

Whitehills & District Community Council
Minutes of the meeting held Thursday 16th February 2017
at 6.30pm in Whitehills Public Library

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

Also attending: Cllr John Cox and Chris Cowie.

Apologies for absence: Alistair Wiseman, Bill Bain, Alan Stewart, Cllr Michael Roy and Cllr Iain Taylor.

Ross announced the sad passing of Mary Askham whose husband, Dennis, served on this community council for a number of years. Ross will send a card to express our sympathy.

Police Report: No police attending. Members mentioned reports of a needle found near the War Memorial in Seafield Street and Mick had reported finding a foil by the old aerodrome to the police but never received any reply or acknowledgement of his email.

Someone is dumping glass bottles near the B9121 and B9139 crossroads opposite the new pathway.

The public are being asked to keep aware and report anything abnormal to the Police on 101.

Minutes of the meeting 19th January 2017, were approved as correct, proposed by Stuart and seconded by Mick.

Matters Arising:

- The drain cover past Morven View flats was replaced right away by Ab.Council, thank you.
- Defibrillator The unit is in place outside the Premier. Nicola Gatt is still looking for an opportunity to get everyone together for an official photo.
- Safety equipment. Robbie showed the six hard hats and six high visibility vests donated by MTM complete with logos, to be used when erecting Xmas Lights. Many thanks to MTM.

Treasurer's Report:

Anne distributed copies of the monthly accounts. New flags were needed and bought for the harbour for £157.80 and the quarterly £192 was paid for the cleaning of the Redwell leaving a balance of ££3409.65 in the working account.

Payment of £16620 was made to Colin Smith for the new footpath, paid from the Windfarm account leaving a balance of £46763.52. Duncan will get the receipts and claim for the agreed grant. An application will then be made for the balance. The Gift Account remains at £31581.08.

Anne received a letter from the Cooperative bank saying they will not be offering a fixed rate deposit after the present term of investment is up at the end of March 2017. The meeting gave Anne permission to shop around for a better option at a different bank to deposit the investment. In the light of possible C.C. boundary changes and rules about funds Anne will investigate opening a separate account, as a large sum of the funds held were specifically bequeathed to Whitehills village community council and should not fall back into Aberdeenshire coffers.

Anne was thanked for her excellent work.

Whitehills/Ladysbridge Pathway:

a) Lease Agreement The papers have been signed by the new Property Director, David Greer, and are in place.

b) Monitoring requirement and formal monthly sign-off

Duncan will run off twelve copies of the document to monitor the two areas being the steps by the braes behind the harbour and the new pathway between Whitehills and Annie's woods.

c) Formal opening arrangements

Head teacher, Elaine Mc Gowan, will get back to Ross/Duncan to set a date. Ross will email members when he has the date.

This has been a great exercise and we may look at extending further in due course.

New Scheme of Establishment for Community Councils

There is a meeting on Monday 20 February in Crudie to which participants are to take their own hard copies or electronic copy of a file of 78 pages received by email from Caroline Smith. Apparently only three points are up for discussion and it appears the intention is to change to a three year cycle of office which has already been discussed with disapproval at previous meetings. The suggestion that 14 to 16 year olds go on the committees is admirable but not very practical. It seems those in the office aren't in touch with what is happening on the ground. Cllr John Cox apologized for the whole upset. At the meeting on Monday, Ross will endeavour to ask what happens to money bequeathed to a specific town council if that community council closes.

Planning Applications:

No complaints against any applications made.

Correspondence:

- A thankyou card was received from Gwyneth Dryburgh for monies received at Christmas in appreciation for volunteer toilet duties.
- A letter was received from Aberdeenshire Council expressing gratitude for looking after the public toilets especially as awards had been won.

AOCB:

- Solid barriers have been installed at the Whitehills B9038 turn off from the A98.
- Chas and Ross met with Alistair Millar about the bus shelter below Ladysbridge on the A 98. It is to be moved back at an angle with an access path from the B9121 to the shelter. Traffic Signage is to be changed.
- Chas said a local resident, Stephen Inglis, approached him about the unattended grass around his residence and was invited to attend the meeting tonight. The council will not adopt the grass after Alistair Rennie has completed the development. It seems it is down to the local residents to take care of the grass around their properties please.

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

The WDCC website can be found at www.whitehillsandboyndie.co.uk.