

Whitehills & District Community Council
Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 17 March 2016
in Whitehills Library at 7.00pm.

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

Also attending: Becky Campbell Wilson (Cornhill C.C.), Barry Addison (Cullen C.C), Mary Cummings and Carol Solloway

Apologies for absence: None.

Police Issues: Ross sent the Police report to all the members. Nothing further to report.

Minutes of the meeting 18 February 2016, were approved as correct, proposed by Alan and seconded by Robbie.

Matters Arising:

- Discussions with Derek Murray re yellow lining is ongoing. Bill to please check about the bend near the Cutty where the Lollipop lady helps the children cross the road as this is a dangerous spot.
- Loo of the Year Award 2016: Thanks to Bill for taking photos of a delighted Fred and Pearl, and for sending them to the Banffshire Journal office.
- Blackpots Play Park application to the Windfarm Community Fund: Ross and Duncan met with Terry and agreed verbally in principle to give up to £5000 to Blackpots playground, depending on other funding they are expecting. CC agreed.
- The picnic tables on LowShore/West End are in place, thanks to Bill. Anne is waiting for the bill.
- Having said the gate post doesn't need repair at the Redwell parking, Ross had contact from Alex Kemper, Ab. Council to say they would prefer it replaced and she will see to the minor repair. Ross has a key for the new padlock.
- Whitehills Skiff: Alistair said funds are coming in and more helpers. The work is moving forward and they are looking for ladies to help row. This has been a good community project with increasing interest in rowing. There is a special day to commemorate Banff rowing in Banff this Saturday. Other skiffs will be there.

Treasurer's Report:

Anne detailed the little activity since the last meeting. The bank balance in the working current account is £2783.37. Bank balances in the Gift Account stood at £32,942.49 and £ 56849.16 in the Windfarm Community Fund after money was given to 'Skip to the beat'.

The form from The Co-operative Bank about the fixed rate investment came. CC agree to let it roll over.

Anne was thanked for an excellent job.

Proposed new Community Council Scheme of Establishment

Duncan said nothing further has been heard and Cllr Mike said it has been knocked back for further review as it received so much criticism. There are no significant changes.

Whitehills/Ladysbridge Safe Pathway: Ongoing.

1) Duncan gave an update saying Alistair Ramsay has done the drawings and specifications for the part of the path CC has asked for and these have been sent to Andrew Norval of Seafield Estate for approval. It may be good to have written approval from him as there is nothing on paper. The drawings will then go for planning and Alistair will put it out to tender and get prices. Hoping for around £30,000. Cllr Mike said the Area Initiative Fund will be made available this year and CC should make an application. Duncan said he is busy with the application.

2) The response from Ab. Council to correspondence from Gil Gilbert supported by the C.C. was shocking. Letters were received from Aaron Scoular by those locals who responded. The letter included an extract from 31/03/2009 explaining the reason for the preferred route, as recommended by the Council's transportation manager, to be along the B 9121, however Ab Council overruled this and instructed the rural pathway be completed. After correspondence over the years, this was the first time this was mentioned. Gil is preparing his reply. CC continues to support his efforts.

John Milliken, a resident of Whitehills, very kindly walked and measured the distance of the two routes to Ladysbridge. Ross will ask if he can please also measure the direct path from Whitehills to the gates of Ladysbridge development.

RAF Banff Meeting

Duncan reported about the first meeting held to see who is interested and wants to get involved. The old RAF association and the former Airfield Trust have come together to form this meeting. The plan is that it becomes an active trust. The various office bearers were decided for the interim. Nigel Smith has a website up and running. A proper public meeting will be held in May to see if there are more interested to take up office. There is much memorabilia out there and Colin Jeffrey is keen to find what there is and how best to use it. Stories are also important to be recorded before they are lost. Deveron FM could help with stories. Bill is taking photos for records and there are many possibilities for BBQs and flying small aircraft etc. Whitehills & District CC will be happy to be a "corporate" member of the new group.

Back Path improvements.

Bill spoke to Stuart Geddes about the water problem. He would rather wait until better weather. The water supply people came to check and Bill has maps. It seems there may be a drain pipe problem. The water at the brow has been tested and is just run-off water. About 200yards of the path needs repair. Bill will ask Jimmy Forbes to give advice on how to go about digging to check drains etc. The digger is needed to clear drains. This is to be done at the farmers' convenience.

Fencing round Football park.

Cllr Ian Gray had spoken to Ab.Council who had said they were going to replace the broken and dangerous fence. Alex Bain is responsible for educational maintenance. Hopefully it will be done.

Planning Issues

Nothing contentious, mainly Ladysbridge plots.

Correspondence

- New soap and toilet roll holders have been received from Ab. Council. Stuart and Chas offered to put them up, thank you.
- Her Majesty the Queen, is celebrating her 90th birthday on 21 April and a complimentary commemorative was received. Ross and Anne forwarded names of those who are 90 years and over in the village whose names will be balloted for an invitation to a party to be held at Ballindalloch Castle

AOCB

- The Community Action Plan: This finishes at the end of 2016 and most things have been done except the safe pathway to Ladysbridge which is ongoing. Meeting agrees with Ross and Duncan to let the plan lie until the end of the year and look at a new plan in the winter.
- There is still no answer from Ab Council to our question about the 'developer contributions' for Ladysbridge Village – how to access or use this money and how much it is. Gil has put in a FAQ for this information.

Ross thanked the visitors for attending.

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 21st April, 7.00pm in Whitehills library.