

Whitehills & District Community Council
Minutes of the monthly meeting held on Thursday 19 May 2016
in Whitehills Library at 7.00pm.

Present: Ross Balharry (Chairman), Robert Mackie, Anne Balharry, Stuart Ironside, Duncan Leece, Chas Findlay, Alan Stewart and Mattie Verster.

Also attending: Cllr John Cox

Apologies: Alistair Wiseman, Bill Bain, Mick Moloney and Jan Emery (Area Officer Aberdeenshire Council).

Police Issues:

Ross had sent the Police report to all the members. Police Officers Rachael Grant A1622 and Stewart Hutcheson A1057 said there was nothing further to report. They were thanked for their excellent work and for coming to the meeting.

Minutes of the meeting 21 April 2016, were approved as correct, proposed by Robbie and seconded by Stuart.

Matters Arising: None that are not discussed elsewhere.

Treasurer's Report:

Anne reported the activity since the last meeting. Money for payment of the back path repairs is to be taken from the Gift Account. The annual grant from Aberdeenshire Council for maintaining the public toilets has been raised to £1200. Blackpots playground received the grant of £5000 from the Windfarm Account as agreed. Aberdeenshire Council provided the nice picnic tables for the Foreshore which are looking really bonny.

The bank balance in the working current account is £ 5004.12. Bank balances in the Gift Account stood at £ 32945.99 and £ 49355.15 in the Windfarm Community Fund. The investment in the Co-operative bank has all been sorted out and started 18 March at 1.125% interest rate.

Anne was thanked for her work well done!

Planning Applications

There were no objections to any plans mentioned by Duncan.

Whitehills/Ladysbridge Safe Pathway

Duncan gave an update. A general discussion was held. Still awaiting tenders and planning consent. Duncan will try and put in an application to the Area Initiative Fund.

Whitehills School were unable to continue their work in Annie's Wood as the risk assessment was unattainable due to the unsafe road. Alan said as Scout Leader, he was unable to take the boys physically to the Wood. Letters to the Aberdeenshire Council from the different parties will support the need for a safe pathway.

Back Path improvements.

Stanley Smith has done a very pleasing job repairing the back path. There is no sign of any further water. Two of the gate latches are broken again and it was decided to replace with thick rope loops.

New website

Mattie met with Kay to discuss creating a new website which will look similar to the one Kay created for Gardenstown at www.discovergardestown.co.uk, as the present one is outdated. Mattie will send requests for information to everyone interested in being included on the website by email. It is surprising how many places and enterprises there are in the village. Due to other commitments, the website will only be done after the end of July. Ross said this sounds like a good and interesting project.

Correspondence

Ross received the Nature of Scotland magazine for anyone to read and pass on.

AOCB

- Alison Arrowsmith submitted an application for funding for a "Wild Life learning garden" on behalf of the Whitehills School Parent Council. The matter was discussed but while the CC are happy to support this project, Ross and Duncan will speak to Elaine, Head Teacher and Alison to understand the fuller picture and how this can be tied into the proposed new pathway.
- Elaine Brown, Fortmartine area manager, directed Rose Logan to Ross to discuss how our community council organises maintenance of the Public Toilets. Ross sent information to her.
- The new Loo roll holders have been sorted, thank you Stuart and Chas.
- The Marina asked WDCC for Scottish flags to be ordered. Order is awaited.
- Stuart asked if the railway footpath to Inverboynie has ever been spoken about. A member of the public had asked, as the exit is dangerous for walkers/drivers. Nothing known.
- Duncan said the road department sign to Boyndie village has lost its lettering. He will contact Derek Murray of Ab. Council.
- Chas asked if all the 90year olds names had been given for the party at Ballinalloch Castle. Ross said all the names were given but if oversubscribed, 90 names will be drawn (including some with carers).
- Chas said the Bullring was a disgrace. Ross will see that weed killer is applied.
- Chas said the flowers will be coming soon and boxes need to be made ready. Ross said the Tulips looked bonny through the village and thanked all those responsible.
- Chas said the grass at the recreational land at the rear of Redwell Drive is so long and this being an amenity for the whole village needs to be maintained. Stuart said the site should have been adopted after a certain time after development but this had not happened. Stephen Christie used to cut the grass and clear it. Ab. Council are cutting back on their services. WDCC to write to the area manager, Margaret-Jane for clarity.
- Alan said the Beavers had done a 'bag pack' at Tesco a while ago for fund raising and it went well. People were very good and the boys enjoyed it. The Beavers will not be delivering Christmas mail this year.
- Whitehills regatta is 13 August 2016.

Ross thanked all for attending.

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 16 June, 7.00pm in the Whitehills library.