

Whitehills & District Community Council
Minutes of the meeting Thursday 18th January 2018

Present: Ross Balharry (Chairman), Anne Balharry, Stuart Ironside, Duncan Leece, Chas Findlay, Mick Moloney, Alan Stewart, Robert Mackie.

Also attending: Cllr Michael Roy, Terry Pickard

Apologies:, Bill Bain, Mattie Verster, Alistair Wiseman, Cllr Glen Reynolds, Cllr John Cox (note: best wishes recorded to John for a speedy recovery from his recent hip operation).

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

Matters Arising:

- Seafront railings: painting arranged, but awaiting better weather.
- Rainwater exit pipes at sea wall, awaiting work but Council will do ASAP.
- Ladysbridge bus shelter now moved by Council and wee path added. Thanks recorded.
- Community Action Plan: Duncan has spoken with school Head, and she confirmed that they would like to be involved in this project. Ross and Duncan will meet with school staff to discuss format and timetable for the project. Even though the new CAP is overdue, all agreed it was worth waiting a little more if necessary in order to get maximum involvement of the school and pupils.

Police Report: Nil

Treasurer's Report: Anne distributed copies of the monthly accounts, detailing expenditure totalling £51.00 since the last meeting, and an income of £10.00, leaving a balance of £4256.39 in the working current account. It has been a quiet period over the Christmas break, so all other balances remain as per last month.

Planning Applications: None recorded. Ross did note, however, that a notification had been received of an imminent five-week closure for maintenance, of the rural road past Lintmill, Boyndie.

Flooding: Ross had distributed prior to the meeting, a further report from local resident David West, detailing more information and potential causes/solutions for the issues. Terry was able to add his observations too. CC members wished to record thanks to local residents putting considerable time into monitoring, recording and researching matters pertinent to the problem.

Aberdeenshire Council officer Malcolm Thompson has taken the task of gathering evidence and forming a plan of action from a Council perspective. There was frustration that we seem not to be able to discover how far advanced formation of this plan is, and thus what it comprises.

Scottish Water plan to do dye tests to establish whether and how the foul water sewer system (which is their responsibility) is involved, and David has been in discussion with a Mr Marr from that company.

The Community Council re-stated its wish that as this is a complex problem, every effort must be made to ensure all parties involved, ie Council, Scottish Water, landowner, residents; are in communication and working together. Ross will write again to Malcolm to ensure that happens (it still seems not to be at present) and Cllr Roy asked that he and his colleagues be copied into correspondence.

Dog Waste Bags: Anne reported that Alistair has discovered a potential new supplier who will give a substantial discount for bulk-purchase, which could be a major saving to an ongoing problem. Design of bags is very slightly different, so it was agreed to order one box as a trial sample, before making a larger investment in stock.

Correspondence:

- Ross ran through a paper from Zurich Insurance detailing changes to our insurance from 2018 onwards. This paper seemed to address concerns we had previously identified re certain aspects of the current cover. Ross and Duncan were tasked with further investigation (**note:** in subsequent direct discussion with Zurich, Ross confirmed that our new proposed policy did indeed seem to solve the issues for us).
- Request received from Aberchirder Community Association for some information re projects supported over the years by our windfarm grant funding. Ross and Duncan will oblige.

AOCB:

- Christmas lights: thanks to all those volunteers who ensured another very efficient job was done (and thanks for bacon rolls provided to the team taking the lights down on a cold day!).
- An old seat at Compass Rose is now dangerous and will be removed by Chas.
- Information board at Red Well now requires repair, and all agreed a suitable tradesman should be instructed.
- A small patch of lettering will be repaired on the new memorial. Chas confirmed the manufacturer is being very helpful in this regard.

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