

Whitehills & District Community Council
Minutes of the meeting Thursday 16th November 2017

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

Also attending: Cllr Michael Roy and Cllr John Cox.

Apologies: Cllr Glen Reynolds.

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

Matters Arising:

- Yellow Lining is to go ahead. A suggested amendment was submitted to the Council by the WDCC but Aberdeenshire Council has kept to the original plan.
- Grant Street potholes have been repaired, but rather roughly.
- Remembrance Services went fine. After the ceremony at Whitehills Cemetery on Saturday, tea and refreshments were enjoyed at the Erskine Coffee Morning held in St Brandon's. Bill fetched Peter and Sandy Hughes who appreciated being at the tea together.

Police Report: A police update was sent out by email. Nothing to discuss.

Treasurer's Report:

Anne distributed copies of the monthly accounts, detailing expenditure totalling £708 since the last meeting, and an income of £56.50, leaving a balance of £4795.99 in the working current account. The Redwell has been cleaned again, a bench has been replaced and a donation was given to Erskine for the coffee morning attended on Remembrance day. Donations were received for the Christmas lights and toilets.

Doggy bags were bought for £350.16 leaving a balance of £31870.90 in the gifts/projects account. The Windfarm account balance remains at £75357.20.

Well done Anne, thank you.

Christmas Lights

Robbie has tested the lights and has everything in place to put up the Christmas lights with the help of the volunteers from 10.00am on Sunday 3 December. Anne will organize a £50 voucher for Jimmy Forbes in appreciation of his help.

There is new legislation for next year and Robbie highlighted a number of changes. Cllr Cox said Robbie had done a most helpful exercise showing out the implications of these changes. There have been a few incidents in Aberdeenshire and the initiative came from an officer for health and safety reasons. However, the legislation has not yet been passed and Robbie will forward the points to council to consider when they have their discussion. The CC is very appreciative of Robbie's efforts. Thank you.

Planning Applications:

Nothing contentious.

Flooding problems – e-mail from Malcolm Thomson(Ab.Council)

A local resident, David West, has been very helpful and done a lot of work. Ross received an email from Malcolm Thomson (Ab.Council). No one from AB Council came on Tuesday for the meeting. The Ab Council plan a CCTV survey of the area but they already have all the information and are not acting upon it. David couldn't attend our meeting this evening due to illness but Ross has asked him to please prepare a report for Aberdeenshire Council. Duncan said he hoped Ab. Council appreciate all the work that has been done and that they act upon it. Cllr Cox suggested WDCC approach Seafield Estate for help. The problem needs to be resolved.

Back Path hard-coring repairs/ Painting of Railings on Seashore/ Blocked exit pipes on seawall

Bill said 100m of hardcore has already been done along the back path. The Community Service Team is doing an excellent job and have good tools. CC agree that Bill will get two more hardcore to do the whole job. The painting and maintenance of the sea wall and railings will be done next week. The Coastal Protection people will start on Wednesday, weather permitting. Alistair Miller says he will remove the stones from the blocked pipes by the sea wall. A grid is needed to stop the stones blocking the drainage pipes. Bill was thanked for excellent work.

New Dog Bag Dispensers and Waste Bins

Stuart and helpers were thanked for sorting dispensers and bins. Excellent job done.

Correspondence: None

AOCB:

- Equipment for Forest School. Bill met with the head teacher. Each department at the school has been given an area of trees to look after as they are being neglected. The eco system for the shed is going well. Their Forrest School programme has been halted until February 2018 as they need to submit an application to put up a shed for storing the equipment. Duncan is willing to help with the application which Bill will suggest be submitted by our next meeting to take the work forward. The cement floor is already there.
- Anne will arrange for each volunteer who helps clean the toilets to receive a card and cash as a token of our appreciation for their great work. Fred is not well and in hospital. His enthusiasm and work in the past is greatly appreciated. £900 is to be distributed.
- Duncan briefed the meeting about a new **Lunch Club** service, that will start in January 2018 and run for a year to look at the benefit and how well it is used. This is a joint venture between Banffshire Partnership, Deveron District Age Concern(DDAC) and Boyndie Trust who will provide a midweek/rotational two course lunch with tea or coffee at Boyndie Centre for £5.00. Transport is available. The Lunch Club is principally aimed at DDAC clients but anyone who feels they would benefit from membership is welcome to apply to join. The food and transport is obviously subsidized, largely by DDAC. Posters will be put up and mention made in the Parish Church Newsletter to make the service known.
- On behalf of Erskine, Bill thanked all for their wonderful support for the Erskine coffee morning on Remembrance Day in St Brandon's and for the donation from WDCC. Lady Clare Russel was very impressed and keen to come again next year.

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 21 December, 6.30pm in St Brandon Centre, Whitehills.