

**Whitehills & District Community Council**  
**Minutes of the meeting Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2018**

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

**Also attending:** Cllr John Cox, Cllr Michael Roy, Cllr Glen Reynolds, David West, Terry Pickard.

**Apologies:** Alistair Wiseman.

**Minutes of the meeting 15<sup>th</sup> March 2018**, were approved as correct, proposed by Bill and seconded by Stuart.

Matters Arising:

- Cllr Glen said he had spoken about the trees being removed at Boyndie Depot and a visit was arranged but nothing further heard.
- Chas is over-seeing repairs to the loose steps up the brae behind the harbour.
- Duncan is preparing flyers and posters to advertise the “Making it real” meeting on 23 May at Whitehills School for everyone in the community to attend.
- Doggy bag dispensers have been moved and the dispensing space adjusted on some to reduce bulk removal of bags.
- Robbie asked at his work about any advice for the flooding problem but there was none.
- Bill met with Alistair Miller who said there is no money at present to pay for a digger on the beach to clear stone blockages. He will keep it in mind.

**Treasurer’s Report:**

Anne distributed copies of the monthly accounts, detailing the little activity since the last meeting. Anne transferred £1000 from the Windfarm Account to the current account to pay for quarterly cleaning of the Redwell. £53.50 was received for the toilet and Christmas lights collections. This leaves a balance of £4304.73 in the working current account.

A balance of £31351 is in the Gift Account after transferring the £1000 to the current account and the Wind Farm Account balance remains the same at £72510.77.

Anne said the term deposit in the Bank of Scotland matures in a month from now. The members agreed that, there being no demand for money at present, it be reinvested for a year.

Anne was thanked for her work.

**Planning Applications:**

Duncan checked the internet and there is nothing to note.

**Ongoing Flooding problems – update:**

David West and Terry Pickard were welcomed to the meeting and reported back from a very successful meeting with Lee Watson and Malcolm Thompson from Aberdeenshire Council. Lee Watson now appreciates that there is a problem and that it is complex, needing a number of things to be done including a meeting with all the partners.

Duncan said that the new liaison officer, Liz Farquhar, has been following up asking Lee Watson what has been done. This is very encouraging and pressure should be maintained.

Ross/Duncan will write to Liz asking her to please set up a date for a meeting of all the parties to work out a solution. Funding can be looked at later.

Cllr John Cox was thanked for his support and the good result. Ross thanked David and Terry for their work and attendance after which they left the meeting.

## **New Scheme of Establishment / Amended Constitution latest situation**

Duncan and Ross attended a meeting at Crudie on Wednesday night where Community Councils met to discuss the proposed new document. All the WDCC amendments were accepted by Ab. Council except that we must still send the minutes twice, the draft minutes after the meeting and again after the minutes have been approved at the next meeting. Ross already received written consent last year to have 10 members instead of the suggested 8 members. The meeting is happy with the amended constitution as it now stands and it will go forward to Ab. Council for final corroboration by the Area Manager, hopefully in time for the AGM in June. The independent auditor will be appointed at the AGM.

## **Police Report:**

Officer Hugh Duncan was welcomed to the meeting. He has been delegated to speak to all community councils about the following matters:

- Sheep worrying: Mr Duncan showed distressing pictures of injured sheep by dogs and handed out posters to be put up for awareness of this problem especially during the lambing time. Dog owners are asked to please keep their dogs on leads. Dogs worrying sheep may be shot.
- Dog fouling in parks: Dog owners are asked to please pick up dog poo in the parks as disease can be spread to livestock.
- Scamming: Do not give any information over the telephone or on internet. Officer Duncan said people have lost large amounts of money through scams. Cllr Glen said there is currently a HMRC scam. Chas said there is a 'lost bank card' scam too.

Officer Duncan was thanked for attending the meeting and thanked for all that the Police do for us.

## **Correspondence:**

- A request for funding support was received from Douglas Pirie on behalf of the Whitehills Inshore Fishermen's Association for the setting up of an ice making machine and chill room facilities at the harbour to control temperature of fresh mackerel caught. WDCC cannot support this project financially through the Windfarm Fund but will be happy to write a letter in support of their funding application to NESFLAG.

## **AOCB:**

- Robbie went to a meeting held by Ab. Council last night about Christmas lights and gave an update. The main item was the cost of electricity. Projected on last year, the cost to Whitehills will be about £93.00, which is acceptable. The columns have to be assessed before use but they belong to Ab. Council so it should be their responsibility and cost. We are not allowed to take electricity from the street to light the Christmas tree. Another source will have to be found. Public liability was another problem as insurance is costly for people and volunteers in some places. We will wait until the outcome of the meeting to be held in June. Ross said the committee is grateful to Robbie for doing all this work.
- Chas thanked Cllr John Cox for getting the path to the bus shelter below Ladysbridge done.

**Date of Next Meeting:** Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2018, 6.30pm in St Brandon Centre, Whitehills.