

Whitehills & District Community Council

Minutes of the monthly meeting held on Thursday 15 September 2016
in Whitehills Library at 7.00pm.

Present: Ross Balharry (Chairman), Robert Mackie, Anne Balharry, Stuart Ironside, Duncan Leece, Chas Findlay, Alistair Wiseman, Bill Bain, Mick Moloney & Mattie Verster.

Also attending: Cllr Mike Roy

Apologies: Alan Stewart, Cllr John Cox and Jan Emery from Ab Council (Banff and Buchan).

Condolences: Ross expressed the committee's condolences at the sad loss of Cllr Ian Gray who was a huge supporter of the WDCC and a very nice man. Chas was thanked for attending the funeral and Duncan thanked for his letter to his son on behalf of the committee and community. A donation was made to Marie Curie.

Police Issues:

PCs Mackinnon (A1210) and Balish (A7443) briefed the meeting about minor incidents since the last meeting. There was a break-in in the Whitehills School shed, a drug search warrant done in the village and further follow-up on diesel theft. If anyone has any information, please let the Police know. Ross thanked the Police Constables for their good work and for reporting to the meeting.

Minutes of the meeting 16 June 2016, were approved as correct, proposed by Bill Bain and seconded by Stuart Ironside.

Matters Arising:

- **New dog bag dispensers** have been put up in the village by Stuart and Chas. Ian Rennie kindly did some welding to modify them as a donation to WDCC. Boyndie area is still to be done. Someone complained the bags were too small but they are the same as Duff House bags. Dog owners should carry a bag with them anyway. Some children were seen pulling bags out of the new dispenser but probably just a novelty. There are bags at the skip at the harbour. Chas and Stuart were thanked for an excellent work done.
- **Maintenance of the recreational land at the rear of Redwell Drive.** Cllr John Cox passed a message to Duncan to say it is not Aberdeenshire Council's responsibility and really down to the good will of the developer as no provision was made in the original planning consent. Christies has cut some of the grass.
- Bill was thanked for **cutting the grass** at Craigneen Place as well as along the Low Shore where the Aberdeenshire Council have not cut.

Treasurer's Report:

Anne gave a detailed report of all the expenditure and income received since the last meeting This leaves a balance of £5147.74 in the current working account.

Bank interest of £1.79, £1.72 and £1.61 was received for July, August and September in the Gift Account. Anne received a letter from the bank to notify that as from 3 November there will be no interest. The meeting decided to leave the account where it is as most banks are in the same position. The Gift Account Bank balance stands at £ 32472.75.

The annual payment of £24658.88 this year was received from the Boyndie Windfarm. Ross did an application through the Windfarm for the doggy dispensers, in the sum of £1679.68. This leaves the Windfarm Community Fund balance at £ 72347.95.

Anne was thanked for her report and work done.

Meeting at Whitehills Primary re school Wild Life Learning Garden/Area Initiative Fund

Duncan said they had a very good meeting with Whitehills School. There were lots of ideas, one of which links very well with the WDCC plan for a safe pathway to Annie's Woods. Alison Arrowsmith and Margaret -Jane are going to look at the Ladysbridge "development contribution". The developer's contribution can be used for the school as it is a community facility. Alison did an excellent presentation. Money will go to enhancing and developing facilities for the community.

Whitehills/Ladysbridge Safe Pathway – planning Application (Duncan)

Duncan gave an update. The Banff and Buchan Initiative application Duncan did for £7140 was successful and must be spent by 31st March 2017.

Planning consent for the safe pathway has been delayed for various reasons but today Duncan saw on the website that planning permission was granted on 9 September 2016 with a couple of acceptable conditions. The Roads department state that the first part of the path is to be hard surface to prevent chuckies going into the road. All parties need to meet as soon as possible to take the project forward. Bill Bain is also willing to help. There is money to upgrade. Advice from Colin Smith will be valued. Duncan was thanked for all his time and work.

(Planning consent had still not been granted although payment was made. When investigating, Duncan was told payment was outstanding for the advertisement in the Banff newspaper to check there are no objections. No invoice had been received. This was then paid.)

Planning Issues

There is nothing contentious on the website.

Previously, there was an issue where WDCC had been approached to consider a changed plan for land at Ladysbridge to be partly used for a property instead of the planned recreational space. The application has been refused and worked out as it should.

Update on the new Whitehillsanddistrict website

Mattie gave a brief update. Kay has created the base navigation system and a basic layout taking the information from the existing site. Postal codes are needed for the directory which will show on the map. The old website renewal date is the 27th October and a month's notice has been given after which the new website will automatically open instead of the old one. Progress can be seen at <http://www.whitehillsandboyndie.co.uk/>. Please forward any information to be updated to Mattie at mymatverster@gmail.com. This is a work in progress.

Correspondence

- Inner Wheel Banff gave a donation of £50 to be used toward any project as discussed with Rosemarie who had suggested a defibrillator.
- Safety and security in public toilets. A letter of instructions for the cleaners was received from Aberdeenshire Council.
- Ross accepted an offer from Alex Kemper for more flower bulbs.
- Mr Peter Chapman, a newly appointed MSP for North East Scotland, sent a letter offering his support in any matters.
- A letter from Eilidh Whiteford states her commitment made for the training of a 1000 new paramedics.

AOCB

- Nicola Gatt phoned Ross to ask about installing a defibrillator in Whitehills. Ross said the matter had been discussed before and decided there was no point unless there are a significant number of trained CPR. Nicola said she will take responsibility and get a trained team together. Billy Gatt offered mounting place by his shop as a central place in the village. Nicola can complete a Wind Farm application for funding. It may cost between £1400 - £2000.
- The notice board is leaking and needs sealing and painting. Stuart will attend to this. There may be a new board in the shed.
- The new road markings are still coming but a series of motions have to be followed first.
- The sign for "Seafield Place" has disappeared. Ross will write to Derek Murray, Roads Department.
- A family have requested permission to put up a bench beyond the new memorial to those lost at sea in memory of their son who drowned. They will carry the cost and arrange. Ross will write a letter advising them to contact Alex Kemper Ab. Council direct as suggested by Cllr Mike.
- Ross suggested that in view of the dark winter evenings the WDCC meetings start at 6.30pm. All agreed. (Please remind the Police of the change of time.)

Date of Next Meeting is 20 October, **6.30pm** in the Whitehills library.