

WHITEHILLS & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL
Minutes of the meeting held 18th June 2015 at 7.00PM in Whitehills School)

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

Also attending: Cllr Ian Gray, Gill and Police Constables C Balish (7443) and S MacGregor (1256).

Apologies: Bill Bain, Cllr Michael Roy, Cllr John Cox.

Police report. There is a new Sergeant in Banff. There have been incidents of theft of diesel in rural and town areas. If anyone has any information, please let the Police know by phoning 101. The potential hazard of a stationary caravan in Banff on the main road opposite the Spar was raised and will be followed up. The committee appreciated the Policewomen's visit and thanked them for their time.

Minutes of the meeting held 21st May 2015, were approved as correct, proposed by Alan and seconded by Anne.

Matters arising

- Clarification was sort on the decision to turn down two requests for the Windfarm Fund. Ross explained the situation and all is settled.

Treasurer's Report

Anne gave details of the income and expenditure since the last meeting. This included an annual grant of £1000 received from Aberdeenshire council for the maintenance of the toilets, this being the same as last year. The working account has a balance of £4650.19; the Gift Aid Account has a balance of £34764.00 and the Windfarm account has a balance of £38754.00. Anne explained that the Gift aid account originated from a house gifted to the WDCC and other gifts thereafter. Anne was thanked for her excellent brief report.

Whitehills/Ladysbridge Pathway update

Cllr Ian gave an update on the latest discussions. John Cox has spoken to Stephen Archer who expressed no hope for the pathway. However, John has spoken to the Chief Executive, Ian Savage, who has a different idea. John and Ian discussed the matter and think that, in the light of changes in the land reform, it is a good time to make a move to try and acquire a strip of land along the main road through the Scottish Land fund. Duncan suggested Seafield Estates may be more willing to lease the ground rather than sell. Ian and John were thanked for their input. Ian then excused himself from the meeting to chair another meeting in Portsoy.

Since the meeting with Stephen Archer, Stephen has not yet answered the question of what the Section 75 money can be used for and how it can be accessed.

Duncan will send a report to Cllrs John and Ian and take it forward from there.

There were no planning issues.

Proposed meetings re changes to Community Council Constitutions

Duncan reported that after feedback from community councils about the draft proposals, the Aberdeenshire Council has decided to instigate a series of meetings to sort it out. The first meeting will be 30th June in Inverurie at 7.00pm. Alan said he would attend the meeting with Duncan.

Update on the ongoing anti-dog fouling exercise

Alistair said a few members are angry about the continual dog fouling. The area behind the Cutty to the Brae is especially bad. Alistair will ask the dog warden for more signs to put up. Ross thanked Bill and Alistair for all they are doing. There are many good reports that it is better. More dog bags will be ordered.

Correspondence.

- A thank you letter from Diane Allan for the donation for *Guide dogs for the blind*.
- Quarterly news from Seafield Estates to read.
- Robbie's father-in-law sent an estimate for an extension to be made at the football club. The quote seems extremely high and Ross will suggest asking someone else. He needs to submit a detailed

application form for the amount. Ross will send around to all the WDCC members if it comes before the next meeting.

- Derek Murray responded after the meeting about the bullring and bus problem held on 29 April. The road is going to be marked in the next few weeks. He is very busy but an update will follow. Furthermore, there has been a meeting with Anne Fairburn to discuss the possibility of removing some of the outbuildings to make more space for the buses and help prevent accidents.
- Traffic notices from Derek Murray for road markings to be made in the next few weeks for disabled parking and spacing in Reidhaven street and by the school road.
- No further correspondence has been received from Banff or Macduff about the boundaries.

AOCB

- Gordon Chalmers will look into the fencing.
- Derek and Gwyneth Dryborough, Bill, Stuart and Chas were all thanked for the flowers planted around the village.
- Aberdeenshire Council is responsible for the weeds along the roads.
- Chas was thanked for spraying the weeds in the bullring and for repainting the black letters 'WDCC' on the container.
- The monument for those lost at sea may go up after 18 July but will only be unveiled in September.
- Ross will send emails if there be any issues before the next meeting.

Date of next meeting is Thursday 17th September 2015 in Whitehills School.

Ross thanked everyone for their attendance.