

Whitehills & District Community Council
Minutes of the meeting held Thursday 19th January 2017
at 6.30pm in Whitehills Public Library

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

Also attending: Cllr Michael Roy, Cllr John Cox and Chris Cowie.

Apologies for absence: Bill Bain, Alan Stewart, Cllr Iain Taylor and Jan Emery.

Police Report: Apologies from the Police. They have nothing of great interest to report.

Minutes of the meeting 15th December 2016, were approved as correct, proposed by Stuart and seconded by Anne.

Matters Arising:

The WDCC website is still a work in progress and can be found at www.whitehillsandboyndie.co.uk. People are still responding to requests to be added to the website. The suggestion mentioned at the last meeting of a sales/wanted area on the website was discussed in the light of Kay's recommendations and all agreed it was not needed on this site.

Treasurer's Report: Anne distributed copies of the monthly accounts. There was income of £5 from the Christmas Lights Collection and £300 spent on doggy bags leaving a balance of £3759.45 in the working account. There being no activity nor interest since the last meeting, the balances remained at £31581.08 in the gift account and £63838.52 in the Windfarm account. Anne was thanked for her brief report.

Whitehills/Ladysbridge Pathway:

a) Lease Agreement

Ross has sent the lease agreement to Seafield Estate but not had a reply yet. Andrew Norville's successor from Seafield Estate has visited the site and shown interest. There have been a few comments from the public about the next leg of the pathway. Hopefully this will be possible in the future depending on planning and finance.

b) Construction update and signage

The pathway has come along nicely and has already been well used. The surface seems a little soft but will compress and harden in time. The contractor, Colin Smith, still needs to tar at the entry to the park and put a fence up between the path and the park to keep dogs out of the park as was the agreement. There is a pile of large stones and vegetation that needs to be moved and burnt at the top of the path.

There is already dog fouling on the new path. Alistair had the bin moved to the top of the path and the doggy bag dispenser moved closer at the bottom of the path for dog owners' convenience. This pathway is used by school children and people are kindly asked to please pick up their dog poop.

Ross will decide what to be written on the signs and Chas will have them made.

c) Subsequent monitoring requirement and formal monthly sign-off

Duncan has drawn up a formal document for simple monthly record keeping which can be signed off every month. There is no need for a formal rota as members of the WDCC regularly walk the pathway. Alistair suggested a risk assessment be done and check points drawn up. Other areas WDCC might need to monitor include the steps at the braes.

Duncan said Aberdeenshire Council have put out a new map indicating all the "core roads" in the area which includes the back path. Duncan will contact Eleanor Munro to find out what "core road" means and responsibilities.

d) Formal opening arrangements

Although the path is already being used, it will be good to have a short opening ceremony as soon as the fencing is complete, involving the school and possibly a photo in the Banffshire Journal as a way to thank everyone involved.

New artificial Christmas Tree

Robbie kindly looked into the cost of an artificial tree for next Christmas but the cost does not warrant the short time used. It was decided to continue with the tree kindly donated by Seafield Estate and possibly borrow portable scaffolding from Duncan, if it works, to put up the lights this Christmas. Robbie will buy a new cone (street serve electrical unit) when the weather is better. Stuart will get a set of hard hats and high visibility waistcoats to keep in the store to conform with health and safety regulations.

Chas will thank Ian Rennie for the use of his equipment.

Planning Applications:

No problems were found with the applications mentioned.

Correspondence:

- Cllr Iain Taylor passed on correspondence regarding the personal liability issue for Chair and Vice Chair of Community Councils that comes down to: as long as reasonable care is taken, it is fine.
- Regarding MUGA: Correspondence from Whitehills School Head Teacher, Elaine Mc Gowan and Jan Emery Ab. Council confirming things are moving forward satisfactorily but there is still much to be done to complete the exercise.
- Defibrillator The unit was received last week and will be installed soon.

AOCB:

- Ross thanked everybody for putting up and taking down the Christmas lights and decorations. Bill will see to the one decoration which needs a small, welding, repair job done.
- The next Action Plan needs to be done later this year. Usually an open meeting is held at St Brandon's for the whole community to partake and bring ideas. The school should be involved so Duncan will ask Elaine what date will suit them.
- Stuart said there are still plans to open the steam train track from Banff to Portsoy but this means 9 bridges and 3 level road crossings need to be built as well as other logistics. There is an open meeting in Banff Town House on Saturday 28 January from 12noon to 5.00pm for anyone to attend regarding the proposed venture.
- Chas said a drain cover past Morven View flats was broken and an upside cone put in to stop anyone falling in. Ross will contact Alistair Millar to please get the lid replaced.
- Alistair and Chas were thanked for fixing the drain box outside the public toilets.
- Chris was thanked for planting bulbs around the village.

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 16th February 6.30pm at Whitehills Public Library.