

Whitehills & District Community Council

Minutes of the meeting held Thursday 15th January 2015
at 7.00pm in Whitehills Primary School.

Present: Ross Balharry (Chairman), Robert Mackie, Alistair Wiseman, Anne Balharry, Duncan Leece, Alan Stewart, Mick Moloney, Cllr Michael Roy, Bill Bain, Stuart Ironside and Mattie Verster.

Apologies: Chas Findlay.

Police Issues: No Police present and nothing to report.

Minutes of the last meeting, 18th December 2014:

Minutes were approved as correct, proposed by Stuart and seconded by Alan.

Matters arising:

1. **Replacement of the gate springs along the back path.**

Bill still has work to do. Two gates are working fine. Thanks very much.

2. **Bus stop request for Ladysbridge.** Robbie and Duncan got together about the transport and have made a formal request. Stagecoach have to apply to the Passenger Transport Unit (PTU) if it is warranted. PTU have been very helpful.

3. **New Steps/Pathway on 'The Braes'**

The steps are looking nice after a few loose steps were sorted. There has been positive feedback from users. The rail is still to be put up on the West side of the path. Ross met with the new gill for our area, Alex Kemper, and checked the place where the chair is to be put. It was suggested wild flower seeds be planted in the mixed clay along the side of the path. Ross will put in an application to the Windfarm Fund when the amounts are finalised.

4. **The cart at the crossroads.**

This is holding well and bulbs are starting to shoot.

Treasurer's report:

There being no financial activity since 18th December the balance in the main account remains at £2932.64. With bank interest of £4.18 there is a balance of £35016.61 in the Gift Account. After £5000 each was paid out to Whitehills Public Hall and Whitehills Playing fields there is a balance of £58718.87 in the Windfarm Account. Anne was thanked for her short report.

Whitehills / Ladysbridge pathway:

Duncan gave a detailed report of all the correspondence and meetings held, much of which now seem to have been a waste of time and paper. Hope has been given several times, only to be dashed again. The message seems that Aberdeenshire Council has no intention to do the pathway. The safe pathway from Whitehills to Ladysbridge along the East of the road remains to be an urgent matter and has been for some years now. Mike suggested Ross write a letter directly to Stephen Archer, copy to Peter Argyl, requesting a meeting with himself, Margaret Jane, Ross and Duncan and Mike Roy. Minutes need to be taken at the meeting.

Another matter was raised from Duncan's report. There should be a large amount of money (£75000) that is being kept somewhere and to be used for the provision of a community facility. This needs to be investigated eg Does the money exist; how much; for what; where is it and is there a time factor?

Christmas lights- repairs and new purchases

Robbie and his helpers were thanked for their work over the festive season and for taking down the lights after the festive season. Robbie had asked for brochures for new lights but there were no prices. Meeting agreed Robbie purchase what is needed.

Anti-dog fouling issue / initiative.

There are still new people getting involved. Dog fouling has improved in places and other places are worse. The bin was moved to a better place in Reidhaven Street as requested. Bill and Alistair are happy with the way it is going and were thanked for their help. Just persevere. Some interest has been generated.

Planning Applications There were no applications.

Correspondence received, sent or discussed:

1. A letter from the council planning and building Office was received about the closing of Winston House as of 16 January. Reception will be in Seafield House.
2. Sarah Cooper sent a notice of a road closure. The road between 17 & 19 Reidhaven Street and 18 & 19 Boyne Street will be closed from 22 January for 5 days for work being done.

AOCB:

1. The Post Mistress will close the Post office on Tuesday 20 January and it will open in the afternoon in Premier shop providing all but a few minor services. The community really appreciate Annette's help and support to the community through the years.
2. Cllr Mike thanks the Council for the bulbs.
3. Sandy Cummings was thanked and is on the list for minutes.
4. Alan mentioned that the stairway to the lower shore from Boyndie has been fenced off. Clarity is needed from Eleanor Munroe as to whether this is an adoptive right of way or not.
5. Mattie apologised for the WDCC website being out of date but has been having computer problems.

Date of next meeting:

Next meeting will be held on Thursday 19th February 2015 at 7.00pm in Whitehills School.