

Whitehills & District Community Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 21 April 2016
in Whitehills Library at 7.00pm.

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

Apologies for absence: Alan Stewart.

Police Issues: Ross sent the Police report to all the members. Nothing further to report.

Minutes of the meeting 17 March 2016, were approved as correct, proposed by Stuart and seconded by Bill.

Matters Arising:

- Bill will speak to Derek Murray about painting yellow lines at the bend near the Cutty where the Lollipop lady helps the children cross the road. (Alan Stuart also mentioned concern for the safety of the children.)
- Having had the gate post at the Redwell car park repaired, Ross said the padlock was broken just two days later! Concern was mentioned about emergency access but Ab. Council say it is to be kept locked. Ross has the key for the new padlock.
- The new soap and toilet roll holders for the Public Loos are still to be put up.
- Whitehills Skiff: Alistair said work is going well and more interest has been generated. The skiff will probably be ready to go to water in June. The school was visited and told about the skiff and the children are going to choose a name for the skiff.
- The fencing around the football park is still to be done.

Treasurer's Report:

Anne reported the activity since the last meeting. £2000 was transferred from the Wind Farm account to the current account to cover payment of doggy bags and Redwell cleaning. Anne had signed and sent forms in February for the fixed deposit to be rolled over when it matured on 18 March but received a letter dated 11 April 2016 saying in the absence of appropriate forms, the bank had transferred the funds to a new select instant access account at a rate of 0.06% interest. Anne phoned to ask what was happening and was told to write and instruct again as before. This was done and all will be returned. An interest of £947.33 was gained. When Anne asked for the statement, they said none had been issued.

The bank balance in the working current account is £ 4801.87. Bank balances in the Gift Account stood at £32944.30 and £54852.28 in the Windfarm Community Fund.

Anne was thanked for her work.

Proposed new Community Council Scheme of Establishment – There is no further update.

Whitehills/Ladysbridge Safe Pathway: Ongoing.

1) Duncan gave an update on the progress. Alistair Ramsay will soon be putting out to tender. Andrew Norval of Seafield Estate sent a letter of approval for the proposed plans. Duncan is busy with the application forms for the Area Initiative Fund. Cllr Mike suggested we use monies from the Windfarm to lever funds.

Duncan and Ross attended a meeting in Crudie where rural pathways to schools was also mentioned and funding for them. They will follow this up. Ab. Council will publish definitively the pathways they maintain and at what level.

2) The response from Ab. Council to correspondence from Gil Gilbert supported by the C.C. was unsatisfactory. Councillors Mike Roy and John Cox demanded a meeting with Ab. Council and it has been agreed that they will meet with Mr Savege, Chief Executive, regarding perceived unacceptable tactics regarding the matter. The CC is very grateful and impressed with the work and effort of our councillors and content with the way things are moving forward. Gil continues with his efforts.

John Milliken will also measure the direct path from Whitehills Primary School to the gates of the Ladysbridge development.

Back Path improvements.

Nothing has happened yet as the farmers are very busy. It was suggested that Stanley Smith be approached to quote for the job. Bill and Mick will discuss the matter with Stuart and Jimmy and decide the best way forward.

Planning Issues

No problems with any of the plans.

Correspondence

- Ross received a letter from AB. Council giving the specs for the cleaning of the public toilets as well as notice that the payment will increase to £1200 for the maintenance of the toilets.

AOCB

- Mick reported that someone is taking a whole lot of doggy bags from the dispenser up at the 'drome. This is most annoying. Mick will only put a few bags out at a time.
- Mattie meets with Kay on Tuesday to see about creating a new website to replace the current outdated one.
- Lee Watson gave information about RAF Banff/Boyndie drome which Duncan will pass on. Nigel Smith is putting a website together for the new 'RAF Banff Trust' which is in the process of being formed.
- The Scottish flag is flying above the harbour.
- Excellent that Terry got the grant from the lottery for Blackpots playground new play area. Terry will submit a fresh application for the Windfarm Fund.
- Next meeting is the AGM. Posters need to be put up.
- Stuart mentioned that Skye had no fire and rescue cover yesterday due to the regulations in place. We could find ourselves in the same situation. Cllr John Cox will pass the information on.

Ross thanked all for attending.

Date of Next Meeting AGM: Thursday 19 May, 7.00pm in the Whitehills library.