

GARVALD AND MORHAM COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting, 25th March 2024
7.30pm at Morham 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), Garry McGregor(GM), Councillor Shamin Akhter (SA), Councillor Tom Trotter, George MacIntosh (GMac)

Apologies: Davie Murray, Councillor George McGuire, Councillor John McMillan

2. Minutes from Previous Meeting and Matters Arising

DR reported that the new paid-for Mail Chimp account was operational. SA reported that there are additional GP appointments available at the Musselburgh Primary Care site if anyone is having difficulty seeing their local GP.

3. Garvald Park Landscaping Project

DR reported that the park and its surrounds were in need of refurbishment, including the now unsightly gabions and to tackle the flooding of the park. The suggested approach was to first seek opinions from the local residents, contract a landscape expert to generate potential solutions and to then consult the villagers on the proposals. East Lothian Council could make a partial contribution to the labour costs. Wardell Armstrong have submitted a quotation for a landscape design, feasibility and concept of £1,250 plus VAT.

DR will submit a funding request for the landscape survey.

4. Home Energy Scheme Proposal

The budget allocated to the scheme from the GMCC wind farm fund is £30,000. Suggestions for how to use the fund included a grant of up to £1,500 per household.

5. Winter Fuel Allowance Proposal

A potential use of wind farm funds is to issue a £100 fuel payment to all households

6. Broadband Update

RH reported that he had successfully installed a Starlink broadband connection at his house. No problems were encountered but he commented that the monthly subscription was quite high.

7. Treasurer's report

IM reported that with all cheques paid and the public liability insurance renewed, the bank balance was £14,560.69.

8. Funding Ideas

These were dealt with in items 4 and 5.

9. Update from the Haddington & Lammermuir Area Partnership

PW attended the February meeting of the Partnership. The following awards were made:

Organisation	Award
Friday Friends	£6,675
Karele	£2,912
East Coast FM	£2,600
East Lothian Play Association	£5,600
Friends of John Grey Centre	£1,562
Haddington Athletic Community Football Club	£5,250

10. Garvald & Morham Hall Updates from Representatives

Garvald Village Hall

GM reported that:

- ELC - In a departure from previous practice ELC have advised that the use of the orchard to erect a marquee will now necessitate the completion of a formal application process and the payment of a fee. Despite being pressed they have not yet divulged what the fee will be. This is causing difficulties when responding to enquiries from people considering using the hall as a wedding venue.

SA will investigate, the topic will come up at the next East Lothian Council meeting.

- Proposed hall remedial works - An initial report has been received identifying potential remedial work which it is suggested be undertaken. We have requested a further report detailing component parts of the work and estimated costs to allow decisions to be taken as to which works to prioritise. Possible funding sources will also be explored.
- Hall bookings - Unfortunately the weekly Post Office Outreach Service has been discontinued. Also the regular children's drama classes have stopped. On the positive side, the craft classes are progressing well and we have five confirmed bookings for weddings this year and already a possible three for next year and another for 2026.

Morham Village Hall

Davie Murray reported by email that:

- There is an airlock in the heating system following a service last week - electric heating is switched on as a substitute.
- The hall has been quite busy up till now - we have a permanent hire of the hall by the East Lothian Pipes & Drums who use it every Friday. They have players from Morham and surrounding areas, so we're delighted to have them with us.

11. Report from Phillip White Garvald Neighbourhood Watch

PW reported that there were no reports.

11. AOB

- PW reported that we will be receiving a free portrait of King Charles. Suggestions for where to hang the portrait are being sought;
- SA reported that the paint for the Garvald toilets is in stock and that the repainting effort may come from Community Service;
- Tim Flynn reported that there was a plague of young rabbits causing damage in household gardens. Tanderlane farm may be taking action against them;
- There is a significant number of pot holes in the roads around the area. PW suggested that these should be reported using the East Lothian Council portal *Reportit*;
- AAD reported that Changeworks were offering £250 to cover the cost incurred by the recent presentation in Garvald;
- DR attended a Lucy's House initiative event. There are a few free places available for residents of Garvald and Morham parish which are quickly being filled. Activities include guided walks over the Pentlands and Lammermuir hills, watersports swimming, paddle board instruction and Aimsfield garden activities;
- DR reported that the Core Path funding is on hold. SA stated that the budget for the Core Path initiative is likely to be around £50,000 in the up coming budget announcement. SA suggested that we should find out who the current Core Path contact is;
- GMac reported on the progress of the Papple Farm redevelopment project: three of the five roof renovations have been completed and the other two should be completed by August; this will be followed by a few months of fitting out of the Gallery, dovecote and café, for which a license has been applied for; the flower meadow is growing well and is beginning to flower; a Showcasing Scotland food and drink event was hosted, with international buyers attending; a museum within the steading contains a collection of historic horse implements; and a film has been commissioned in consultation with Queen Margret University on the topic of itinerant farm works.

12. Date of the next meeting is Monday the 3rd of June 2024 in the Garvald village hall at 7-30pm.

13. Wind Farm Funding

One application was considered:-

1. Garvald Village Park

Garvald & Morham Community Council – Landscape Design Feasibility & Concept

This request was approved, to be paid from the Crystal Rig 2 fund.

Total Funding approved £1,500

It was further agreed to:

- Apply for a £30,000 drawdown from Crystal Rig 2 fund for the Energy Scotland Project; and
- Apply for a £26,727 drawdown from Crystal Rig 3 fund.