

Whitehills & District Community Council
Minutes of the meeting held Thursday 17th December 2015 at 7.00pm in
Whitehills Primary School.

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

Also attending: Cllr Michael Roy, Cllr John Cox.

Apologies for absence: Bill Bain

Police Issues:

Policemen Jordan Stuart 1420 and Craig Kinniburgh 9783 were welcomed to the meeting. Whitehills continues to have little criminal activity and members of the public don't report crime. Chas said there had been an incident of vandalism in the Gents' public toilet where a toilet seat and toilet roll holder had been broken. Chas kindly fixed both and the police said they would bear this in mind when passing through the village. The committee expressed their gratitude for the Police presence at the meeting and in the village.

Minutes of the meeting 19th November 2015, were approved as correct, proposed by Alan Stewart and seconded by Stuart Ironside.

Matters Arising from Minutes of 19 November 2015 not mentioned elsewhere:

1. The littering on the road has been resolved.
2. More tulip and daffodil bulbs were planted around the village. Thanks to all those who assisted.
3. Christmas lights and tree are up. Many thanks to Bill, Robbie, Alistair and Stewart. Special thanks to Jimmy Forbes for the help of his machine to make this possible. Health and safety regulations must be borne in mind for the future.
4. Christmas Card deliveries. Alan said that there was a full turn out of Cubs and Beavers and another Christmas card delivery will be done this Sunday.

Treasurer's Report:

Anne detailed the income and expenditure of the working account since the last meeting.

The late bank statements from the Co-operative bank have now been received. A £500 donation was received from Seafield Estates and acknowledged. Payment was made for the quarterly Redwell clean £192. Cards and cash presents were given to the nine volunteers who clean the toilets as a token of appreciation for their work. A voucher was presented to Jimmy Forbes for his help with festive lights etc.

Bank balances stood at £ 3198.67 in the working current account, £63091.87 in the gift account and £33937.26 in the Wind Farm Account. Well done Anne and thank you.

Proposed new CC constitution - Crudie meeting (DL)

Ross and Duncan went to the meeting at Crudie two weeks ago but it was a shambles as the two ladies who were leading had different documents to everyone attending. Representatives from a number of Community Councils attended. Notes were made and representatives were asked to write their views which would be fed into the new document. However Cllr Mike Roy said the recommendations given to the full council were much simpler. The third and final consultation is now open. Our main concern regarding the short term of office for office bearers has been withdrawn. The Council has to have rules and regulations to which we will adhere, to the best of our ability.

The committee thanked the attending councillors for their help and assistance.

Whitehills/Ladysbridge Pathway update

Duncan was pleased to report that Gordon Chalmers is happy for us to go ahead with the pathway. Planning consent and a tender need to be arranged for the path from the war memorial to the crossroads along the East side of the road. It will have the same specifications as the pathway from Ladysbridge around the back to the old Portsoy road. Alistair Ramsay is very busy at the moment but agreed to move forward with the planning application on our behalf early next year. The next part of the pathway will be looked at as a future exercise. A good chunk of funds will be needed from the Wind Farm account for this project.

Planning Applications:

There were no objections to the two applications on the website. Duncan will reply to Ab. Council re the query about the WDCC response to planning change issues being made at Ladysbridge Village.

Windfarm Application

1. **Whitehills Rowing Club is a new club with a formal constitution and committee of which Alistair is the chairman. They are wanting to build a St Ayles skiff.** There was a complete list of costings and donations received attached to the completed application form. The total cost including renting the old fish market for three months to build it in, will be £7782.40. The request for a grant of £4571.96 was agreed by all. This will be good for all age groups.
2. **Whitehills Public Hall** submitted an application and documents for the fitting and obtaining of vertical blinds for the hall. The council is happy to give the £1330 requested for this project.

Correspondence:

- Gwyneth Dryburgh sent a Christmas card to thank the committee for the gift.
- Jimmy Forbes sent a card thanking the WDCC for vouchers received for the Whitehills Regatta.
- Banffshire Partnership asked for an update on our year's activities for their next "Partnership Update" publication. Ross has prepared and forwarded same.
- A letter of apology was received from the school head for not having the school community lounge available for the C.C. meeting last month and saying that arrangements are in place to use the staffroom. The head teacher, Mrs Elaine McGowan, is always pleased to accommodate us but there is not much space in the staff room and the committee is not keen to use it. Ross will look into using the library as a better option.

AOCB:

1. Mick asked if it is possible to get a doggy bag dispenser and bin put up by the rural Ladysbridge pathway as someone is dropping their full doggy bags along the path! Alistair will find out if council will empty a bin there and then follow up. Duncan can print more signs if needed.
2. Christmas lights will be taken down on Sunday 10 January 2016 at 10.00am – any assistance will be greatly appreciated.
3. It seems Whitehills school is bursting at its seams hence the need to use the community lounge for the preschool class. Ross and Duncan will liaise with the Head teacher as to plans for the future to cope with increasing numbers especially with the development at Ladysbridge Village, and move forward from there.
4. Chas said there were moles in the cemetery and John Cox said he would see to the matter.
5. Ian Tillet has left Ab. Council and Ross said he would send a card thanking him for all his help and assistance over the years. Chas will get his address.

There being no further business, everyone was thanked and the meeting was closed.

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 21 January 2016, 7.00pm in Whitehills library.