

## Whitehills & District Community Council

Minutes of the meeting held Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2015  
at 7.00pm in Whitehills Library.

**Present:** Ross Balharry (Chairman), Anne Balharry, Duncan Leece, Alan Stewart, Robert Mackie, Chas Findlay, Mick Moloney, Stuart Ironside and Mattie Verster.

**Apologies:** Alistair Wiseman, Bill Bain, Cllr Michael Roy and Cllr John Cox.

**Police Issues:** PC Jordan Stewart said there were no live issues. Police patrol the area when they can and this is greatly appreciated. A report of the different beats in the area was sent out to Ross and others. It is quite a comprehensive report and helpful. A member reported incidents of racing in the village. PC Stewart said witnesses are to please report the car colour and registration number of such drivers to the Police on telephone 101 and they will follow up. The Police station door in Banff was locked when Shona was on holiday and no one was there to man the office. Just phone the police if needed. PC Stewart was thanked for attending.

### Minutes of the last meeting, 19th March 2015:

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

### Matters arising not dealt with elsewhere:

1. **Replacement of the gate springs along the back path.**  
Bill and Stuart still have a few things to do. They were thanked for their work.
2. **New Christmas lights.** Robbie received the lights and tested them. They are all working and slightly bigger than other ones. Good job.
3. **Anti Dog Fouling**  
This is ongoing and seems worse in some places. Some bags have been lifted from the doggy bag dispensers put out by WDCC. There are no dog bags available at the skip at present. Dianne is planning an awareness and fundraising walk for the blind dogs association from the caravans to Banff Links and is welcome to send an application for help. This could be an opportunity to promote Antidogfouling.

### Whitehills Heritage and Tourism – Jamie Fairbairn

Jamie Fairburn attended the meeting to explain his ideas to promote the Scottish language and culture in Whitehills village where there is already evidence of the language on signs, at events and places. We could work towards the Scottish Town Award for which application is made next February 2016. This is an opportunity to celebrate and preserve the Doric language. The school can be involved as well as local people who are valuable resources of information before it is lost. Chas and Alistair offered to help Jamie with information and ideas. The WDCC definitely support this venture and are also willing to help with funding. Jamie was thanked for his time and for attending the meeting.

### Treasurer's report:

Anne had little to report. The balance in the main account is £4443.84. A reinvesting letter was received from the Co-operative bank about the Fixed Deposit Account. There is a fixed interest rate which we do not yet know. With bank interest of £848.56 there is a balance of £71756.06 in the fixed deposit. This is a true balance as all payments are up to date.

We don't pay tax so there was a refund of £14.06 and with bank interest of £5.04 there is a balance of £35044.49 in the Gift Account.

£2000 was paid into the working account leaving a balance of £43005.66 in the Windfarm Account including interest of £6.59.

Anne was thanked for her short report.

### Whitehills / Ladysbridge pathway:

Duncan said a meeting is set for Tuesday morning 21 April which will hopefully be attended by Margaret Jane, Stephen Archer, some Ward 1 councillors, Ross and Duncan, to discuss the safe walking route from Ladysbridge to Whitehills. Duncan would like to take the participants around the site to show the path that has been put in (against all advice) and firstly, ask if it is safe or not. Secondly, Duncan would like to know what the situation with the planning gain money is and how it is being used? Furthermore, who maintains the road/pathway? At present the WDCC maintain the back path as a favour but it is not our responsibility. The meeting is to be minuted.

### Wind Farm Applications

No applications.

**Planning Applications** There was nothing contentious.

### **Proposed Development Plan**

These thick documents were sent out to Ross and Duncan and all Community Councils for comment. Two matters need attention:

- Under "Services and infrastructure" there is mention of a footpath to be built. A letter has been written to ask for a concise response and that we would highly value their thoughts.
- There is planning consent for the extension of housing toward the Redwell area. On the accompanying map, access roads are from the 'Redwell road' that theoretically no one looks after. Ross and Duncan will ask about this at the meeting on Tuesday.

### **Correspondence received, sent or discussed:**

1. A letter was received from Alistair Mason about a book written by Andy Strachan which he wants to publish but is requesting more recent photographs and pictures of the village as well as permission to use the coat of arms. WDCC support this project and suggest Alistair uses George Lovie's photo albums presently with Chas Findlay. Permission is given to use the coat of arms. Ross will respond.
2. There has been no response to a letter sent by Ross about the change of constitution of Community Councils.
3. Aberdeenshire Council sent a letter to say they will pay £1000 per year for the Public Toilets and are thinking of increasing this amount.
4. There is a licensing application from the Galley for a full licence.

### **AOCB:**

1. The picnic table at the Redwell needs to be replaced.
2. The fence from Redwell to the caravan park needs tidying up. Ross will attend to this.
3. The owners of the house in Seafield Street whose wall was damaged by a bus reversing into it, came to the meeting to explain their concerns and ask advice. It would seem it is the liability of the bus company. Sometimes both buses are there at the same time. There is no pedestrian path at the corner. The history was explained of WDCC's attempts to address this matter. Historic Scotland refuse to allow the house on the corner (27 Seafield Street) to be demolished to improve easy access to buses turning into and from Loch Street. Various suggestions were put forward. The bus timetable could be changed to prevent both buses meeting at that spot. Yellow lines could be painted to prevent people stopping / parking in that area thus helping with the tight corners. Lyndsay will speak to a house owner about the possibility of moving an outside wall of his property 1 meter in for more space, and will report back to Ross. Ross will speak to cllr John Cox about what can be done at a meeting on 29 April.
4. The wall mounted baby changing unit in the male side of the public toilets was unfortunately vandalised a year ago and removed by the Aberdeenshire Council but never been replaced. Ross wrote a letter and Andrew Meechan replied saying it was very necessary and will be replaced.
5. Ross will sort out a stone that has been damaged in the bullring.
6. Someone mentioned an exposed cable by the flagpole but Chas said it is BT and been there a long time.

### **Date of next meeting:**

The next meeting will be the AGM to be held on Thursday 21 May 2015 at 7.00pm in Whitehills School.