

Whitehills & District Community Council
Minutes of the monthly meeting held Thursday 15 June 2017
at 6.30pm in St Brandon's, Whitehills

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

Also attending: Cllr John Cox, Cllr Dr Glen Reynolds and Chris Cowie.

Apologies: Cllr Mike Roy, Jan Emery and Chas Findlay.

Police Report: Police issues and change to meetings attendance

Ross received a message from Meagan Heathershaw saying that it is difficult at times when the Police are busy to attend the monthly meetings. She says they would rather come quarterly or when there is a need. Cllr Glen said he had spoken with her and they want to make better use of time by being relevant and useful to both sides. The meeting is quite happy with this and remains thankful for the great work done. Ross asked if the regular police reports received by email could specify Whitehills area separately as there are often identical street names in the different villages.

(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) locally at BanffDistrictCPT@Scotland.ppn.police.uk.)

Minutes of the meeting 18 May 2017 were approved as correct, proposed by Stuart and seconded by Bill.

Matters Arising:

- Whitehills/Ladysbridge Pathway sign off: The recent heavy rain washed some holes in the lower back path. Ross will contact Eleanor Munroe to ask if the road department can please repair the path. Members noted that the recently created pathway to/from Ladysbridge village is overgrown. Though the developer was tasked with creating the footpath, it is not his responsibility to maintain it. Duncan will speak to Alistair Ramsay to see if anything can be done.
- Ross sent a message to Kenneth Regan at Ab. Council about the Cemetery space filling up and asking about future plans. A response is still awaited.
- The amendment to our constitution regarding our C.C., is in hand.
- Nothing further has been heard about new volunteers for the Whitehills Public Toilets.
- Bill will liaise with the school about the possibility of putting up some kind of eco friendly shelter for Annie's woods and maybe even a natural toilet. Will need to look at costing and check with Seafield Estate. The WDCC is happy to help as this is for the whole community and visitors too.

Sadly, some people are using the woods and leaving their rubbish there. There is a rubbish bin at the end of the road, please use it.

Treasurer's Report:

Anne distributed copies of the monthly accounts and gave a brief report of income and expenses since the last meeting. The annual website fee is cheaper than previous years. Compost was bought for the flowers in the village and £39.00 was received in the toilet collection box which is rewarding. People have commented "it is nice to go in clean toilets" hence the collection reflecting people's appreciation.

This leaves the balance in the working account at £4564.81, the Windfarm Community Fund balance remains the same at £49795.14 as does the Gift Account at £31581.08. Anne was thanked for her work.

The committee expressed their thanks to Robin Maddock who kindly audited the accounts. These have been handed in to Aberdeenshire Council in order to receive the grant.

WDCC will pay Whitehills Parish Church £150 per year (usually £15 per hour) for the use of the centre for the monthly meetings as there is more space and it is cosier. Ross wrote to Cathy to

thank her for the retrospective use of the Whitehills Library and for preparing it for our meeting every month.

Scheme of Establishment for Community Councils

There was another meeting held in Inverurie tonight 15 June. A draft with changes has been drawn up and we shall await further detail. As it stands we feel we can work comfortably within it's boundaries.

Legal Advice for a) Legal Liability of Chair and Vice Chair re the C.C. Insurance and b) safety of bequests in event of demise of C.C. (Burness Paull).

Duncan and Ross had a good meeting with Margaret Jane to discuss the above. Margaret Jane indicated that there would be time to manage the finances of the Community Council if it was to close. Margaret explained that there is a fund that can be accessed to get legal advice. An application must be filled in and Margaret asked if a member of the Council Legal Team could please meet with us and the chosen solicitor as a learning experience for their legal team. The committee have no problem with this. Ross and Duncan would like to get a good solicitor but this will cost more. A leading charity solicitor could cost around £600 per hour. To reduce the time and cost, Duncan and Ross can meet with the Council Legal team to get basic ideas and then meet with a good solicitor for clarity and advice on the various matters of gifts and conditions and whether we are covered with insurance and liability for the things the WDCC do. It will also be an opportunity to ask about what land belongs to who eg. the Compass Rose area. Ab. Council is happy to provide a grant for this legal advice on the basis that they will benefit for the future as we could be a model for others.

Ross and Duncan are awaiting AB. Council for a date to meet.

Planning Issues:

According to the website, there is nothing for Whitehills nor Ladysbridge for May and June.

Correspondence:

- A letter was received asking for publicity for Merchant Navy Day on 3 September by please flying the Red Ensign. This is a good idea and Alistair will take it up with the Harbour Master, Bertie Milne, at their next meeting.

AOCB:

- Alan said the weed killer in the shed is outdated and will be appropriately discarded. Alan will ask Stuart Geddes about getting new weed killer like Round-up which is said to work well.
- Bill, Stuart and Chas were thanked for planting all the flowers around the village which looks lovely. Derek planted flowers by the harbour and looks after them and Lees planted flowers in front of him on Low Shore. Alan has been cutting the grass at the top of Craigneen Place. Thank you all. Bill suggested people in the village should be encouraged to be proud of their village and take good care of it. Look into increasing engagement and participation.
- Bill asked that people using the lawn mower please write up the number of hours it is used in the book, for maintenance and service purposes.
- A person had complained to Bill about children using the area near the playground as a toilet because the public toilet at Black Pots Pavilion is closed. Plenty people use the playground so the toilets need to be open even just seasonally. Ross will speak to Terry who is trying to find someone to take care of the toilets.
- The drains along the beach need to be unblocked. Bill will speak to Alison Millar about them. The bund behind Reidhaven Street is checked regularly and has helped prevent more flooding. There was an exceptional amount of water in a short period of time in recent rains.

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 21 September at 6.30pm in St Brandon's Centre.

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