

Whitehills & District Community Council

Minutes of the meeting held Thursday 19th November 2015 in St Brandon's, Whitehills.

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

Also attending: Cllr Michael Roy, Cllr John Cox and Mary Cummings.

Apologies: Iain Gray who is ill in hospital.

Police Report:

Sergeant Smith said there was nothing to report in Whitehills.

Cllr Cox said the noise of traffic during the Remembrance ceremonies was disappointing and had been mentioned by someone. He asked if something could be done for next year. Sgt Smith said cones could be put out to stop traffic passing for the short period of time while the ceremonies were conducted. There are not enough policemen to direct traffic in all the places.

Mick said that someone was wilfully littering the road with newspaper pages and other litter over the past couple of months. Someone had seen the culprit and the Sgt said he would visit the offender. (Later, during the meeting, Sergeant Smith returned to say he had spoken to the culprit and it will not happen again.) The meeting thanked the Sgt for excellent service!

It was mentioned that blue vodka bottles are being discarded in the gorse hedges. There are people in the village, especially Derek Dryburgh, who pick up litter voluntarily which is much appreciated. Sadly some people spoil it for others.

Minutes of the meeting 15th October 2015, were approved as correct, proposed by Anne and seconded by Mick.

Matters Arising from Minutes of 15 October 2015 not mentioned elsewhere:

1. The committee is happy that Fred Clark is now home.
2. The tulip (5 bags) and daffodil bulbs (2 bags) Ross ordered are in the shed. Bill, Stuart and those able will meet on Sunday at 10.00am to plant what they can. Compost is needed to top up the flower containers.

Treasurer's Report:

Anne detailed the income and expenditure of the working account since the last meeting.

Last meeting Anne explained she had made an enquiry about the deposit into our account - possibly done in error - by Aberdeenshire Council. Soon after the meeting, a further amount of £5383 was deposited into the account without explanation. After further emails and phone calls it was acknowledged that the deposits were in error and Anne was given details where to pay the money back. This has been done.

The bank statements from the Co-operative bank have not yet been received. There were not many transactions since last meeting.

Payment of £24320.18 was received from Falk, re the turbines, along with an apology for the delay.

Bank balances stood at £ 3740.67 in the working current account, £33935.56 in the gift account and £63088.74 in the Wind Farm Account. Anne was thanked for her report.

Whitehills/Ladysbridge Pathway update

Duncan was tasked with meeting with Gordon Chalmers and Seafield Estates to get permission to use land for the planned pathway. Seafield Estate have no problem. Duncan saw Margaret Chalmers and is waiting for an answer from Gordon. Margaret mentioned that they had had problems with dogs being let free in the park which was not good for their cattle as sickness was passed on to the cattle from the dog fouling. There will be a fence erected next to the path but her concern was noted. The meeting decided the danger to farmer's animals should be made known to the public. Bill and Alistair will look into getting signs and posters run up.

Planning Applications:

There were no objections to the three applications presented for October and there were no applications for November.

Christmas lights

Robbie said that Aberdeenshire Council have issued more paperwork which requires record of every light and colour used where. This has been done and permission granted to put up the Christmas lights between 28 November and 3 January. Jimmy Forbes has offered to help put the lights up on Sunday 29 November at 10.00am. The tree will be put up on 6 December. Ross will arrange a gift in appreciation for Jimmy's help.

Correspondence:

- **Skip to the Beat.** A letter of thanks, including a photo of the girls taken in Manchester, was received from Ruth Calder in appreciation for the support of WDCC. 35 medals were won between them! This was a very satisfactory outcome.
- Seafield Estate sent a letter to say the Christmas tree will be delivered on 1 December.
- An application was received from the Public hall toward the refurbishment of the hall with a breakdown of works completed. Ross will explain that all the work has already been done and retrospective funding cannot be considered. Any applications for funding should be presented prior to any commencement of works. The meeting is delighted about the improvements made and the work done at the hall but there are guidelines to follow as on the website. As offered before, Duncan said he would help them with the application if they like.

AOCB:

1. The meeting was held in St Brandon's Centre, Whitehills as nobody/janitor opened the school. Ross will ask if the meeting can be held in the Whitehills library from now on. Subsequent to the meeting Ab. Council and The Head Teacher have been in touch to resolve the difficulties. It has now been agreed that we shall have the use of the staff room at the school for our meetings
2. **Thanks to Banff Rotary** for putting out / planting crocuses at the compass rose with the help of locals - all done in 38 minutes!
3. **Remembrance Day Services.** Ross expressed thanks to Myburgh and all concerned for good services and thanks for all who attended.
4. **Building of a skiff.** Alistair said that there is a new committee which will meet on Wednesday to discuss plans for the project to build a skiff to go ahead again.
5. Mary Cummings asked clarity about funds for the Public community hall and Ross explained that we are keen to help but that there are criteria to be adhered to as has been previously explained to the committee. Details are on the website.
6. **Christmas Card deliveries.** Alan said that the Cubs and Beavers will be doing Christmas Card deliveries for the next 3 or 4 weeks in Whitehills. The post box is in the Post Office in Whitehills (Premier Store).

There being no further business, everyone was thanked and the meeting was closed.

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 17th December, 7.00pm at Whitehills Primary School.