

Whitehills & District Community Council

Minutes of the monthly meeting held on Thursday 20 October 2016
in Whitehills Library at 6.30pm.

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

Also attending: Cllr Mike Roy, Cllr John Cox, Jan Emery from Ab Council (Banff and Buchan) and Stephen and Brenda Beattie.

Apologies: Robert Mackie.

Presentation: A prearranged but “surprise” visit by Willie Milne and Jimmy Forbes as representatives of Whitehills Harbour Commissioners, allowed for a cheque to be presented to Bill Bain in appreciation for all his help with the Regatta, taking photos and giving of his time. The cheque was made out in favour Erskine (charity).

Police Issues:

PCs Murray (0402) and Duncan (0062) called in with nothing to report other than complaints that some youngsters are misbehaving around the Bullring. Some youngsters came into the library as they spoke and the police constables were able to go out and speak to them. The Secondary school students have been spoken to about laser pens which are legal unless they are abused. The police were thanked for attending.

Minutes of the meeting 15 September 2016, were approved as correct, proposed by Stuart and seconded by Bill.

Matters Arising:

- The new Whitehillsandboyndie website is still a work in progress.
- Stuart and Chas were thanked for sealing and painting the notice board.
- Ross wrote to Derek Murray, Roads Department, about replacing the sign for “Seafield Place” but has had no response yet.
- Ross directed a family wishing to have a bench seat placed in the village to Alex Kemper.
- Cllr Mike Roy said that the legacy of £20,000 mentioned in the last minutes designated to the school has been identified and is available.

Treasurer’s Report:

Anne gave a break down of expenses and income since the last meeting including the purchase of Poppy wreathes, toilet brushes and payment made for the new website. Donations received in the toilet and light collection boxes were £39 and £10 respectively. This leaves a balance of £4969.05 in the current working account.

A lawn mower was purchased and works well. It is available should people need it for community purpose. The Gift Account Bank balance stands at £ 32079.43 and the Windfarm Community Fund balance stands at £72351.93.

Anne was thanked for her excellent work.

Remembrance Services

A service will be held on Friday 11th November 10.45am at the Cemetery and on Sunday 13th November 12.30pm at the War Memorial. Ross has made arrangements with Rev Myburgh Verster and the Piper, Kevan, for both ceremonies. Chas, Duncan and Cllr Cox will present wreathes at the cemetery and Bill will present a wreath at the Memorial. Those attending the Friday service are welcome to have tea and scones at the Boyndie Centre thereafter. Chas was thanked for removing the old poppies and tidying up where needed.

Nuisance problems at the Bull Ring

A number of people have complained about the bad behaviour of youngsters and damage of property at and around the Bull Ring. Plants have been pulled out, balls kicked around, bins emptied, signs removed and fences damaged. Lately laser pens have been used. Occupants of 1 Seafield Place, facing on to the Bull Ring expressed their concern and stated that youngsters have even entered their house. The Police have been called out and are aware of the problem, but the problem continues. Other adults have tried to address the youths but they just run away.

A discussion was held. The Bull Ring has never really been used for the purpose it was made for and nobody seems attached to it. Previously it was parking spaces. There is a traffic review on at the present and Cllr John Cox suggested it may be a good time to write to Derek Murray to ask if the Bull Ring could be changed back to a car park. This issue can be covered in our next "Making it Real" project due in early 2017.

The Police said people can use their own CCTV as long as the camera covers their own property to be covered by data protection regulations.

Wildlife Learning Garden tying in with Whitehills/Ladysbridge pathway

Duncan said a site meeting is planned for Monday 24th October with all parties concerned – the contractor (Colin Smith), Seafield Estate (Andrew Norval), Gordon Chalmers, WDCC (Duncan and Ross). They need to establish a starting date. Part funding is in place and must be spent by end March 2017. A piece of land is to come out of Gordon's tenancy and leased to the Community Council. Ground cannot be purchased but leased from Seafield Estates. A draft rolling lease has been drawn up but a few things need to be checked prior to signing off. The stamp duty is the responsibility of WDCC. WDCC has indemnity insurance of £10,000,000. Upgrades will also be discussed on Monday for the pathway surface and fencing. Chas suggested a shaped exit for safety when entering the road and exiting the path. Hopefully the meeting on Monday will be good so the project can move forward.

Duncan then reported on the meeting with Alison Arrowsmith that he, Ross and Anne attended about funding requested for outdoor improvements at the school. There are multiple ideas but the two core projects are the Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) which Jan Emery from Aberdeenshire Council is involved in, and then the outdoor classroom project costing £12,232.13. The Whitehills School Parents Council has £5000 to inject and the meeting agreed to fund the gap in capital work of £7232.13 so that the physical works can be underway. The Parent Council can do fund raising for the other activities. This will be an excellent facility for Whitehills Primary School and open the way for the John Muir award. WDCC would like to see what is being done, maybe through a newsletter.

Planning Issues

There is no problem with the extension to Downies factory between the factory and the sea wall but WDCC would like Cllr John Cox and Mike Roy to check the issue of a pavilion and recreation area at Ladysbridge Development please (Duncan will ask.)

Correspondence

- WDCC kindly accepted the Seafield Estate offer of a 20ft Christmas Tree which will be delivered from 1 December.
- Robbie asked for dates for when the Christmas lights will be put up so he can do the paperwork. Sunday 4 December was suggested.
- Community flower bulbs ordered have arrived and are in the shed ready for planting.
- The Red Well was a mess. Stanley Smith replaced a collapsed pipe with a plastic one.
- The Harbour Commissioners gave thanks for the donation for the Regatta and Jimmy Forbes provided a breakdown of the spending.

AOCB

- Kim Adams briefly attended the meeting on behalf of herself and about 40 horse owners in the area. Many ride their horses on the roads from Swordanes, around Inverboyndie and along the old Whitehills road to Portsoy but there are very fast cars driving along the same roads. Kim asked if signs could please be put up. Ross will write to the roads department and have them liaise with Kim.
- Whitehills School is wanting to purchase a light and sound system for their concerts as they have always had to borrow the equipment in the past. Ross will have a conversation with the head teacher to decide whether this is really a need considering the cost, who will care for the equipment and it only being used twice a year. What about the cost to hire such equipment?
- Whitehills Community Defibrillator will cost £1740. The committee is concerned that there has been no fundraising as required for the funding application and it needs to know about insurance, liability and the power supply. The defibrillator will not be the responsibility of WDCC but if all is in order WDCC will support the project. Ross will contact Nicola.
- Stuart said Alistair Millar had given a plan for the proposed yellow lines for roads in the village but the plans are different to the request for specific places and are not acceptable. Bill will contact Alistair.
- Chas said that there were still issues with dog fouling round the village and right beside bag dispensers.

In closing Ross thanked everyone for their participation and said it was staggering to look back and see how much money (c £136K) had been given to the many community projects through the Wind Farm Fund since 2006. Well done.

Date of Next Meeting is 17 November, **6.30pm** in the Whitehills library.