

Whitehills & District Community Council

Minutes of the meeting held Thursday 20th November 2014
at 7.00pm in Whitehills School

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

Apologies: Cllr Ian Gray.

Police Issues: The Police sent their apology. Nothing to report. The caravan has been moved.

Minutes of the last meeting, 16th October:

Minutes were approved as correct, proposed by Alan and seconded by Bill.

Matters arising:

- **Remembrance Services.**

Services went very satisfactorily. The piper was very good. Kevin Cook and Myburgh were thanked for their contribution. Everyone was thanked for their support. The tea at the Galley was rather delayed and it was decided to have tea at the Boyndie Visitor centre next year.

- **Anti-dog fouling initiative.**

Bill and Alistair brought collars and bands for the anti-dog fouling initiative. They suggested the pledge be available in the library for a few evenings for dog owners to sign, after which they will get a collar (for their dog) and arm band for them to wear when out walking. Bill will buy more collars and bands. Posters and notices will be put up. Well done Bill and Alistair, take it forward.

- **Water rushing out on to the road at 10 Boyne Street.**

This has been fixed, thank you.

- **Replacement of the gate springs along the back path.**

Bill is getting heavy duty latches for this job. Mick and Stuart offered to help.

- **Water running down the road to the Redwell posing a danger in winter.**

Seafield Estates knows about this. The road is very bad. Bill will take photos and Duncan will get back to Andrew Norwel with the photos.

- **Construction of steps above the harbour.**

The steps are going well. Chas said people have suggested putting up a rail. Chas phoned Neil Wilson who quoted £3750 for a single 70m long galvanised hand rail to be put up at standard height. Thank you Chas. Please go ahead.

- **Masses of bulbs.**

Thanks to all who helped plant the bulbs and for clearing the old flowers. Stuart said it was just the tail gate of the cart at the crossroads that needs to be replaced. Stuart will get wood.

Treasurer's report:

The little financial activity since September was detailed by Anne leaving a balance in the main account of £3436.52. After a payment of £500 for Mattie to Whitehills Church and bank interest of £5.45 there is a balance of £40507.69 in the Gift Account and £74201.78 in the Windfarm Account. A cheque for the pledged £5000 to the Sea farers' monument was handed over to Chas who expressed his thanks to the Council. Planning permission has been granted. Anne gave Jimmy Forbes a voucher for Seafield Arms as a token of thanks for the use of his machinery. Anne was thanked for her report.

Xmas Vouchers for volunteers

Anne will do cards and give vouchers to all the volunteers like last year. Fred has been brilliant in the village and all the volunteers are thanked most sincerely for their excellent work.

RAF Banff Project Update:

Duncan has written the application for the Windfarm Fund. Once the "Banff Airfield Trust" and "RAF Banff Association" have amalgamated and have a new name, another group can come forward and take it as a new project to tidy buildings and make it more visitor friendly for example. Although not officially opened yet, folk are now using the pathway with extremely positive feedback. Ian Tillet will keep an eye on the turbine walk.

Ladysbridge/Whitehills pathway:

There are two conflicting messages from Aberdeenshire Council. Mike met with Ross and Duncan and suggested they get Peter Arglye involved. Mike has written a letter to Peter to pass on to the director to get a definitive intention of the Aberdeenshire Council. Mike also suggested Duncan approach Alistair Ramsay and ask him to come forward with a proposal including the cost for a safe walking route. Ab. Council may not adopt responsibility of the path if built outside their plans. Get a price from a private contractor with the same specifications as the road council and Mike will take it to the director and ask what next until there is a solution. The WDCC is grateful to Mike for his help. Discussions are on going.

Community Council e- learning resource

There is an option to use this resource if you want to.

Planning Applications

There were no planning applications this month.

Correspondence received, sent or discussed:

1. A thank you card was received from the Harbour Commissioners for the money received for the Regatta.
2. A letter from Eilidh Whiteford giving an update on the ambulance response time. They are struggling to recruit staff.
3. Gordon Stuart has put the plans for the Sea Memorial up on the steps.
4. With branch modernization, the present Post Office will be closing at 12.00noon on Tuesday 20 January 2015, and opening at 1.00pm at the News Agent in Whitehills on the same day. Most services will carry on and there will be new opening hours.

AOCB:

- Seafields will be delivering the Christmas Tree on 28 November. Lights will be put up on Saturday. Helpers please meet at the shed at 10.00am.
- Chas had the "welcome to Whitehills" banner fixed for £17.00. Thank you.
- There is a new litter bin at the Bull Ring. Bulbs will be planted in the old cemented in bins.
- The Public Hall has had a major refit of the kitchen and it looks excellent. They are looking for more funds. Duncan has offered forms and help to make an application for funding. The Wind Farm Account is not to be used for maintenance and repair. Ross will write suggesting a proper application be submitted for consideration.
- Alan said more people are using the facilities at the harbour but the trucks coming to the skip are breaking up the road and it is a mess. There has also been heavy traffic with the building of the new stairs. Mike suggested that once this has been brought to the attention of the WDCC, a letter can be written to the Council and Mike can follow it up. Could speak to Ian Robertson about the skip.
- Chas mentioned that the barriers by the road at the entrance to Whitehills are not adequate. Speak to Derek Murray.
- Adrienne Forsythe has asked to come off the council as she is very busy with the Brownies and other commitments. She is very willing to help if there is a project. Ross wrote and thanked her for her help. It will be good to have a young person on the committee who is involved with young people.
- Alan said that the Scouts will be delivering Christmas cards again this December for raising funds. They have their post box in the post office. Thank you for support.

Date of next meeting:

Next meeting will be held on Thursday 18th December 2014 at 7.00pm in the library.