

Whitehills & District Community Council
Minutes of the meeting Thursday 21st May 2015

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

Also attending: Two Police Scotland representatives

Apologies: Bill Bain, Mick Moloney, Mattie Verster, Cllr Ian Gray, Cllr Michael Roy, Cllr John Cox

Minutes of the meeting 16th April 2015, were approved as correct, proposed by Stuart and seconded by Alistair.

Matters Arising:

- Repair of gates on Back Path completed by Bill, just a broken seat remaining to be dealt with.
- Bill will be assisting with a Roadshow on 2nd June at Banff Links, to further promote the Anti-Dog Fouling campaign.
- A meeting to discuss the Loch Street/Seafield Street junction had taken place between Councillors, Council Officers and Stagecoach, plus local residents, Ross and Duncan. Aberdeenshire Council agreed to look at restricting parking near to the junction, and as a longer-term issue, to re-investigate physical changes to the buildings/roads, although this latter issue was particularly complex in the village's conservation area. General road traffic law already prohibits parking vehicles in dangerous locations, and illegal parking certainly contributes to the safety concerns at this junction.

Police Report: Whitehills remained a very low crime community; however, there was a need to remind people to keep their houses secured and locked, in order to prevent crime. Two incidents of assault had been reported during the past month, and both had now been dealt with by Police.

Treasurer's Report: Anne distributed copies of the monthly accounts, detailing expenditure totalling £492 since the last meeting. Bank balances stood at £3665.94 in the working current account, and £35049.89 in the gifts/projects account.

Planning Applications: Three were discussed and noted, but none were felt to require further comment.

Whitehills/Ladysbridge Safe Walking Route: Ross reported that on 21st April he, Duncan and Cllr Cox had met with Aberdeenshire Council Area Manager, Margaret-Jane Cardno, and Stephen Archer, who is the Director responsible for planning and roads matters. It was very disappointing indeed to hear that Mr Archer foresaw no likelihood of this project now going ahead using money from his budget, even to part-fund it. He confirmed that there was no obligation on Council to provide for a safe walking route between the new Ladysbridge development and Whitehills.

Discussion then focused on the portion of the developer's 'Planning Gain' contribution that had been designated as being for Community Facilities. A ruling from Aberdeenshire Council's legal department stated that this money could not be used for a path, even though the community had identified it as a priority on many occasions. Cllr Cox asked that this matter be re-examined, and Mr Archer agreed to instigate that, and report back relatively quickly. No further communication had yet been received from Mr Archer.

Boundary Change Request: Aberdeenshire Council had been asked by Banff & Macduff CC, to investigate two boundary changes involving W&DCC:

- A small number of houses at Inverboyndie, to the west of the burn, should change to being in B&MCC's area.
- The Hilton area change from B&MCC to W&DCC

All agreed that W&DCC was happy with the existing boundary; and requests to change the area into which certain residences fell, should really be a matter about which those residents were consulted.

The current system tended to use obvious landmarks, such as roads or waterways, to mark boundaries. There was concern that moving away from that, as with the suggestion at Inverboyndie, would make accurate identification of boundaries potentially very difficult. Ross was asked to feed both these comments back to Council.

Windfarm Community Fund: two relatively large applications had been received, from different bodies, but both involving requests to fully-fund purchase of equipment for use at Whitehills School. Consensus was that it may not be fair on other groups in the village to support both, but W&DCC would certainly wish to support school equipment to some degree, as it had been happy to do in the past. Ross was asked to

discuss the applications further with the Headmistress, and a decision could be confirmed by emailing round CC members, avoiding the applicants having to await the next CC meeting for the outcome.

A letter of thanks was noted from Skip to the Beat, for grant funding they received.

Correspondence:

Ian Rogan, Aberdeenshire Council, had written updating on progress of the Review of Community Council Scheme of Establishment, about which W&DCC had expressed various concerns. In view of the substantial number of comments from other CCs too, members were being sought to form a working group. Duncan agreed to represent Whitehills.

AOCB:

- Arrangements would be made to take delivery of the summer plants for the village's floral displays.
- Bill and Alistair had raised £208 with their 'Guide Dog Walk' and W&DCC will top this figure up to £500, as promised.
- Chas reported that arrangements are progressing to plan, with erection of the memorial to lost fishermen.

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 18th June, 7.00pm, Whitehills Scho

Whitehills & District Community Council
Minutes of the AGM Thursday 21st May 2015

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

Also attending: Cllr John Cox.

Apologies: Bill Bain, Mick Moloney, Mattie Verster, Cllr Ian Gray, Cllr Michael Roy,

Minutes of the last AGM, 15th May 2014, were approved as correct, proposed by Alan and seconded by Robbie.

Chairman's Report: Ross thanked all community councillors for their work over the past year, and reminded all present of the main projects and actions achieved since the last AGM. Additionally, local projects have been supported financially, via W&DCC's own funds, and those it administers under the Boyndie Windfarm Community Fund, to the total of £37,177.94, which was an unusually large sum, reflecting the good quality of projects.

Special note of thanks was made of the numerous people within the community who help with projects, but are not community councillors, such as the volunteers who clean the public toilets.

All agreed that the year had been busy, but enjoyable, and the will remained for the group to carry on working in the same way, for the coming year.

Treasurer's Report: Anne distributed copies of the full accounts, and confirmed that they would be submitted to Aberdeenshire Council on time, for scrutiny and recording. The Community Council's finances remained sound, and at the end of its financial year, 30th April 2015, the organisation had balances of £4203.03 in its working current account, and £35044.49 in its projects/gifts account.

Election: Chairing the meeting was then handed over to Cllr John Cox. He thanked all W&DCC members for their hard work over the past year, and wished it to be known that the group's reputation remained very high, and indeed the phrase "a model community council" was often heard, when Whitehills was spoken about within Aberdeenshire Council.

Cllr Cox instigated the process of electing key officers for the coming year, and called for nominations of newcomers. As none were forthcoming, he asked whether the existing officers were agreeable to continue in their current posts, and all said they were. Alan proposed re-election en masse, Chas seconded, and there was unanimous agreement. Accordingly, Cllr Cox announced the appointments as follows:

Chairman - Ross Balharry

Vice-chairman - Duncan Leece

Minutes Secretary - Mattie Verster

Treasurer - Anne Balharry.

AOCB: nil

AGM was concluded, and the May general meeting begun