

Whitehills and District Community Council

Annual General Meeting

held Thursday 21st June 2018 at 6.30 pm in the St Brandon's Centre, Whitehills.

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

Also attending: Cllr Michael Roy, Cllr John Cox and Terry Pickard.

Apologies: Cllr Glen Reynolds and Karen Wiles (Interim) Area Manager Aberdeenshire Council.

Minutes of the last AGM held 18 May 2017, were approved as correct, proposed by Bill and seconded by Stuart.

Whitehills and District Community Council's Annual Report for the period ending 31st May 2018 (No longer 'Chairman's Report' as per new constitution).

This report covers a thirteen month period in order to comply with the new Scheme of Establishment and Constitution which requires us to have our AGM in June. The process of finalising this exercise has been long and arduous but we are now comfortable with the changes and hopefully our finalised draft document, presently with Aberdeenshire Council, will be adopted.

As always I have to thank Duncan as Vice-Chair, Anne as Treasurer and Mattie as Secretary, together with all our other community councillors for their good nature, effort and diligence throughout the year, without which I could not carry out my role as Chairman.

A major cause of concern throughout the year has been the flood water running off the fields into Reidhaven Street and further through the village causing severe damage to property. Aberdeenshire Council appear now to have acknowledged the problem and are responding favourably following meetings with residents and ourselves. Various investigations including CCTV have been carried out and a way forward has now been agreed, which may initially be on a trial and error basis, but with a joint commitment to finally resolve what has been an issue for many years. This will continue to be a priority for the Community Council.

Brief bullet-points highlighting some of the activities undertaken throughout the year are undernoted and give a flavour of what we do.

- Maintenance of the Public Toilets - Gold Award again for 2017!!
- Major repairs to the "Back Path" with aid of Community Service
- Painting of railings on sea wall at Low Shore
- Christmas lighting round the village (changes afoot for future)
- Summer floral displays
- New "doggy bag" dispensers to hopefully reduce costs
- Notice Board at Red Well car park re-roofed
- Repairs effected to the Cemetery wall
- Remembrance Day Services at the Cemetery and the Memorial

We have also assisted Whitehills Primary School with a Forest School Development, and a new "Community Action Plan" will be held there in May, directed and organised by Banffshire Partnership Ltd., to generate new ideas and aspirations from residents which we as a Community Council can endeavour to take forward.

(The Community Council Annual report and minutes of our meetings are posted in our Notice Board in Loch Lane.)

Ross was thanked for the report and work done.

Brief resume of a selection of worth-while projects completed by our WDCC.

The Wind Farm Fund is administered by the WDCC but not owned by it. Ross and Duncan put together a brief summery of various projects completed by the CC. A remarkable amount of £144520 has been given out to our small village of Whitehills and district since the start of the fund.

Money was granted to a wide range of projects including the following: several school projects; the football club; RAF Banff (its historic walk already well used); the Parish Church (mostly towards the clock repair); Harbour Commissioners; turbine walk; starting up Brownies; Blackpots Playing Field; Public Hall (mainly for refurbishment); Boyndie Broadband; the Rowing Club; Defibrillator; and money to WDCC to pay for the path, steps by the harbour, flag poles, flags, etc.

The village appreciates the vast improvement made by the WDCC. We are fortunate to have the Wind Farm Fund. The money has been well spent so far, and another 13 years to go. Duncan was thanked for this resume and everyone is very pleased with what has been accomplished.

Approval of independently verified Statement of Accounts

The Community Council formally nominated Mr Robin Maddock to audit and sign off the accounts.

Treasurer's Report:

Anne distributed copies of the full accounts, and confirmed that they will be submitted to Aberdeenshire Council for scrutiny and recording.

Anne briefly went through the accounts which have been checked over by Robin Maddock.

The Community Council's finances remained sound, and at the end of its financial year, 30th April 2018, the organisation had balances of £4304.73 in its working current account, and £31351.30 in its Gift account. Both the Christmas lights and Toilet Collections were up this year. Cost of cleaning the Redwell has gone up. The fixed term deposit was moved from the Co-Operative Bank to Bank of Scotland.

There being no questions, Anne was thanked for all her work.

Election of office bearers

Community Councillors standing down and available for re-election are Ross Balharry, Alan Stewart and Robert Mackie. Ross handed the Chair over to Cllr John Cox who took nominations for the office bearers. There were no further nominations and all posts were filled by unanimous consent.

Chairman – Ross Balharry. Vice-chairman – Duncan Leece.

Treasurer – Anne Balharry. Minutes Secretary – Mattie Verster.

Cllr John Cox thanked the Councillors, Mike Roy and Glen Reynolds for their support, and especially Ross for steering the CC through the year. He also thanked the office bearers for all the work done and said it was a pleasure to work together.

Voting on any proposals for amendment to our Constitution under the New Scheme of Establishment

Duncan sent the amended Constitution to Karen Wiles for approval so that it could be adopted at this AGM but he has not received anything back. Duncan explained that changes were made according to the Aberdeenshire Council and that he proposes that the CC could vote for the adoption of the amended Constitution. This was done and the vote carried unanimously for the adoption of the amended Constitution. Mattie will post it on the Website.

Duncan pointed out that there were contradicting points in the constitution (3.1.d and 6.1.a under Appendix 1) but all agreed to follow the latter. Ross thanked Duncan for all the work done.

There being no further business, the AGM was concluded, and the June monthly meeting begun.