

Whitehills & District Community Council
Minutes of the meeting Thursday 15th February 2018

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

Also attending: Cllr Glen Reynolds, Terry Pickard, Stuart Geddes, Agnes Lees and David West.

Apologies: Cllr Michael Roy, Bill Bain.

Minutes of the meeting 18th January 2018, were approved as correct, proposed by Stuart and seconded by Alan.

Matters Arising:

- The old seat at Compass Rose was kindly removed by Chas and helpers. Nigel and Jenny Saunders have arranged to put a new bench up in memory of her mother.
- Malcolm Jack did a good job replacing the roof of the Information board at Red Well.
- A letter was received from Aberchirder Community Association via Duncan requesting information re projects supported over the years by our windfarm grant funding which Ross provided, They were very grateful and found it most helpful.
- Ross and Duncan are happy with the cover from Zurich Insurance and will review again prior to 1 April.

Police Report: Nil

Treasurer's Report:

Anne distributed copies of the monthly accounts, detailing expenditure totalling £547.50 since the last meeting, and an income of £39.50, leaving a balance of £3748.39 in the working current account. The cleaning of the Redwell has increased from £192 to £240 per quarter, but it needs to be done and Stanley does good work.

The balances remain the same for the Wind Farm Account at £73510.77 and Gift Account at £31870.90.

Planning Applications:

Nothing to mention.

Duncan was asked about the Planning Gain from the Ladysbridge development. Previous enquiries from WDCC to AB Council have never been answered. It is understood the majority is earmarked for the MUGA (Multi Use Games Area) community project at Whitehills School but the progress of this project is unknown. Some of the fund has gone to affordable housing. Duncan will ask the Area Manager how much money is available and what the criteria are for how it is spent.

Alan commented that he is concerned about trees being removed at Boyndie Depot. He asked if Cllr Glen knew if the tree officer had been advised and whether permission had been given. Cllr Glen said he was aware of exercises going on and would check tomorrow. It is important to monitor the felling of trees and to see that all abide by the same rules.

Flooding:

The guests were invited to participate and the flooding problem was discussed at length. David West said the reply from Ab Council was not satisfactory. Ross asked Malcolm Thompson for an update but no reply to date. Terry said a man from a private company (arranged by the water board) did tests at the manholes along Reidhaven street, the results of which are due in three

weeks time. David said it is the Ab Council's responsibility to prevent flooding of the village. Stuart said the ditch / drain behind Reidhaven Street is only to drain surface water, acting like a soak away. There are other drains in his park. One drain running higher up into Seafield Street is choked. Agnes reiterated the concern of the residents and how the continual flooding problem affected insurance and extra payments.

Stuart Geddes suggested putting in a long 2 foot wide pipe running from the Monument to the West of the village by the Falka layby to drain the water into the sea. This would take away the water from Whitehills village and hopefully solve the problem. A survey needs to be done to ensure a good drain slope. David said he will measure the dogleg from the monument to the layby.

Stuart, Alan and David kindly offered to work together and will ask a local tradesman (who will be included in the tenders) to please give advice and a quote for the job. They will then arrange an on site meeting with all the parties including Ab Council, Scottish Water, Stuart Geddes, Seafield Estate to discuss the proposal. Several quotes are required if we want to apply for funding for this project. Local tradesmen suggested are Colin Smith, Jamie Forbes, Stanley Smith and Sievwrights. WDCC will present the solution and the price to Aberdeenshire Council so the matter can move forward. This by no means exempts AB Council of their responsibility.

Dog Waste Bags:

Alistair is satisfied with the sample bags. Anne will go ahead and order bags from the company as they are much cheaper and serve the same purpose.

Correspondence:

- Ross received a letter giving details and a map of the Moray East Offshore Wind Farm pipeline planned to enter the sea East of the Redwell. The information was available for those interested.
- The new constitution for the Scheme of Establishment was sent to all members by email to read. Ross suggested we take the option: "Procedure B". Ross and Duncan will go through the new version/document and amend as needed.
- Piers Blaxster sent a letter about the new local development plan meeting end of May.
- Cllr John Cox sent a message to say that the plans for the yellow lining in Loch Street have been put on hold in the meantime pending further discussion.
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AOCB:

- Ten tonnes of hard core have been dumped along the back path and work will proceed this weekend.
- Stuart Geddes offered bricks to fill any holes/ washed away places at the compass rose if needed.
- Chas offered to see to the loose step up the brae behind the harbour.

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 15th March 2018, 6.30pm in St Brandon Centre, Whitehills.