

Whitehills & District Community Council

Minutes of the monthly meeting held on Thursday 16 June 2016
in Whitehills Library at 7.00pm.

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

Also attending: Cllr Mike Roy and Jan Emery from Aberdeenshire Council (Banff and Buchan).

Apologies: Chas Findlay and Cllr John Cox.

Police Issues:

PC Ryan Rozanski 1576 was welcomed to the meeting. There are no Police issues to report. He said he would follow-up a complaint that someone is wilfully littering the road near the B9139 with sheets of newspaper. The meeting again thanked him and the Police for their work.

(The Public is reminded to report any unusual, suspicious or offensive behaviour to Crimestop phone number 101.)

Minutes of the meeting 19 May 2016, were approved as correct, proposed by Alan and seconded by Robbie.

Matters Arising:

- The Marina has received the flags that were ordered.
- The bullring has been cleared of weeds
- Chas and Stuart were thanked for planting all the flowers received for the village. A great job done!

Treasurer's Report:

Anne was thanked for her report of the little activity since the last meeting. Payments made for the flags and to Aberdeenshire Council for the planning for the safe pathway. £480 from the Gift Account was paid out for the back pathway repairs done. The bank balance in the working current account is £ 5222.32. Bank balances in the Gift Account stood at £ 32465.99 and the Windfarm Community Fund remained at £ 49355.15. Interest still to be added.

Whitehills/Ladysbridge Safe Pathway- and a recent Windfarm community fund application for funding for a Wild Life learning garden on behalf of the Whitehills School Parent Council

Duncan gave an update on discussions with Whitehills Primary School regarding their application to the Windfarm Community Fund. He had a good meeting with Alison Arrowsmith and Elaine McGowan (Head teacher) who is very enthusiastic to get everyone interested in setting up various projects, including the John Muir Award. It is apparent that parents at the school wish to be involved. Much planning and thinking has already been done. They are excited that WDCC is behind them and willing to support but suggests those interested need to meet together to plan and prioritize projects. WDCC is keen to support outdoor learning space and may look at funding two projects if considered appropriate.

Alison invited WDCC to a meeting being held at Whitehills School on Monday 27 June at 5.30pm to look at class provision and school space. While WDCC is not to get too involved, it will be good for building relationships if a member of the WDCC could attend the meeting. Bill may attend if available.

The closing date for tenders for doing the safe pathway has now passed and there is only one tender, Colin Smith. We are awaiting planning permission. Duncan will check that the payment has been made as the cheque has not yet been cashed. Some parents from the school have asked that the pathway surface be more substantial than just chuckies like the existing pathway round the back, so that prams can be pushed along it. Tar will be too expensive. Cllr Mike said a path similar to that in the woods by Duff House where bond cement was used and hard rolled with wood edges to the path, will be good and cost less. Duncan will follow this up.

Duncan has put in an application to the Area Initiative Fund towards the cost of the pathway.
Duncan was thanked for all his hard work and an excellent exercise.

Back Path improvements.

Chas and Bill will sort the broken gate latches with thick rope loops and Duncan offered old tyres to cut and use as buffers.

Planning Applications

Duncan said there were no plans mentioned on the website for June.

Correspondence

- Notification from Ab Council roads department of road closures:
 - i.) Chapel Street to the Harbour Place 22-25/6/2016
 - ii.) Surface dressing works on Seafield Street to the crossroads for a month from 31 May 2016.
- A letter of complaint about the developer changing plans for an open space at Ladysbridge has been received, as has previously. While WDCC looks at plans, it has no authority, but can see that the complaint is lodged at the right place. The complaint will come before AB Council for adjudication.

AOCB

- Doggy bags are still being misused. After discussion it was decided to buy five new dispensers that only dispense one bag at a time and gradually replace the old ones. Although expensive, they are solid substantial and should last better. There are still bags for the old dispensers so we will run a dual system and see how it goes.
- Rosemary Crameri, from the Inner Wheel, approached Ross about getting a defibrillator for Whitehills toward which they would give a £50. After a discussion it was decided it is not needed now but we may look in the future.
- Ross wrote to the area manager, Margaret-Jane for clarity about the maintenance of the recreational land at the rear of Redwell Drive. Ken Regan (Principal Landscape Services Officer) sent a letter from Ab Council in reply to Miss Dickinson's complaint to say it will not adopt the ground. It appears the onus is with the developer and probably no maintenance provision was made in the planning application. Jan Emery said she would see Margaret Jane and ask her about the matter.
Alan asked if he could use the WDCC strimmer to cut the grass at Craigneen Place which is also no longer being maintained. Ross said anyone willing on the WDCC was welcome to use the equipment to kindly clear the mentioned areas.
- Mention was made of the long grass at road junctions at present. Jan said she would approach Ken Regan about clearing grass at road junctions that are not safe.
- Bill will speak to Alex Kemper about putting a new bench on the existing slab up the back path.
- If anything needs to be seen to before the next meeting, please email everyone.

Ross thanked all for attending.

Date of Next Meeting is 15 September, 7.00pm in the Whitehills library.