5. Removal of the equipment from the hall but maintaining wi-fi connection.

Jennifer and Angus assured the CC that they will keep open, honest and transparent communication with the Garvald community and would ensure that any masts and dishes are sprayed appropriate colours to blend in with their surroundings. They will also seek planning permission and advice from ELC's Planning Department. They advised that there was a possibility of providing fibre to the village and they would like to look at this option and so plan to get back to the CC in the new year with a possible consultation date and to arrange a further meeting to discuss in more detail.

It was noted that Garvald Children's Christmas Party will be held on Friday 22 December at 3.00pm with children from Garvald, Morham and surrounding area invited.

Penny advised she had received correspondence from Carers of East Lothian highlighting the excellent work that they do in supporting unpaid carers of family and friends. She also advised that they are looking to recruit Board Members.

ACTION: Penny to post information on website

10. Date of Next Meeting

Monday 5 February 2018 at Garvald Village Hall.