

Whitehills& District Community Council
Minutes of the meeting Thursday 17th May 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 and Cllr Michael Roy.

Apologies: Cllr Glen Reynolds.

Minutes of the meeting 19th April 2018, were approved as correct, proposed by Mick and seconded by Stuart.

Matters Arising:

- Cllr Glen emailed Ross to say there is no Planning problem with the trees removed at Boyndie Depot.
- Chas has the repairs to the loose steps up the brae behind the harbour in hand.
- Robin Maddock has agreed to audit the accounts as the independent auditor for the AGM.
- The Whitehills Inshore Fishermen's Association plans for the setting up of an ice making machine and chill room facilities at the harbour are ongoing but no request has been received yet for a letter in support of their funding application to NESFLAG.

Treasurer's Report:

Anne distributed copies of the monthly accounts starting fresh from May and detailed the little activity since the last meeting. There is a balance of £4072.19 in the working current account. A balance of £31351.30 is in the Gift account and the Wind Farm Account balance remains the same at £72510.77.

Anne gave the accounts to Robin Maddock for auditing ready for the AGM in June.

Cllr Cox asked if the question was ever resolved about what will happen to the finances of a Community Council if it dissolved. Duncan said it appears the funds, given with specific conditions, would be retained separately by Aberdeenshire Council until the Community Council formed again. The Windfarm Fund was specifically given to Whitehills and District Community Council to manage.

Anne was thanked for her work.

Planning Issues:

Duncan checked the internet and there is again nothing posted for this ward. Ross will write an email to hear if there are any planning issues for this area as nothing is seen on the website.

Ongoing Flooding problems – latest position:

Liz Farquhar arranged a meeting for all the parties which was held Tuesday past and the details were discussed. It was well attended by Lee Watson from Aberdeenshire Council, Stuart Geddes, Terry Pickard, Ross Balharry, Duncan Leece, Bill Bain and the three counsellors. Lee Watson was very helpful and agreed things could have been done differently but we need to look forward. There are various ideas but exploration work needs to be done first. The problem won't be solved overnight. Aberdeenshire Council want to resolve the problem, which is theirs, so we will leave them to do so in their own infrastructure and WDCC just needs to manage expectations. Can't guarantee no more flooding but can make it as good as possible.

New Scheme of Establishment / Amended Constitution latest position

Duncan sent the amended Constitution to Karen for approval before we can adopt it at the AGM in June if it is back in time. There seems to be an issue with the election of members as the system is controlled by Aberdeenshire Council. If there is an election, notice has to be given and systems and procedures put in place but the given timeline won't work with the process. Duncan has asked for clarity but we will carry on as normal.

“Community Action Plan”/ Whitehills Primary School Wednesday 23rd May

Duncan has printed a load of flyers and posters to advertise the “Community Action Plan” public meeting to be held on Wednesday 23rd May at Whitehills School for everyone in the community to attend and thus contribute to the new Community Action Plan. Thanks to volunteers, flyers have been dropped as far as possible and the school children have also taken leaflets home. Duncan is in communication with Elaine McGowan and all is in order. The school is putting much effort into its projects to showcase the school on the evening.

Police Report:

A report was sent out on email. No great issues.

Correspondence:

- Ross received a letter from Seafield Estate concerning the Scottish Government’s issue regarding concentrated land ownership. They requested that we respond to the Scottish Government’s website with our comments. We indicated that we are wholly comfortable with our dealings with Seafield Estate who have always been very helpful in regard to any land issues that have arisen.

AOCB:

- Duncan said Alistair Ramsay is going to chase up the “developer contributions” issue in this area and get a break down of how the money is spent.
- Chas was thanked for clearing and painting the flower tubs in the village. Derek Dryburgh has picked up plants for the tubs and flower beds around the harbour.
- Chas has spoken to Mike Duncan regarding tidying up the Bullring with the help of the community service.
- Bill will keep in touch with Lee Watson/ Alistair Millar regarding clearing the stones at the Low Shore drains. A type of valve system allowing water out while stopping ingress of stones was mentioned.

**Date of Next Meeting and AGM – Thursday 21st June 2018 at 6.30pm
in St Brandon’s Centre, Whitehills.**