

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

Held in St Brandon's, Whitehills

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

Also attending: Cllr John Cox, David West, Douglas Milne and Elaine Ritchie.

Apologies: Cllr Glen Reynolds, Alan Stewart and Maureen Shearer.

Minutes of the meeting 20 September 2018, were approved as correct, proposed by Anne and seconded by Stuart.

Matters Arising:

- "Community Action Plan" – Bill was thanked for the many photos he took and sent to Duncan. The plan is now at the designer.
- Stuart was thanked for sorting the doggy bag dispenser by Cyril that had blown over in the wind.
- Bill received an email from Alistair Millar apologizing that nothing has been done about clearing drains at the Low Shore. Bill asked Gary Ritchie to please keep an eye out and be sure they are dug out.
- Bill emailed Carol Munroe to ask if the gate along the back path can please be hung and the benches by the Falka lay-by painted.

Treasurer's Report:

Anne distributed copies of the monthly accounts and detailed the little activity since the last meeting. This left a balance of £ 4894.86 in the working current account. Christmas lights were purchased at £3869.16 paid from the Wind Farm Account leaving a balance of £ 68641.61. The Gift account balance remains the same at £ 31351.30.

Anne was thanked for her work.

Planning Applications:

Ross received notifications of road works and closures along the B9139 and B9038 starting during the period of 22-30 October.

Duncan went through the various applications posted on the website. Only one application has 13 public objections to the proposed development of four houses next to the Blackpots Cottage. This was discussed. Ross sent a complaint on behalf of the WDCC but Duncan will go through the development plan and policies to write an additional objection. The road doesn't belong to AB. Council. Development will increase traffic and it will no longer be a rural walking road enjoyed by many including children and tourists. This is a key holiday area.

Christmas Lights update (Whitehills and Ladysbridge)

Robbie received the permit to put up the new lights, delivery of which is awaited. Chas has organized a cage with Jimmy Forbes. Bill gave Robbie details to find a barrier for going round the tree.

Maureen emailed to say their committee still needs to discuss Christmas lighting. She listed some of their plans for their area. They are having a Pub Quiz on 26 October at the Deveronside Social Club to raise funds to purchase a defibrillator for Ladysbridge. Duncan will speak to Maureen and encourage her to make use of funds available to them.

Flooding Issues – present position

Both Terry Pickard and David West have written emails to complain about the lack of action to resolve the problem. Lee Watson replied that there is no change from wanting to help and resolve the problem. David said their latest proposal will not benefit anyone. Stuart said it was understood work would proceed as soon as the parks were clear two months ago. Cllr Cox was thanked for chasing up the matter. David briefly explained what needs to be done but funding from Aberdeenshire Council is restricted to £10,000.

Cllr Cox offered to set up a meeting with the right people including Kevin Muir from Scottish water, David West along with a few other residents and a few council members to discuss at length with all parties and work out an overall plan that can be done in stages as and when money is available. David suggested that the drain at the War Memorial should be the first area to be addressed. It is important that all parties involved meet with an open attitude. David, Douglas and Elaine were thanked for their attendance. Terry was unable to come as he is away.

Remembrance Day Services

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A service at the cemetery will be held on Friday 9 November at 10.45am followed by tea at the Boyndie Visitor centre. Deputy Lieutenant of Banffshire, Patricia Seligman, will attend.

The Sunday Morning service is at 11.30am in Whitehills Church and the service at the War Memorial, Seafield Street, is at 12.45pm.

Anne has ordered wreaths and Ross has arranged with the piper to come both days.

Police Report:

There is a sensitive issue where a family have placed flowers on the RAF War memorial. Cllr Cox will follow this up.

The public is reminded to please report any incidents to 101.

Correspondence:

- Maureen sent an email to Ross giving details of where the doggy bag dispenser should go and will arrange with Alistair on return from her leave.
- Ross received a Letter of thanks from a grateful visitor for the lovely clean public toilets.
- Ross will reply to a letter from Seafield Estate asking for preferred size and delivery date of the Christmas tree. Delivery is possible from 3 December.

AOCB:

- Alistair asked for two new flags for the harbour please. Anne will order.
- There was a complaint about fly tipping at the Falka. Ross followed this up and it was solved very quickly. Someone's cat litter.
- Toilet volunteers are down to six. Please make it known that more volunteers are needed.
- Chas had asked a man to look at cutting the grass along the Turbine pathway at Boyndie – no response, possibly too big a job. Duncan should contact Carol Munro, Community Service coordinator, to see if they would consider.

Date of Next Meeting – Thursday, 15 November 2018 at 6.30pm in St Brandon's Centre, Seafield Street, Whitehills.