

Whitehills& District Community Council
Minutes of the meeting Thursday 20th September 2018

Held in Whitehills Church

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, David West, Maureen Shearer and Elaine Ritchie.

Apologies: Cllr Glen Reynolds.

Ross welcomed visitors and everyone back after the summer break.

Minutes of the meeting 21st June 2018, were approved as correct, proposed by Stuart and seconded by Bill.

Matters Arising:

- The road markings in Loch Street and Seafield junction have been done.
- Chas said the tidying up of the Bullring was done with the help of the community service.
- Bill said nothing has been done about clearing drains at the Low Shore which are now badly overgrown and blocked by stones. He will email Alistair Millar to get an update.

Treasurer's Report:

Anne distributed copies of the monthly accounts and detailed the activity since the last meeting. Payments were made for Data protection, paint for the Bullring and shed, strimming done along the new path and cleaning of the Redwell. Income was from the Aberdeenshire (Ab.) Council Grant and collections for the Christmas lights and toilets. This left a balance of £ 5171.20 in the working current account. A balance of £ 31351.30 remains in the Gift account and the Wind Farm Account balance remains the same at £ 72510.77.

Anne was thanked for her report.

Planning Applications:

Duncan went through the various applications posted on the website to which there were no objections.

Festive Lights update and repair / renewal

Robbie gave an update saying that permission has been given to put the lights up this year as they are, but they must be upgraded for next year. The gantry light has been repaired using old parts. There are several broken lights and the meeting decided that Robbie should check out the full requirements – it has subsequently been agreed that we need 10 new lights which have now been ordered with Blachere and a cheque remitted. The Christmas Tree lights can be lit from the street light meantime but will require to come from a different source next year. New legislation requires that Barriers are needed around the Christmas tree but rather than purchasing, resulting in storage difficulties, Bill will ask Deveron FM if we can borrow barriers from them.

Insurance is covered by Zurich.

Robbie will apply for a work permit to put the lights up on 2 December 2018 and take them down on 13 January 2019. Stuart will ask Jimmy Forbes if he can please help put them up again.

Maureen said they have a Christmas tree arranged through Seafield for Ladysbridge Village but no lights. She will speak to Robbie about Christmas lights and what she needs to know.

Robbie was thanked for getting things done.

Ladysbridge Village Community Group representation

Duncan introduced Maureen, secretary of the new Ladysbridge Village Community Group, and said he had been invited to attend one of their meetings. He felt welcome and was delighted to see young people also involved and what they have achieved and want to do. We are all part of one community and it will be good to meet with them and they are welcome to meet with us. They are absolutely entitled to apply for the Windfarm Fund.

Maureen said that, as a new group, they felt a little detached from Whitehills and were rather disappointed that Ladysbridge residents appeared not to be notified about the Action Plan discussion in May, but Duncan had apologised that there was a misunderstanding and flyers never reached them as intended. The group started as they feel they are a Ladysbridge village and very much in their infancy but have goals and ideas. They have already done some successful fund raising activities and brought people together. Funds were raised for benches in the play park that are now in place. There are people of all ages in the area. They have a community face book page but some people don't use FB. They have put flyers through 132 doors in Ladysbridge including those across the road and around. They are welcome to post on our website. A quiz is planned for 26 October at the Deveronside Social Club to raise funds to purchase a defibrillator for Ladysbridge.

WDCC is committed to help any time as this is the relationship we want. Alistair said we have a doggy bag dispenser that was taken down from Redwell, that they can have. Maureen will look for a suitable location and we can put it up for them. They will have to get bags for it and ask Ab. Council for a bin.

Ross thanked Maureen for coming and assured her that Ladysbridge is part of the community and welcome to work together and attend any meetings.

“Community Action Plan”

Duncan said he was disappointed that invitations clearly didn't reach Ladysbridge hence there was no representation from them at the meeting in May. Duncan has finished the “Community Action Plan” wording and checked a few points with the committee. Bill was asked to please take a dozen or more photos of the village prior to going to print. There are about 40 action points, some great ideas and some not very good, and the document will cover the period 2019-2021. This is not exclusive and new ideas continue to be welcomed.

Ross thanked Duncan for preparing everything and for Bill's help with photos.

Police Report:

- The issue was raised of a caravan parked outside the Public hall and causing some obstruction to road users in Reidhaven Street. With occasional parking on the other side of the road, there is genuine concern that an emergency vehicle would not be able to get past. This needs to be resolved with goodwill. Finding alternative parking space or storage was suggested. Alan will check with the fire brigade in Banff about emergency vehicle access.
This is a very busy area especially when something is on in the Public Hall and/or the St Brandon's centre. A reminder to drivers that it is illegal to park within 10 metres of a corner. (The caravan issue has subsequently been resolved following an email to the Police)
- Alan said there is a problem with the use of illegal substance in the village and that it has been reported to 101 but nothing seems to have been done. The public is reminded to please report any incidents to 101.

Correspondence:

None.

AOCB:

- The doggy bag dispenser by Cyril has fallen over with the wind. Stuart will attend to it, thanks.
- Remembrance Services.
A service at the cemetery will be held on Friday 9 November at 10.45am followed by tea at Boyndie Visitor centre.
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 will arrange with the piper.
- Ongoing flooding Issue: Ross will contact Lee Watson and ask for an update. Copy to David West. Alan will check that Stuart Geddes has no new information. David suggested that the drain near the Memorial be sorted before the winter as a simple start to the benefit of all.
- Ross emailed the new finalised Community Council handbook to all members for their information.
- Bedding plants have been ordered for next season. Bill suggested the community services are asked to collect them from Aberchirder and possibly even help with the planting. Ross said Maureen could let him know if they want any plants at Ladysbridge for the following season and he can order.
- Bill asked that a letter of thanks be sent to Caroline Munro for the sterling job of painting and works on the Back Path done by the community services. The sea railing received several coats. Ross will write.
- Bill will be away until the end of March 2019 but we are happy for him to continue as a member of the C.C..
- Public Toilet volunteers are down to six on the rota. Please make it known that more volunteers are needed. Ross will post on the notice board and Mattie will put on FB and website.
- Alistair raised the matter about the proposal to close the skip in Whitehills. Cllr Mike explained that the recycling target for Aberdeenshire is far from being achieved in spite of Ab. Council's efforts. Glass recovery is however, good. There is a public consultation open on line about the proposal to close Whitehills and Portsoy skips and ratify the closure of Gardenstown. People are encouraged to make their comments on line by 28 September. Whitehills only has space for one skip and so rubbish cannot be segregated. The cost of manning it is not viable. Portsoy has a good system for different rubbish. There is a fear that people will discard rubbish in the sea but everyone is urged to be responsible and care for our environment by disposing of rubbish the correct way.
- Applications for Windfarm Fund in progress
There are two projects in the process of going through the various formal committees, these being an extension and changes to the Boyndie Visitors' Centre (Leader) and creation of a Heritage centre at the Harbour (NESFLAG). Both fall in line with the requirements and are supported by WDCC. Formal Wind Farm applications can be completed for approval if funding for the projects is approved.
- A complaint of rats been seen in Reidhaven Street. This should be reported to Environmental Health. As long as they are not entering houses, apparently not much can be done.

There being no further business, Ross thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting.

Date of Next Meeting – Thursday, 18 October 2018 at 6.30pm in St Brandon's Centre, Seafield Street, Whitehills.