

Whitehills & District Community Council

Minutes of the meeting held Thursday 19th March 2015
at 7.00pm in Whitehills Primary School.

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

Apologies: Alan Stewart and Cllr John Cox.

Police Issues: Police sent an email to say there was nothing to report.

Minutes of the last meeting, 19th February 2015:

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

Matters arising not dealt with elsewhere:

1. The pathway to the Low Shore. The owner of the property has full right to have gates as long as they are not locked.
2. Back path. Bill and Stuart are still busy with the pathway.
3. The Christmas lights have been ordered and the matter is in progress.
4. The information board at the Falka blown over by the wind has been replaced by Chas and Stuart and is looking really substantial. Thank you.
5. The information board at the Redwell has been replaced and Chas and Stuart thanked for a good job.
6. Sandie Cummings contacted Ross about the Questionnaire for Community Councils submitted after the last meeting as she thought it very negative. However, Ross explained the reply which Sandie accepted. It is good to have been followed up.

Treasurer's report:

Anne explained the financial activity since 19th February. Dog gloves purchased, toilet rolls for the Public Loos purchased, as well as two benchseats (one for the Braes and one for J. Johnston) and a plaque in memory of George Lovie for the Braes bench. A pleasing £44 was received from the toilet collection box. This left a balance of £2449.94 in the main account.

A letter was received from the Co-operative Bank and signed by the signatories to continue re-investing the fixed rate deposit with effect from 20 March at the interest rate of same date. With bank interest of £4.03 there is a balance of £35025.39 in the Gift Account and £45776.66 in the Wind farm Account including interest of £5.63 and after payments for the seat, £372, and to Morrison Welding for the handrail, £3750, for the Braes. Around £30,000 has been paid out for good projects over the past year.

Anne was thanked for her report.

Whitehills / Ladysbridge pathway:

Duncan gave a thorough update on the matter. In conclusion, a face to face meeting is sought with Margaret Jane and Stephen Archer with minutes taken to

- a.) establish the position of the Aberdeenshire Council as to what requirements/policy they have for a safe route to school from Ladysbridge and their involvement/participation or not.
- b.) find out what is being done with the 'planning gain money' from the development at Ladysbridge, which is about halfway, and who decides what it is used for. It should be used for affordable housing and community facilities, but is time barred.

Margaret Jane has replied to Duncan saying it is a good idea to get all parties involved and a meeting will be set for possibly 21 April to which Ross and Duncan will go.

Cllr Mike Roy said if this meeting does not come to fruition, WDCC may have to seek an alternative way to get a safe pathway built without the AB council. Duncan was thanked for the update and his perseverance in this matter.

Bill gave Duncan previous detailed plans for a pathway along the road between Ladysbridge and Whitehills, from Derek Murray.

Anti-dog fouling issue / initiative.

Bill reported that they had a very successful visit to the school with the dog warden and a young dog with them. Most of the children have dogs at home. The Head teacher, Elaine McGowan, was very supportive and a pledge was emailed to every parent.

The pathways are much cleaner but still to improve. There are more “Pick up or pay” signs for use.

Good work and thanks to Bill and Alistair.

Wind Farm Applications

1. An application was received from Skip 2 the Beat. They wish to partake in a Cultural and National Competition in Birmingham. The total cost will be £5100 and the request for £800 was approved as this is a good opportunity for several of the participants who are from our community.

2. The Upgrading of the pathway up ‘The Braes’, a WDCC project for £12955.80, can now be signed off.

Planning Applications

There is nothing to worry about.

Correspondence received, sent or discussed:

No other correspondence received not already mentioned above.

AOCB:

1. Ramsay Crowe would like to put a bench somewhere in memory of his wife. It could be put by the lay-by at the Falka or at the top of the brae looking over the Marina but it will need a base. Chas offered to help him choose a place.

2. Agnes has arranged and bought a seat to go at a place between the caravan park and Redwell along the coastal path. She has also organised a plaque in memory of her husband, Dr Ronald Lees. Bill will look at the old existing base and Robbie offered to arrange transport for the heavy, specially made seat from the Boyndie Centre. Agnes would like the council to join her for a small unofficial tea.

3. Both Ross and Duncan sent a response to a review of the Community Council establishment plan. They received similar responses from Macduff and Banff Community Councils. The community consultation closes on Friday but they are still busy in other chapters so they don't have final decisions yet. The matter should be put on the agenda for the combined meeting at Crudie School on 22nd April. The Community Councils are doing work but this plan will not encourage people to continue with the good work.

4. Notice is given that the road between Redwell and the harbour place will be closed on 18 July for the Gala.

Date of next meeting:

Next meeting will be held on Thursday 16th April 2015 at 7.00pm in Whitehills library.