

**Whitehills & District Community Council**  
**Minutes of the meeting Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2015**

**Present:** Ross Balharry (Chairman), Robert Mackie, Anne Balharry, Alistair Wiseman, Stuart Ironside, Duncan Leece, Chas Findlay and Bill Bain.

**Also attending:** Cllr Michael Roy, Cllr John Cox, Beryl MacLean and Jill Clark.

**Apologies:**, Alan Stewart, Mick Moloney, Mattie Verster and Cllr Ian Gray.

**Minutes of the meeting 18<sup>th</sup> June 2015**, were approved as correct, proposed by Anne and seconded by Robbie.

Matters Arising:

1. Anti dog fouling measures: additional bag dispenser fitted, sited at Flagpole area.
2. Application for funding, Football Club Pavilion has been withdrawn, but may be re-submitted in future years.
3. Bus bay has been marked out on Loch Street.

**Police Report:** Nil

**Treasurer's Report:** Anne distributed copies of the monthly accounts, detailing expenditure totalling £1086.17 since the last meeting, and an income of £101.50. Bank balances stood at £3,665.52 in the working current account, £35,063.90 in the gifts/projects account and £38,763.62 in the Wind Farm Account.

It was noted that the annual grant to the Windfarm Community Fund from Falk Renewables had yet to be paid, and Ross would investigate why it is late.

**Planning Applications:** Nine were discussed and noted, but none were felt, initially, to require further comment. However, a letter had been received from local residents, Gary MacBeath and Laura McGregor expressing their concern about an issue that may relate to one of these applications, a proposed variation to the plot layout at Ladysbridge Village development Phase 3, and Ross and Duncan will investigate further.

**Whitehills/Ladysbridge Safe Walking Route:**

Duncan reported that since the last meeting, there had been two further developments:

- Alasdair Ramsay of Ladysbridge Village Development Company had expressed his support for a path bordering the B9121 as he has personally witnessed the dangers faced by pedestrians. He has made an offer to assist the Community Council by preparing architectural drawings for a path, suitable for a planning application, and to prepare a tender document for potential contractors.
- Andrew Norval of Seafield Estates had also expressed potential support for the idea, and was willing to work with the Community Council to discuss and facilitate possible use of Seafield-owned land where appropriate.

Cllr Cox confirmed that he was still willing to try to progress this matter, and he agreed with Cllr Roy's advice, that Duncan and Ross should arrange a collective meeting with Alasdair Ramsay and Andrew Norval. The goal should be to advance the path through design, planning consent and tendering stages, then Ward 1 elected members would have some firm facts on which to base further pursuit of funding additional to the Community Council's own money, which would not be sufficient on its own.

**Community Council Constitutional Reforms;** Ross and Duncan updated everyone on the multiple pieces of correspondence received on this matter, a meeting Duncan had attended on 30<sup>th</sup> June, a subsequent letter sent on behalf of the Community Council expressing collective concerns and views, the reply to that from Area Project Officer Ian Rogan, and revised draft proposals.

Whitehills and District Community Council remained very concerned and unhappy with the draft changes suggested. Specific concerns had been clearly expressed numerous times to a variety of Council officers, and none of the revisions to draft proposals addressed them. Cllr Cox reported that he had raised, and would continue to raise, the matter with Aberdeenshire Council Director of Communities, Ritchie Johnson. Duncan agreed to circulate copies of relevant correspondence.

**Correspondence:**

- Invitation to unveiling of new memorial, 26<sup>th</sup> October. Anne and Robbie chosen to represent the Community Council.
- Letter from local residents (see Planning Applications above).

**AOCB:**

- Plants and bulbs for the village's floral displays ordered.
- Path from Boyndie to Windfarm now cleared of gorse and renovated. A major job. Anonymous donation of £500 from a local resident helped to pay for work. Thanks given to Mick for making arrangements.
- Baby changing facility now reinstated at public toilets. Some minor repairs required to toilet cisterns and Stuart will undertake this.

**Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> October, 7.00pm**

**Please note, this will be at Whitehills Public Library.**