

GARVALD AND MORHAM COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting, 26 March 2018
Morham Village Hall

1. Attendance and Apologies for Absence

In attendance: Penny Short (Chair), Phillip White (Vice Chair), Ian Middlemass, (Treasurer), Kelly Burns (Secretary), Ian Smith, Anna Derricourt

Apologies: Councillor Brian Small, Davie Murray, Morham Village Hall Rep

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:

- a) 'Welcome' Road signage for Morham and Possibility of '20' speed limit being installed in centre of Garvald village – Cllr McMillan was to advise on these two issues but was not at the meeting. It was decided to discuss these matters at a future meeting.
- b) Following Sandy Baptie, ELC's Emergency Planning & Risk Manager Presentation on Resilience the following information was required:-

A volunteer and deputy for the Resilient Communities Single Point of Contact (SPoC) – Penny volunteered as the SPoC and Ian Middlemass volunteered as deputy. Both agreed to provide Sandy with their mobile numbers.

All CC members were asked to consider attending the workshop on Saturday 27 October and Penny Short and Kelly Burns will attend. All CC members were also asked to consider joining the Rest Centre Exercise on Tuesday 26th June 2018 but no one volunteered.

The two Village Hall Committees were to be informed of the Rest Centre Initiative (via the Hall Reps). Davie had passed on his apologies for the meeting and there was no representative from Garvald Hall Trust Committee at the meeting.

ACTION: Penny agreed to send an email to Davie and to the Chair of the Garvald Hall Committee to make them aware of this initiative.

- c) Update on defibrillator at Garvald – Phillip advised it is still in the Planning process but we hope this will be completed by the end of April. Ian M advised there is money in the account for this and will arrange payment when invoice is received.

Penny also advised that the free training course being run at Gifford on Wednesday 28 March at 7.00pm in Gifford Hall was already over-subscribed and could now only offer one place to us. No one at the meeting was able to attend but members were going to speak to contacts to see if someone could be put forward for this training. Anna suggested a sign be put up in the Morham Notice Board advising where the nearest defib was located and agreed to make the sign.

ACTION: sign to be put up at Morham - Anna

- c) Update on Funding – Penny has updated the information relevant to funding on the website to make it clearer and more understandable to anyone applying for funding.
- d) Update from Haddington & Lammermuir AP – Penny had agreed to get more information on the Lunch Club and put on website to make people in Morham and Garvald aware of it: – Penny advised that she had been in contact with Jane Steven who organises both the Lunch Club and the Good Companions Club. Jane explained that they have 40 members of the Lunch Club so far and so could only take a few more people but that there was plenty of space in the Good Companions Club. After speaking to Jane, Penny decided the best option was to try and gauge how many people would be interested in joining either of these clubs and so put up a notice on the website asking for people to get in touch if so. This notice was put up on 19th March but to date no one has responded. Penny noted that she felt it was important that people were aware that there were local organisations and clubs who could help if anyone in the villages and outlying areas felt lonely or isolated but it was reassuring that no one appeared to be in that situation. This of course may change as our demographic changes and our residents get older but it was agreed to revisit this issue as time goes on.
- e) Garvald Notice Board – Phillip still working on this and will advise at next meeting.

ACTION: Phillip to advise on progress at next meeting.

- f) Community Council Association Meeting – Philip advised that the Local Plan was due to be published in June.
- g) Garvald Postal Service – Penny advised she'd contacted Chris Park who confirmed he would continue to provide this service on a temporary basis until the Post Office can appoint a permanent Post Master. She arranged for a notice to be posted on the website to remind people that the service runs on a Thursday from 9.30am to 11.30am.
- h) Community Council Insurance – Penny was to contact Council re Fun Day Event and she advised that she'd spoken to Karen McLeod who suggested that the best way to cover the Fun Day event (and save the CC the separate £60 they paid for the Public Liability Insurance last time) was to have the organising of Fun Day set up as a sub-committee. As it is Penny and Kelly who organise the Fun Day anyway it was agreed by the Community Council that a Fun Day Sub-Committee be officially set up with members being Penny Short and Kelly Burns and that insurance for this event be covered by the Community Council insurance.

- i) Change to Byelaw – Penny confirmed she had sent a response to the Council’s Legal Department stating that the CC did not support the introduction of this byelaw which would prohibit consumption of alcohol in public places.

3. Recent Adverse Weather Conditions & Resilient Communities

Penny noted that the recent heavy snowfall on Wednesday 28 February and the subsequent few days following that had left Garvald cut off until the Saturday when only 4x4’s were able to get in/out of the village but the main road wasn’t cleared or gritted until the Sunday evening/Monday morning with the school buses cancelled until the Tuesday. It was agreed that no one had expected such a heavy snowfall which meant by the Friday there were many households without bread or milk and many residents became concerned. Penny called an emergency meeting with the other two village Community Councillors, Phillip and Kelly, as it became apparent that the village could remain cut off for a number of days. Contact was made with all villagers via the website and by telephone to all outlying households to ensure everyone was ok and didn’t need any medical or emergency assistance. A decision was taken to make an emergency order of milk at a local dairy and two intrepid villagers managed to make it out to collect both milk and bread. The hall became an emergency centre and milk and bread was distributed from there to villagers and delivered to older residents.

Penny formally noted thanks to Phillip and Kelly for assisting on the hastily arranged “Emergency Sub-Committee”, Heidi Ingram for posting updates on the website which kept everyone up to date on the situation, Alastair Kerr for picking up milk supplies, Davie Ferguson for picking up bread & Viki & Rob Freeland who opened the hall on the Thursday and Friday to enable kids to play together and for people to socialise and pick up supplies. She stated that she was proud of everyone’s efforts to help and was gratified to see how everyone looked out for each other.

Anna advised that residents in Morham used the FB page and website to advise when the hall would open for residents and to offer assistance to those of need. Morham roads were cleared by local farmers fairly early on and milk was picked up and delivered by the local farmer too so there were no causes for concern.

Penny noted that it was evident from recent events that the future resilience plan should concentrate on the main issues thrown up by the adverse weather:- clearly once the villages are cut off due to heavy snow there is no access, emergency or otherwise, and we need to prepare for that eventuality. The CC agreed that losing electricity in this kind of situation was also real worry and that it was a relief that this hadn’t happened. It was agreed that Penny would draw up a draft plan for the next meeting and she requested that everyone on the CC email any ideas for the plan.

ACTION: Penny to draw up draft resilience plan and CC members to contribute.

4. Update from Ian Middlemass, Treasurer

Ian advised that the current balance is £32,324.95. He advised there were still applications to be paid out. At present we will hold on to £12k for woodland.

5. Update from Phillip White, Funding Rep (including discussion on next round of funding)

Phillip advised an application had been received from Bella Gold aged 9 who was looking for funding for a new violin. It was agreed to provide £250 to fund this which is the agreed maximum amount for single applications. Phillip advised that the rest of the fund will roll over to the next financial year.

The CC discussed gifting both Yester Primary and Knox High School again from this year's fund. It was pointed out that it would be helpful if the schools could provide feedback on how the money given last year was spent before deciding on an amount this year.

ACTION: Ian S to speak to Knox and Penny to speak to Yester to request feedback.

6. Update from Haddington & Lammermuir Area Partnership

Phillip advised that Haddstock, a music festival to be held in Haddington, received £3k funding.

In light of the news that Haddington was to have a shelter installed (location still to be agreed), similar to ours in Garvald but as a "moveable structure", which would mean no planning permission was required for it, it was suggested that a "moveable structure" could be used for a shelter in at the bus stop in Morham. This would mean that the Community Council could pay for it and no planning permission would be required – only permission from the landowner which it is believed would be forthcoming. It was agreed to look into this further.

ACTION: Anna to look into costs of moveable structures.

7. Garvald Neighbourhood Watch

Phillip advised there was nothing to report.

8. Garvald and Morham Updates

There were no Hall Representatives at the meeting.

9. A.O.B.

- a) A planning application had recently been lodged by the Scottish Government for a mobile phone mast to be installed at Johnsleugh as part of their Emergency Services Mobile Communications Programme to introduce 4G coverage in rural areas. Penny had also been approached by the Courier for comments on this application and had then contacted the Planning Department to request further information. Not much information had been forthcoming and Penny noted that although a mobile signal for the village would be welcomed it was hoped that the mobile mast would be installed sympathetically. Penny spoke about her concern at the lack of consultation and that fact that no notification had been received from the Council about this important initiative – it was only through Phillip keeping any eye on

new planning applications that we became aware of it. It is still not known if further masts will be installed or when the mobile mast will be up and running although Ian S advised that this may take up to two years.

- b) Jennifer and Angus from Lothian Broadband had briefed Penny, Phillip and Kelly about their proposed upgrade plan to provide fibre broadband in Garvald village. It had been agreed at that meeting that Lothian Broadband should write to all residents explaining what the plan would involve and inviting everyone to a consultation event where mock-up photos of proposed masts would be shown.
- c) Penny advised on the progress made with the Garvald Fun Day. She had already started preparations for 18 August date and after the success of last year's event had decided to extend it from two hours long to three hours. She advised that savings would be made on last year's costs since the Public Liability Insurance would not need to be paid separately and that the electricity supply to the park should be in place by then so generators shouldn't be needed this year for the inflatables. Penny had been in contact with Glen Kane, the Council's Senior Lighting Officer, and he advised that he would look at having the cabinet in the park modified to allow a connection to be made and that he thought this would cost around £150. Penny asked the Community Council for approval to pay this to carry out the necessary work which would mean the CC would not need to fund costs for generators in the future. The Committee agreed to this suggestion. Penny advised that she would submit a funding application to the meeting in June with all costs available detailed.
- d) Anna advised the Christmas Theatre Trip would take place again this year.

ACTION: Anna to submit application for funding to June meeting.

- e) Anna advised that several residents are concerned about speeding in Morham and another discussion took place on this. **Note – subsequent to this meeting an email was received from Mainhill residents and relevant advice was given.**
- f) Penny read out a thank you card from Mrs Dorothy Hilsley, retired Head Teacher at Yester thanking everyone on the CC for the gifts on her retirement.

10. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting date is Monday 11 June 2018 at Garvald Village Hall (a week later than normal). This will be the Annual General Meeting.