

# **GARVALD AND MORHAM COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**Draft Minutes of Meeting, 4 February 2019**  
7.00pm – Garvald Village Hall

## **1. Attendance and Apologies for Absence**

**In attendance:** Phillip White (Chair) , Ian Middlemass (Treasurer), Ian Smith, Kelly Wilkie (Secretary), Councilors John Macmillan, Tom Trotter, Mark Burns, Sara Hills (Garvald hall rep)

**Apologies:** Councilor Small and Shamin, Anna Derricout,

## **2. Minutes from Previous Meeting and Matters Arising**

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

### **Matters Arising**

#### **Maintenance of bench and play equipment in Garvald Park**

Phillip was to look into getting play equipment painted but advised this has been postponed until better weather.

**Recycling centre issue:** Morham have emailed council and we will wait to hear if and what is decided.

**Action:** Davie was not present so will wait to hear back.

## **3. Update from Ian Middlemass, Treasurer**

Ian advised the accounts have been approved and the current balance is £27,303,30

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

At the meeting on 6 December under Matters Arising the new Area Plan was discussed. It has now been uploaded on to the Council website and has already been praised for its focus on inequalities. It is the first finalised plan to be published out of all the six Area Partnerships.

I then provided an update as Chair of the Children and Young People Sub Group of our last meeting on 29 November 2019. The meeting was very well attended and a useful discussion took place of our achievements so far, our forthcoming goals and any perceived obstacles to these goals. This information will be collated and form the basis of future discussions in the new year.

We also considered three funding applications:

First was the Knox Meadowpark application for Art Therapy. The Sub Group fully supported this application but the amount requested had since changed and it was felt that the application wasn't as clear as it could be and the decision was taken by the Group to ask Knox to clarify the amount requested. Knox later confirmed they are requesting £12,000 to provide an art therapy clinic for four Knox students from January to December 2019. This was significantly more than the £3,600 detailed on the original application and was due to the counselling service, Crossreach, increasing their charges for next year. The C&YP could not make a recommendation as they did not have this information at the time of their meeting. The AP then considered this application and the further information but felt that a new application should be submitted with the correct amount to ensure all records were correct.

The second application was from myself – in essence an application for funding from the Area Partnership to the Area Partnership. This asked for £10,000 to set up a pilot from January to December 2019 to allow data to be collected on how many trips Yester Primary School were able to make when funding was available compared to how little they could afford to arrange in 2018. Tackling travel poverty is one of the main aims of our AP. Gifford and Garvald areas are the most access deprived in East Lothian and are in the top 3% of access deprived areas in Scotland. In simple terms the children of Yester Primary and the other rural schools are not able to access the same opportunities as those children in schools in Haddington which is why this pilot is so important. I explained where the disparity lies by detailing the excursions that took place in 2017/18 by the Haddington schools and by Yester School.

Haddington Infants (which covers Nursery and P1-P3 pupils) had four planned excursions but are involved in the local community on a regular basis visiting amongst others: Library and the John Gray Centre, regular visits to the Sports Centre, Tesco (as part of the Farm to Fork initiative), Carol singing at Hilton Lodge Nursing Home & Tesco, visits to the Corn Exchange for various events, walks in the park.

Kings Meadow (which covers P4-P7) had 36 excursions in total, 11 of which were within Haddington.

St Mary's (P1-P7 & nursery) had 17 excursions not including 10 sessions at the sports centre. 11 of these were in Haddington. They also access the library/John Gray Centre for library activities and resources regularly but did not record data for this.

Yester had 12 excursions in total in the same period. One visit to the Corn Exchange for P6 pupils cost £150.

The schools in Haddington can afford to make more trips outwith the Haddington area because they don't need to pay for any of the visits to events within Haddington. Yester are unable to organise many trips both within Haddington and outwith because the cost of transport hire is just too much. Arguably the most important aspect that Yester school misses out on is the P7 transition visits to Knox High School. It means they don't get a chance to see the school or meet the children that will be in their classes which can cause many issues once they begin High School.

The pilot scheme will gather data and evidence to illustrate clearly to the Council that there is a problem. This will benefit the wider community and although the problem goes beyond Gifford school we do have to start somewhere. The pilot would run from January to December 2019. £10,000 sounds a lot but for comparison it would cost £3,000 to £4,000 just for Yester to access the Active Schools programme running in Haddington. We recommended that this funding would come from the General budget – the AP Manager felt this was more appropriate as sustainable travel is a main point in our Action Plan – which has been agreed by the Area Partnership. The AP considered all this information and agreed to fund £10,000 for the pilot.

The third application was from Art Point Scotland for running art/language classes – The Language of Art - as a pilot project in the Day Centre in Haddington. The art and craft workshops would run for adults and children to bring the generations together using art and by using different languages. The funding applied for was £700 which covers art materials, facilitators and insurance. Edinburgh University will measure the success of this pilot. This application ticked many AP boxes – not just for C&YP. The Sub Group recommended approval of this application and the AP agreed.

The following four applications were then approved by the AP:

**Knox Academy Parent Council for Marketing & Promotion - £**

**Gifford CC for improvements to the entrance of Bleachfield Park - £1,305**

**Haddington Rotary for restoration of the Curling Pond (design) - £3,420**

**Blooming Haddington for a disability ramp to Lady Kitty's Garden - £2,088**

The AP were advised that no date had been set yet for the Annual Public Meeting but members of the Sub-Group would organise that in the new year.

The AP Budget was then discussed and the AP were advised that after taking into account the approval of the foregoing applications the Education budget was still sitting at £34,905 and the general budget still had £8,399. Both amounts will be lost if not spent by March 2019.

The date of the next Area Partnership meeting will be 21 February 2019.

## **5. Garvald Neighbourhood Watch/Police Report**

Phillip read police report only thing that came up was vehicles acting suspiciously and locals are asked to be vigilant. Local people were asked that if they saw any vehicles acting suspiciously in rural areas they should note the registration and contact Police Scotland on 101.

## **6. Garvald and Morham Hall Updates**

Sara attended not much to report but the hall was looking for funding to replace a bench in the orchard that had been taking away broken. Sara also advised that the hall are needing to fix the noticeboard and were looking for £100.

Morham: Mark advised the hall had their AGM at christmas and their annual accounts have been signed off. Mark has submitted the Difib applications for Morham.

## **7. A.O.C.B.**

- Councillor Macmillan advised the councils budget was published on thursday and at present there was no change to community funding but this could change.
- The new common school day was discussed there were a few concerns over how the buses would work for the children in rural areas.

**Action: Councillors Trotter and Macmillan will report back.**

## **9. Date of Next Meeting**

The next scheduled meeting date is Monday 1st April 2019 at 7.00pm in Morham Village Hall.

## **10. Funding**

Phillip advised he received two application First from the Gifford cubs for some funding towards their cub camp this year in May of which 7 children in our ward attend. We all approved £1000 from CR3 towards this.

Second application was regarding the difib for Morham it was agreed to fully fund this £2506 from CR2.

We discussed Saras requests for new benches for the orchard and agreed we would fund 2 refurbished benches from ELC at £250 each from the local priorities fund and ask that the hall committee fix the noticeboard.