

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

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

Also attending: Cllr John Cox, David West, Gordon Paterson, Terry Pickard, Agnes Lees, John & Mary Mitchell, Marie Gordon, Brenda Milne, James Wiseman, Elaine Ritchie, Douglas Milne and Cyril Harcus.

Apologies: Alan Stewart, Cllr Michael Roy, Cllr Glen Reynolds.

Minutes of the meeting 15th February 2018, were approved as correct, proposed by Mick and seconded by Stuart.

Matters Arising:

- Duncan has arranged a meeting next week with the area manager Karen Wiles, as the first meeting was cancelled, to ask about the Planning Gain - how much money is available and what the criteria are for how it is spent.
- Cllr Glen is not present to follow-up the concern raised about trees being removed at Boyndie Depot.
- Work along the back path is still in progress.
- Bad weather has prevented work to fix two loose steps up the brae behind the harbour.
- Alistair said the new doggy bags are very good quality but still being stolen and misused. He will look into moving one dispenser more into the public eye in the hope that the doggy bags will be better used.

Treasurer's Report:

Anne distributed copies of the monthly accounts, detailing expenditure totalling £502.16 since the last meeting, and an income of £5 for Christmas light collection, leaving a balance of £3251.23 in the working current account.

A good price of £519.60 was spent on 25000 doggy bags leaving a balance of £31870.90 in the Gift Account. £1175.34 of the recent bequest money has been used.

The balance remains the same for the Wind Farm Account at £73510.77. Thanks Anne.

Planning Applications:

Duncan checked the internet and there is nothing to discuss.

Ongoing Flooding problems – latest position:

House holders affected by the ongoing flooding problems were welcomed to the meeting and given time to discuss the matter. David West gave an update. The feeling is that Aberdeenshire Council (Ab. C) is not seriously considering the whole problem and slow in taking any action. Stuart Geddes has done some drainage work to try and relieve some of the flooding. A lawyer could be asked for help but will cost money and not necessarily solve the flooding problem. David would still like a meeting with all the parties including Ab Council, Scottish Water, Stuart Geddes, Seafield Estate to discuss the problem and seek a solution.

Whilst WDCC does not wish to relieve Ab. Council's responsibility to do something to stop the flooding and will maintain pressure on Ab Council, it is felt we may have to do something in private alongside. We need to come up with a workable plan and costing to present to Ab Council. This needs a qualified consultant engineer and will cost money. If needed, funding can be sought once there is a plan and estimated costings. John Cox suggested that Ross write to Karen Wiles to request to speak at the Banff and Buchan Committee meeting to be held 27 March. David West and Terry Pickard offered to present the case at the meeting if granted the opportunity. Robbie will ask about advice from his work. The visitors were thanked for coming and free to leave.

New Scheme of Establishment / Amended Constitution for discussion

The WDCC has to make sure its constitution complies with the New Scheme of Establishment. Duncan handed out a template which was provided by Ab. Council to help with this process. Ross and Duncan kindly went through the document and Duncan pointed out all the amendments they suggested be made. These were discussed and all agreed upon. The document will be sent to the area manager and will be adopted when returned. Duncan and Ross were thanked for their work.

Mattie will post the agenda for each meeting on the website to meet the requirement that it be made public at least 3 days before the meeting.

Having checked the records, the following people need to be re-elected at the AGM having served their three year term rota:

2018: Robbie, Ross and Alan

2019: Alistair, Mick and Chas

2020: Duncan, Anne, Stuart and Bill.

Meeting with Elaine McGowan at School re “Making it Real”

Ross and Duncan met with Head Teacher, Elaine McGowan, at the school along with all the teachers to discuss working together to draw up a Strategic Plan for the next five years. It was a very good meeting and the enthusiasm and interest much appreciated. Whitehills School celebrate their 40th anniversary this year and have projects to show. The “Making it Real” meeting will be held at Whitehills School on Wednesday 23 May 2018. A good cross section of the whole community, including Ladysbridge, is needed. Posters can be put up and children will receive notices from the school. Flyers may need to be distributed and the meeting advertised on Face Book and the WDCC website.

Police Report: Nothing of great interest.

Correspondence:

- Zurich Insurance is due 1 April. Ross will check the cover.

AOCB:

- Bill will ask Alistair Miller about the unblocking of the blocked pipes by the sea wall.
- Chas said David Addison had donated two bags of compost which are in the shed.
- Some of the flower bins have been tidied and as soon as the weather improves the others will be seen to by volunteering committee members.

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 19th April 2018, 6.30pm in St Brandon Centre, Whitehills.