

## **Whitehills & District Community Council**

Minutes of the meeting held Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2014  
at 7.00pm in the Whitehills Library.

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

**Apologies:** Cllr John Cox, Duncan Leece and Cllr Ian Gray.

**Police Issues:** No police to give any report.

There was an incident of a drunk person in the village last Saturday causing disruption and minor breakages. Police attended to the matter.

### **Minutes of the last meeting, 20th November:**

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

### **Matters arising:**

**1. Replacement of the gate springs along the back path.**

Bill still has a few things to do to complete the job. Thanks very much.

**2. Water running down the road to the Redwell posing a danger in winter.**

The road has been attended to, thank you.

**3. Construction of steps above the harbour.**

An excellent job has been done of the steps. The hand rail is still to be put up. A seat has been ordered to be placed on the area half way down the steps. It is suggested that a plaque "in memory of George Lovie, a well known Whitehills benefactor" be placed on it.

**4. Cart at the crossroads.**

Stuart was thanked for kindly fixing the tail gate of the cart at the crossroads.

### **Treasurer's report:**

The little financial activity since 26<sup>th</sup> November was detailed by Anne. Vouchers were given to the toilet volunteers and a Seafield Arms Hotel voucher to Jimmy Forbes for assistance with Xmas Lights as per last year. Postage Stamps and gate springs were bought and the banner repairs for £31.70 was paid. The annual £450 was received from Seafield Estate. There is a balance in the main account of £2932.64. With bank interest of £4.74, there is a balance of £35,012.43 in the Gift Account and, with interest of £8.99 a balance of £68,710.77 exists in the Windfarm Account. Chas again expressed his thanks to the Community Council for the kind donation towards the building of the Sea farers' monument which consists of five tonnes of granite and is expected to take three months to erect. Anne was thanked for her report.

### **Ladysbridge/Whitehills pathway:**

Cllr Mike reported that he wrote letters to Peter Argyle and Stephen Archer. Duncan must still get indicative prices for an alternative route to pass on to Mike. Duncan had another meeting with Margaret-Jane. The roads manager for Banff and Buchan, Derek Murray, sent a letter on 16 December to Duncan outlining the project but it was not sent to Mike. Matter ongoing.

### **Christmas lights**

Some of the lights are not working. Robbie will get quotes to replace lights. Suggest get two sets a year and keep old lights to repair broken lights. The lights look good. Thanks to Robbie and helpers for putting them up.

### **Anti-dog fouling initiative.**

The committee is very grateful to Bill and Alistair for taking this initiative forward and are encouraged to keep persevering. There was an article in the Banff Newspaper and information was available to the public in the library. There has been a positive response and 51 people have signed up however, the offenders are probably not the ones getting involved. Posters are up with a telephone number on to report offenders. The public is encouraged to report offenders to the WDCC who will follow the matter up if they are afraid of being targeted if they report offenders. It may be time to just name the offenders and let the dog warden take action. The dog warden, Alison Robertson, is going to come to the school next year to teach the children about preventing dog fouling. The local community has requested a bin be placed by the War Memorial on Seafield Street. The bin half way along Reidhaven Street needs to please be moved closer to the new dispenser along the pavement where it is seen. Ross will ask this to be done.

### **Wind Farm Applications**

1. Blackpots Playing Fields want to put up a roundabout to enhance the playing experience for wheelchair users and others. The WDCC is very happy to help them with the £5000 that they have requested.
2. The Public Hall has submitted an application for funding towards creation of a new kitchen. The WDCC agreed to give £5000.

### **Planning Applications**

Duncan was not present to present the applications but Ross said there was nothing to object to.

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

1. A thank you card was received from Gwyneth and Derek Dryburgh for the vouchers received for the volunteer work at the toilets.
2. A letter from Eilidh Whiteford giving a further update on the ambulance response time and unexpected closure at times of the emergency ward at Chalmers hospital without announcement. Mike said a meeting is being held in Huntly on Monday to discuss the issue in Banff and Buchan. Mike will report back next meeting. Alan said he had used the emergency facilities recently and that the treatment was very good.
3. Ross wrote a letter of thanks to Seafield Estate for the Xmas tree and their donation.

### **AOCB:**

1. Robbie made a request that the Stagecoach make the last stop at Ladysbridge in the evening. Robbie will email full details to Ross who will make the request.
2. Alan said it was good to see the streets being brush cleaned.

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

Next meeting will be held on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2015 at 7.00pm in Whitehills School.

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