

Whitehills & District Community Council  
Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 18 February 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, Cllr John Cox, Mattie Verster.

Also attending: Gil Gilbert.

**Apologies:** Stuart Ironside and Cllr Michael Roy.

**Police Issues:**

Inspector Megan Heathershaw introduced herself as she is new to the area. There has been a spate of crime in the North East for no reason and it has been frustrating to gather information to prosecute those responsible. This is a large area for the police to cover with limited personnel. New recruits are coming. People are encouraged to please report anything out of the ordinary, or unusual and anti-social behaviour to 101 or at the desk in Banff. The committee is impressed with the standard and enthusiasm of the police in our area. Thank you.

**Minutes of the meeting 21 January 2016**, were approved as correct, proposed by Bill and seconded by Mick.

**Matters Arising:** None

**Treasurer's Report:**

Anne had little activity to report since the last meeting. £192 was paid for the cleaning of the Redwell leaving the bank balance in the working current account at £2752.87. £1000 was donated to the Foundation Scotland Flood Appeal from the Gift account. Bank balances in the Gift Account stood at £32940.91, and £57196.42 in the Windfarm Community Fund.

A letter is expected from The Co-operative Bank about the fixed rate investment. The committee agree to add the interest to the present investment and keep building. Anne was thanked for an excellent job done.

**Proposed new Community Council Constitutional Reforms:**

Duncan and Ross are still awaiting updated documents. Just continue with our own constitution until further notice.

**Whitehills/Ladysbridge Safe Walking Route:**

The committee is grateful to Gil for his work. He has canvassed the residents over the weekend and will again this weekend to get complaint forms signed and sent to Mr Jim Savege giving 1 March as a deadline before going to the Scottish Government. The B9121 is not suitable for a child to walk along to school alone. No maintenance has been arranged by Ab. Council for the rain damaged pathway from the North West of Ladysbridge village. There is still no explanation to the question of where the "Developer Contribution" is to be directed and what the time limit is before the money is to be spent. This attitude seems unacceptable. Ross and Duncan will try to arrange a meeting with Stephen Archer. Duncan will see Alistair Ramsay about plans for the proposed new pathway.

**Discussions with Derek Murray re yellow lining.**

Bill spoke to Alistair Millar of the roads department about the yellow lines to be painted in the village to stop people from parking in unsuitable places, especially at the ends of streets and at the corners. We don't want to upset people but it must be safe for the fire brigade. Bill to check about the bus stop outside the Retreat.

## **Windfarm Community Fund Applications.**

1. Terry Pickard sent an application in on behalf of Blackpots Playingfields Association requesting funds towards a self play area and sand pit in the unused paddling pool and 6 picnic tables at the playground - a cost of £19230. They are requesting £6000 from the Windfarm Fund. This is a good project and great facility which we certainly want to help but the committee is concerned about the amount. Suggest Terry approach Banff Buchan Initiatives Fund for funding before making a final decision.
2. Ruth Calder made an application for Skip to the Beat towards travel and fees to go to Belgium. The Committee agree to give £350 toward this worthwhile venture.

## **Planning Issues**

Nothing contentious.

## **Correspondence.**

1. Loo of the Year have again given Whitehills a gold award for 2016. It would be nice to acknowledge Fred and Pearl with a photo in the Banffshire Journal if they are able. Bill and Chas will look into this. Well done to all the volunteers who made this possible.

## **AOCB:**

1. Picnic tables are being put up at Low Shore/West End. The bases are down and the rest will follow soon. Bill was thanked for his work.
2. Back Pathway: CC is most obliged to Bill and Mick who went with Jimmy Murray and Colin from the water board to check the pathway. There is a spring or run-off water and part of the path needs to be repaired. Stuart Geddes has hardcore. It will be graded and then covered with hardcore. Blinding can be put down to harden when the chuckies are in.
3. Thanks Chas for clearing the cart at the cross roads. The snowdrops are looking good. Thanks Ross for clearing the pots beside the war memorial .
4. Committee members took note of the flood damage information from Ab. Council. Some garages were flooded. Field drains from the parks may be causing a problem.
5. Bill was around when the drain to the shore was cleared again at Low Shore. He urges residents in the village to please NOT flush baby wipes and the like down toilets as they cause much blockage which is costly to clear.

## **AOB:**

1. The stairs up to the flag can be icy in winter but putting a sign up "Beware ice" means accepting liability and responsibility, so leave as is.
2. Stanley Bruce from the Maritime Heritage Association would like to donate a seat close to the new Seafarers memorial. No objections.
3. The gate post by the car park near Redwell has broken – leave as is at present.
4. Skiff update: Alistair says work has been done the past three weeks. It is going well and good help has been offered.
5. The secretary of Boyndie Windfarm Limited asked if she should mention WDCC on their website. That will be fine. Ross will get in touch.
6. As it is the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Whitehills Regatta, a gift of £500 from the Windfarm Account will be given to mark the special occasion. It is a great event and brings in people from outside.

**Date of Next Meeting:** Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> March, 7.00pm in Whitehills library.