

Whitehills & District Community Council
Minutes of the meeting Thursday 21 February 2019
held in St Brandon's, Whitehills

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

Also attending: Cllr Mike Roy, Terry Pickard, Liz Farquhar, Heather McKay, George Craigen, Elaine Ritchie and David West.

Apologies: Bill Bain, Alistair Wiseman and Mick Moloney

Minutes of the meeting 17 January 2019, were approved as correct, proposed by Stuart and seconded by Robbie.

Matters Arising:

- Steps on the "Braes"/Repairs. Chas spoke to the contractor from Seivwrights who said he would check up on the steps and repair any time needed. He said no contract is necessary. Ross will write a letter to express our appreciation for his kind offer.
- Emergency Services Access/Reidhaven Street. Alan received a poster from Kevin Dingwall, Fire Officer, and will print, laminate and distribute them.
- The latest update from Sergeant Gray on the misuse of illegal substances issue is that a male has been arrested, charged and is out on bail. There is still visiting on foot and Alan is reflecting information to Sgt Gray.
The public is reminded to please report any incidents to the Police on 101.
- Flooding Issues. Ross received an update from Lee Watson. They intend to improve the drainage outfall arrangement at the West end by end of March (end of the financial year). This has been verbally agreed with Seafield Estate. David said he had met with Nick Ray and done a check with dye down the drains. He believes three substantial drains are choked, one lying below Reidhaven street. Moisture builds up and causes damage to property. Residents were reminded that blocked drains within a property are the responsibility of the owner. Terry expressed concern that the farmer, Stuart Geddes, had said he needed his park left free until end of harvest last year but nothing has happened since. David commented that it is fortunate that we have had such a dry winter or the flooding problems would have been more evident. He is still waiting for the history of the water at the War Memorial as Kevin Muir had said he would investigate at the meeting with him and Lee Watson here on 15 November 2018. The CC is unable to do any more in the meantime other than requesting updates from Lee Watson regarding progress. (David can take the matter forward along a different route as a resident if he wishes.)

Treasurer's Report:

Anne presented the statement for income and expenses since the last meeting. One expense of £240 was paid for the maintenance of the Redwell and income came from the Christmas lights and toilet collection boxes leaving a balance of £ 3921.46 in the working current account.

The Gift account balance remains at of £ 30227.78 and the Wind Farm Account balance is £58641.61 after the £10000 award for the Boyndie Trust extension.

There being no questions, Anne was thanked for her brief report.

AGM'S Nomination Process - Liz Farquhar (Ab. Council)

Liz and Heather were welcomed and invited to clarify the new Nomination process at AGM's. Liz said there are nomination forms to be completed for the three retiring council members as their term ends. Heather explained the process which starts in good time before the AGM. There are different steps and timing. Heather will work it all out as she knows the date of our AGM. Seven weeks before the AGM the vacancies and venue are to be confirmed. Nomination papers are to be made available at the library or a public location. Ab Council design and produce the posters and ask where they are to be put up. All information is needed by 2 May 2019 and the nomination

process starts from 9 May. Anyone can put nominations forward. All nominations go to the Area Manager. The Nomination process closes 13 May. Ab Council will advertise in the local paper. If there are more than three people nominated then an election is needed. WDCC chooses a date 7 days before the AGM night. Nominees will be made known the next day. The AGM is on 20 June 2019. Heather left the papers and posters with Ross. People outside the village and WDCC area are not allowed to be nominated to serve on the WDCC as per constitution. Ab Council will arrange for vacancies to be advertised on social media. This is the process for all community councils. Ross thanked Heather and Liz for explaining the process.

Whitehills Cemetery Issue

Ross, Chas and Stuart met with Alan Anderson from AB Council at the cemetery. Ross received a letter back from Alan to say that the moles will be dealt with and to let him know if they trouble again. A new surface for the middle path will be dealt with after April. Path edgings require funding approval and will require to be dealt with over a number of years. The grass could not be cut as it was too wet but will be done in March. He confirmed there were 27 lairs left which should last some years but they are negotiating for land. Ross and others felt it was unfortunate that the bigger cemeteries appear to be given priority by Ab. Council when all communities deserve the same consideration – they have also paid their taxes.

Planning Issues:

There were no problems with the two planning issues this month.

Duncan gave an update on the the Boyndie Trust development supported by the "Leader Fund". It will be a great improvement, especially for disability access for the users. The project should be completed by December. Duncan is very grateful for the supporting grant from the Windfarm Fund.

Ross saw James Milne, Chair of the Playing Fields committee, and made him aware that we are always receptive to any applications for funding improvements.

Ross and Duncan went to a meeting at the Deveron Sports Centre, presented by Aberdeenshire Council, concerning the future development of land in Aberdeenshire. In our area there was nothing that appeared to be of concern and any development of further land to the South and West of the Redwell development is considered unlikely. Ross and Duncan suggested that the area between the Blackpots caravan park and the Redwell be made into a nature conservation area. The request will be considered by the councillors. Cllr Mike said CC need to research and develop the idea before making the suggestion.

Duncan asked at the meeting about the developer fund and obligation to the community for facilities at Ladysbridge where a pavilion is to be built.

It was not clear from Angela about the Public Art money. It must be used for a credible project. There was mention of a green or waste project. Guidance and advice is needed to have a clear idea of how to spend the money. There is a time limit for the money to be spent but not imminent, or it will go back to the developer. It would be good to have a representative from Ladysbridge at our meetings but Maureen is unavailable on Thursday evenings.

COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

- **Upgrade of pathway to Inverboyndie Cottages**

George Craigen was welcomed to the meeting. He lives in the Old Manse Cottage near Inverboyndie and asked if it is possible to hard core the rough path from the end of the tarred path short of the bridge to Banff Caravan Park, round by Inverboyndie. This is a stretch of about 250m just for walkers, prams and cyclists, no cars. George has spoken to Eleanor Munro who confirmed it is a right of way. George also spoke to Peter Chalmers from Seafeld estates and said it would just be a renewal of the pathway. George emailed Craig Milroy who suggested George work through the WDCC and is keen to help. This falls within our area and Ross will follow up with "Moray East Offshore". Chassie will ask Colin Smith to give a quote. This is a worthwhile exercise for the locals and tourism.

- **Ramp to beach at Maggie Mauchlin's**

Duncan suggested it would similarly be good to have Colin Smith look at this proposal included in the recent CAP and hear what he suggests. Funds are available. Chas will arrange to meet. Robbie asked if they could also look at the changes needed for the Christmas street lights this year.

Correspondence:

None other than discussed.

AOCB

- Chas was thanked for clearing the flowers at the cartie. Other flower boxes will need to be cleared in due course.

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

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