

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

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

Also attending: Cllr Michael Roy, Cllr Iain Taylor, Jan Emery, Chris Cowie and Steven Inglis.

Apologies for absence: Cllr John Cox.

Police Report:

No police were present. Sgt Scott Gove sent an email to Ross requesting that anyone with any information, no matter how small regarding drug misuse in the village and area should please share it with the Police, preferably at the time. This can be done via phoning 101 or Crime Stoppers on 0800 555 111 or

email to the Community Policing Team (CPT) at BanfDistrictCPT@Scotland.ppn.police.uk.

The CPT email address is not monitored 24/7 hence the delay to respond to Mick's email mentioned at the last meeting for which an apology was made.

Minutes of the meeting 16th February 2017, were approved as correct, proposed by Stuart and seconded by Anne.

Matters Arising:

- Defibrillator. Those who could, got together for an official photo on 28 February which was in the Banffshire Journal. The defibrillator has been registered.
A 'Help save a life' training and awareness evening was organised by Nicola Gatt and held in St Brandon's last Friday evening. It was well attended and an excellent presentation was made by the Scottish Ambulance Service. Five people opted to do training to be 'first responders' in the village. Nicola brought the defibrillator for all to see. Spare pads are needed and a mask. Fundraising will be done from time to time to maintain the defibrillator and accessories.
- Ross sent a sympathy card to Dennis Askham, our past Secretary, regarding the recent loss of his wife, Mary.

Treasurer's Report:

Anne distributed copies of the monthly accounts with little to report. The toilet box collection was £35.50. The Aberdeenshire signs for the new pathway cost £60 and the grant of £7140 that Duncan applied for from the Initiative Fund towards the new pathway was received from Aberdeenshire Council. This leaves the balance in the working account at £10525.15.

A Windfarm Community Fund application for £843.38 by Whitehills School Football Team for new strips to allow them to restart and take part in the Bon Ami Tournament was approved leaving a balance of £45920.14 and the Gift Account remains at £31581.08.

Anne has requested repayment of the term deposit with the Co-op Bank which matures on 17 March and will report back next meeting as to where the money is deposited when it is made available. The Co-operative bank has provided decent return and good service in the past but in view of recent circumstances we shall review the situation.

Anne was thanked for her brief report.

Ladysbridge Village Development

Duncan said that Alistair Ramsay had intended to come to the meeting to discuss the progress at Ladysbridge. The third phase is almost complete and work on phase four is expected to open.

Steven Inglis said there is a problem with uncontrolled grass at the new Redwell development where he lives. It was mentioned on Face Book and photos posted of long grass. Alistair Rennie used to have the grass cut but is no longer willing to spend £1700 per annum to do this.

Aberdeenshire Council are not taking responsibility for the grass so Steven and David Alison took it upon themselves to mow the grass but they struggled with their mower. Other people have offered to help. Ross said the Community Council facilities of a brand new mower and strimmer are

available to the community to use. Bill or Stuart are in charge and can be contacted to arrange access. The mower is petrol. Steven said fuel was no problem to supply.

As long as the machines are in good condition and kept in order, as they are at present, the Community council has no liability. The users will be covered by their own home insurance.

Steven said there are also some large bushes needing attention which they would rather take out and replace with grass. The meeting was fine with the idea as the shrubs were also catching rubbish. Steven said Alistair Rennie may help dig out the round about and then replace the overgrown lawn with chuckies.

Ross said the Community Council is delighted that residents take responsibility and an interest to maintain the area around them, and is keen to help where it can. This is a good solution to the problem.

Whitehills/Ladysbridge Pathway formal opening

A formal opening was held on Tuesday 1 March at the pathway and photos taken with school children from Whitehills School. Duncan said a few words and it was a nice opportunity to highlight the path which is being well walked.

a) Monitoring requirement and formal monthly sign-off

Duncan had the form for the new monthly maintenance record for monitoring of the four areas the Community Council is responsible for. These are the new path, the back path, the compass rose area and the steps behind the harbour. Duncan will e-mail a copy of the form to all the members and everyone can help inspect the four areas and mark it off every month at the meeting. Make a note of anything needing attention.

The steps behind the harbour need a few loose tiles to be cemented in. Bill kindly offered to see to this.

Duncan checked about core paths with Eleanor Munro who explained that the Back Path to the B3191 is a core path. Aberdeenshire Council has maintained it until now but is under no obligation. Banff links to Redwell is part of the coastal path network and a core path. It is therefore reasonable to assume they will maintain it.

Ross thanked Duncan and everyone for their work.

b) Small additional work at Annie's Wood end.

A small change was made to the curb at the end of the new footpath to accommodate wheelchair and pushchair access. A lady thanked Duncan for the change made.

New Scheme of Establishment for Community Councils - Crudie meeting.

Duncan and Ross went to the meeting held on Monday 20 February in Crudie and reported that it was not the fault of the ladies who held the meeting as they were only trying to pass information on, but there were multiple errors. There has been a huge amount of correspondence since the meeting. Duncan was concerned that there was false information, incorrect labelling of the area on the map, a huge quantity of complaints and that the draft was not a true reflection of the discussions held with the working group. They are far from consensus and the deadline is 20 April. A major concern is that people with business interests in a C.C. area but did not live there, could be on that Community Council as well as in the area where they live. After some discussion Cllr Mike suggested Jan research the matter and the need to visit local community councils before going to Aberdeenshire Council. Cllr Iain indicated that Community Councils were going to be given more responsibilities in the future.

Planning Applications:

There were no objections to any of the applications.

Correspondence:

- Alistair Millar Ab. Council, sent a letter about the discussions held about the bus stop at Ladysbridge. Hatch markings are proposed and they are looking at setting the bus shelter back a little. The lighting was redeemed sufficient after Cllr John Cox asked.

- Responsibility for Insurance cover with Zurich Insurance presently arranged through Ab. Council covered until 2018 will change thereafter. Ab. Council will revert in due course.

Applications to Windfarm Fund:

- An application made for £843.38 by Whitehills School Football Team for new strips was approved.
- An application was made by Terry Pickard on behalf of the Parish church for the church clock to be repaired as it needs a new mechanism. The meeting agreed that it was a focal point of the village and needs to work. 70% (£1540) of the total cost (£2435) was granted.

AOCB:

- Stuart was thanked for repairing the Christmas reindeer lights.
- Gwyneth Dryburgh has retired as one of the volunteer loo cleaners due to health. Her help is greatly appreciated. **Anyone wishing to volunteer for cleaning the public toilets is most welcome to join the team.** Please contact Ross.
- Alex Kemper requested that she replace an old bench in the shelter between Redwell and the Links with a new bench on behalf of someone who would like a bench in memory of a family member. Meeting agreed for her to go ahead.
- The chairman from Newburgh and Fortmartine Community Council was impressed by our doggy bag dispenser and asked Ross for information.
- **Please report any one whose dog is fouling to 03456081207 with the time of day, where, the owner of the dog if known and the car registration number or any information.**
- Ross circulated an email from Mark Leith asking for any info we might want to send him about what's going on in our area for him to publicise under a Community piece each month in the Knock News magazine as this would be a great opportunity to raise the profile of community councils and what we do. Anyone with ideas can pass them on to Mattie who will also send news to Mark.
- Alistair Wiseman asked about the potholes near Mr Keith's house and others on the coastal road between Whitehills harbour and the Redwell as they are getting worse.
- Carol Solloway has kindly offered to look after the garden in the Bull Ring. She is most welcome and we will provide any materials required.

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 20th April 6.30pm at Whitehills Public Library.

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