

Whitehills & District Community Council
Minutes of the meeting Thursday 19th October 2017

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

Also attending: Cllr Michael Roy, Cllr John Cox.

Apologies: Alan Stewart, Bill Bain, Mattie Verster, Robert Mackie, Cllr Glen Reynolds.

Minutes of the meeting 21st September 2017, were approved as correct, proposed by Stuart and seconded by Mick.

Matters Arising:

1. Back Path. Bill is pursuing potential offer of Community Service Team assisting with labour to repair the path, plus other painting and maintenance jobs round the village.
2. Yellow Lining. The proposed plan was discussed and a suggested amendment will be put by Ross to Ward 1 Cllrs via email.
3. Grant Street potholes. Not yet fixed: Ross will chase progress.

Police Report: Nil

Treasurer's Report: Anne distributed copies of the monthly accounts, detailing expenditure totalling £36.40 since the last meeting, and an income of £15.00, leaving a balance of £5447.49 in the working current account. Three awards totalling £1000 had been paid from the gifts/projects account, leaving a balance of £32,221.06.

Community Council Constitutional Reforms: Ross and Duncan had attended a meeting at Crudie School on 11th October, where various Aberdeenshire Council officers had explained the final details of the new Scheme of Establishment. It has been revised quite significantly since early drafts, and there now seems to be little of major substance or contention to change in the Whitehills constitution in order for it to comply with the new rules. During the course of the next few months, Council officers will assist with this. There are a number of potential changes that are optional, and these will be discussed with CC members in due course, as part of the process.

Planning Applications: Six new applications were discussed and noted, but none were felt to require further comment.

Duncan asked Cllrs Cox and Roy to update on progress of the application to form a caravan park for Travellers at the former Boyndie Roads Depot, and they confirmed that the issue would be decided by Full Council at a meeting later this year.

Flooding: Ross reported that although a public meeting of the type suggested in September had not been arranged (although he had passed on the request for one to Council) there had been progress in that a site meeting had been attended by Malcolm Thomson (Ab.Council) and residents. David West continued to put in a lot of voluntary time trying to identify causes and solutions for the problem, and it did seem as though Council officers were evaluating some potential remedial actions. But this issue is certainly not yet concluded, and further work is required.

Meeting 27th September: A meeting had taken place in Banff, at which communities had been invited to hear a presentation about the process of Aberdeenshire Council forming a new Local Development Plan. There was then a workshop session at which participants were invited to give comments on Council's five new priorities, and specifically how these were relevant to our community. Ross, Duncan, Anne and Mattie had attended; all agreed that it was hard to evaluate what came out of such meetings, but Cllr Roy reminded everyone of the importance of engaging in formation of the new LDP, when opportunity arose in the future.

Correspondence:

1. **Remembrance Services:** those wishing to participate should be present at **Whitehills Cemetery, 10.45am on Sat 11th Nov.**, and **12.45pm at the War Memorial (Seafield Street) on Sunday 12th November**
2. A Windfarm Community Fund application was received and discussed, but unfortunately was not deemed eligible for support under the rules of the fund.
3. Bill submitted by letter details of a possible project to provide a storage shed at Whitehills School to support their Forrest Schools programme, and a meeting with the headmistress was suggested as a sensible next step.

AOCB:

1. **Community Action Plan:** Duncan reminded the group that we had provisionally proposed November as the time to hold the public meeting that would provide ideas and project suggestions for our new Community Action Plan. In view of the number of things already in progress round the village, it was decided to postpone this a little more, until late January/early February 2018.
2. **Festive Lights:** Robbie has arranged for the lights to be installed on the 3rd December, and taken down on the 14th January. **Volunteers to assist would be much appreciated**, and preferably they should contact Robbie direct, or give names to Ross.

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 16th November, 6.30pm
St Brandon Centre, Whitehills.