

**Whitehills & District Community Council**  
**Minutes of the meeting Thursday 17 January 2019**

held in St Brandon's, Whitehills

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

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

**Apologies:** Cllr Glen Reynolds, Mick Moloney, Bill Bain and David West.

Ross welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the New Year.

**Minutes of the meeting 20 December 2018**, were approved as correct, proposed by Anne and seconded by Alan.

Matters Arising:

- Robbie and helpers Chas, Alistair and Jimmy Forbes were thanked for taking down the Christmas lights, banner and tree on 6 January 2019.
- The damaged Banff RAF Strike Wing War Memorial will be reinstated as soon as practicable.
- Ross and Duncan are meeting with Area manager, Angela Keith to discuss the Public Art money that is available and the kind of projects they will support - possibly a project at Ladysbridge Village. Duncan can then speak to Maureen about any suitable projects and reaffirm that Ladysbridge Village is very much part of our C.C. area. Residents are welcome to our meetings and perhaps a member could come on the WDCC, even if not a full member.
- Ross received an email from Alan Anderson from AB Council about the cemetery. He has taken note of all the various comments and will consider what can be done. Ross is going to meet with Alan at the cemetery on Monday at 1.00pm and anyone is welcome to come along. Cllrs Cox and Roy suggested it was the type of equipment that was not entirely suitable. Chas stated that there are only 27 lairs left in the cemetery. Ross will ask about it on Monday.
- Alan received an update from Sergeant Gray on the misuse of illegal substance in the village by the Old School Court. The matter remains under investigation. A higher presence of the Police in the village has been noticed. There is still activity and the police are responding well.

**The public is reminded to please report any incidents to the Police on 101.**

- The bottom of Seafield Street was tidy but dog poo is sadly back again. Keep an eye out for offenders.
- **Flooding Issues**  
Cllr John Cox said the work is in progress. Aberdeenshire Council (AC) are waiting for approval of funding. Additional funding is being sought in the April budget. Emails have been to and fro to David West. Alan met with the tenant farmer, Stewart Geddes, and it is noted that Stewart was not invited to any of the meetings in the park. Terry Pickard raised the concern that it should not just be a "patch up job". AC are working out the options – a positive step, though slow. The Council is required to do things in a particular way and although frustrating, they will continue to address the problem. They have professionals at work. Ross will reply to Lee Watson asking him to please keep us updated.

**Treasurer's Report:**

Anne presented the statement for income and expenses since the last meeting. There being only one entry of £15 income in the Christmas collection box, the balance is £ 4117.96 in the working current account. The Gift account balance remains at of £ 30227.78 and the Wind Farm Account remains the same at £ 68641.61.

Ross told the new Regatta committee to open a bank account so that the approved £500 award can be deposited.

Anne was thanked for her brief report.

## **Emergency Services Access/Reidhaven Street**

Ross welcomed Kevin Dingwall, the watch manager of Banff Fire Station. Alan is concerned about the emergency services access especially in Reidhaven street and asked Kevin to please come along to the meeting. A 2.8meter gauge is needed for emergency access. Alan did some measuring and Reidhaven Street only has a gauge of 2.4m when cars are parked both sides of the road. Ogilvie Street has a 2.3m access gauge. Kevin said that there is no policy regarding parking but they are permitted to move a vehicle if possible. The emergency services try to get as close as possible to any incident. If the emergency services bump a car, they are responsible and would rather avoid such a situation. A fire-fighter told Alan they sometimes blow the horn hoping that the owner will come and move their vehicle but this all takes time which is not helpful. It could be a problem to access Low Shore as the buildings are so narrow. The village hall could possibly put out cones when there is an event on to stop people parking at the junction illegally. WDCC had discussed yellow lines previously but AC did not accept the suggestions. This is a problem in most small villages. People can't be stopped parking by their homes. CC can only try and educate people and make them aware of the problem. Adverts can be posted on Face book. Duncan will try and make a visual prop (eg. wooden posts showing the 2.8m gauge needed) for people to visualize space required. Kevin will send flyers to Alan who will print, laminate and put them around the village including the notice board. Kevin was thanked for his participation.

## **Steps on the "Braes"/Repairs**

The state of the steps was brought to the attention of Cllr John Cox by a visitor. Cllr Cox will find out whose responsibility it is to maintain the steps above the harbour. Chas and Alistair said that at our request the contractor came and re-laid about 25 loose steps. The steps are exposed to the elements and Chas suggested that if the steps are the CC responsibility, a maintenance contract be looked into. Chas will discuss this with the contractor and ask about facing the slabs up and when the barriers can be removed.

## **Planning Issues:**

No planning issues this month. Ross resubmitted the objection to the application to build four houses beside Blackpots Caravan Park. Stuart asked whether the building on a site along the B9121 on the way to Ladysbridge would be a hindrance/obstruction to the possible continuation of the present footpath from Whitehills to Ladysbridge. Duncan will have a look.

## **Whitehills and District Community Action Plan (CAP) - Monthly review**

Duncan briefly went through the new Community Action Plan to see what can be done for a start.

- The drainage by the cemetery into the old Portsoy road has been done.
- Creating a pavement at the Seafield and Loch Street junction is not possible as the property belongs to a resident.
- Duncan will speak to the Head teacher, Elaine McGowan about what they would like to do. He will also ask her about parking by the football field.
- Continuation of the pathway to Ladysbridge Village to be considered. Perhaps use of a drone would highlight how this can be progressed.
- Improving access to Maggie Mauchlin beach can be done by putting in a board walk rather than steps. Cement may be a better option as sand shifts. Chas suggested we approach the people putting in the cable nearby as they may have equipment and means and willing to help the community in this way. Those interested can take a walk and see where will be a good place. Cllr Cox said he didn't think planning permission is needed.
- A wildlife viewing tower could be put up near the Compass rose rather than at the top of the brae.

- The Leader Fund project at Boyndie Centre and the Heritage project at the harbour are presently in progress.
- Ross will approach James Milne from the new Playing Field Association Committee about playing field activities. Are they interested, is it doable? They can approach WDCC for funds.
- Ladysbridge also have prospective projects.

To start, we will look at the access to Maggie Mauchlin beach and the continuation of the path to Ladysbidge. Anyone in the community is welcome to get involved.

### **Correspondence:**

No correspondence other than that already discussed.

### **AOCB**

- Alistair said MP David Duckett sent Derek Dryburgh a letter saying he would try to keep the skip open at the harbour as he had requested. However, the decision has already been made to close it as it is not big enough, nor able to segregate rubbish. Derek's concern is that people will escalate fly-tipping in the area. This is a real concern and people are urged to refrain from tipping in the interest of all.
- Chas spoke to Caroline who was in charge of the community services. She has resigned and Chas was able to thank her for all her help in our community.

There being no further business, Ross thanked everyone for coming.

**Date of Next Meeting:** Thursday, 21 February 2019 at 6.30pm in St Brandon's Centre, Seafield Street, Whitehills.