

Whitehills & District Community Council
Minutes of the meeting held Thursday 20 April 2017
at 6.30pm in Whitehills Public Library

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

Also attending: Cllr John Cox and Cllr Michael Roy.

Apologies for absence: Alan Stewart, Robert Mackie and Jan Emery.

Police Report: PC Sean Horne and PC Louise Smith came to the meeting and had nothing to report. Ross thanked them for coming and for the work they are doing.

(The public is reminded to report anything suspicious to the Police by phoning 101 or Crime Stoppers on 0800 555 111 or sending an email to the Community Policing Team (CPT) at BanffDistrictCPT@Scotland.ppn.police.uk.)

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

Matters Arising:

None

Treasurer's Report:

Anne distributed copies of the monthly accounts. The cheque from the Co Operative Bank for the returned term deposit and interest of £73646.55 was paid in to the working account as well as donations (£19) for the Christmas lights. The grant of £7140 from the Initiative Fund towards the costs of Annie's Wood Pathway was paid back into the Windfarm Account. This leaves the balance in the working account at £77044.70.

Anne has arranged with the Bank of Scotland to deposit the investment at 0.8% interest for one year and let it roll over year on year as agreed by the committee. An email with terms and conditions is to follow.

The Windfarm Community Fund balance stands at £51515.14 after payment of £1540 towards the repair of the Parish Church Clock and a £5.00 bank charge for stopping a misplaced cheque. The Gift Account remains the same at £31581.08.

Anne was thanked for all her work.

Whitehills/Ladysbridge Pathway sign off

The formal monthly sign-off was done as follows: Mick signed for the back path; Alistair signed for the Compass rose; Chas signed for the steps behind the harbour and Ross signed for the new pathway to Annie's woods.

Bill was thanked for fixing the few loose slabs along the steps behind the harbour and Stuart was thanked for trimming the brambles along the new footpath.

Duncan said the final cost for the new pathway was £17340, ameliorated by the above-mentioned grant of £7140.

New Scheme of Establishment for Community Councils - going to full council on 27th April 2017.

Duncan and Ross have submitted their comments and concerns. The points were well discussed at our last meeting and we are content to leave matters as they stand pending the full council meeting. Cllr Mike said amendments have been added to the document to be presented at the meeting. Mike said he understood the stated maximum number of 5 for a quorum is to stimulate election but some suggested it could work the opposite way. (A Quorum has been amended to a third.) Cllr John said the community councils are concerned about the training suggested as this could make them top heavy to run. Cllr Mike said he is willing to put anything forward at the meeting. The 190 page document is available online for those wanting to read it.

Banff and Buchan Area Initiatives Fund

This is made available every year for Community councils. WDCC received a grant for the new pathway after much planning and administration. We are not ready for the next part of the pathway and will thus leave it this year.

Windfarm Applications

John Milne Jnr put in an application for new stripes for Whitehills Primary School prior to the recently re-instated Bon Ami Tournament, which they now have and look very good complete with the WDCC logo. Photos are still to be taken. The WDCC wish them success.

Whitehills Public Toilets Team

The rota for volunteers has been made out until 11 September. We are down to seven helpers. Mattie will make an advert for a few more helpers and give Duncan one for his notice board.

Planning Applications:

- Duncan said there were about six applications from Ladysbridge. There are two objections to a plan in Phase 4 by Gary Macbeath and David Richard-Jones who bought properties on the understanding that an area of recreational area was near it. The WDCC wants to be sure the area is well developed but not over developed and will make sure the area committee look at the matter. Ross and Duncan will write to Jim Martin in Winston House, Banff, not as a formal objection, but to be noted as it also depends on what was said between the developer and consumer.
- Boyndie Quarry proposes to extend to the West and is happy to discuss it with WDCC. Ross wrote to say he was concerned about the heavy traffic, passing places and ongoing maintenance of the roads. They state that they don't anticipate any increased traffic and plan a public event in Portsoy on 10 May to clarify.

Correspondence:

- Miss Mirmoyee from Aberdeenshire Council is in the process of identifying a development study and needs a place per settlement to do the assessment. Ross will be the contact.
- Regarding a request for Horse Signage on the Inverboyndie/Whitehills road, John Stronach (Ab. Council) replied that in consideration of the geography of the road, he will provide two horse signs for either side of the road.

AOCB:

- Alistair and Bill said the dog fouling in odd places is still bad and they pick up dog poo every day. 90% of the community adhere to the law but sadly a small percentage does not. There is a number to call to report offenders but it is not certain who answers. Please phone 03456081207 to report any one whose dog is fouling with the time of day, where it happened, the owner of the dog if known and the car registration number or any information. Thank you.
- Duncan said a new stone memorial and plaque is going to be erected in memory of a Colin Barron who went to Boyndie school and won the Victoria Cross in 1917. The dedication ceremony will be in October. His fascinating story is on the internet.
- The WDCC AGM is on 18 May. Duncan will do posters.
- Chas said Stuart Taylor wants to put up a chair up West Braes in memory of his wife through Aberdeenshire Council. Agreed.
- The cemetery dyke on the west side is crumbling away and the low wall by the gate entrance. Ross will notify Aberdeenshire Council landscaping department.
- The welcome banner at Redwells has been put up, thanks to Chas.

- Cllr Mike said it may be his last meeting depending on the Council election outcome and thanked the committee for all it has done. It has been a pleasure to work together. Cllr John agreed. Ross thanked them both for their support and wished them well for the elections.

Date of Next Meeting: AGM Thursday 18th May 6.30pm at Whitehills Public Library.

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