

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

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

**Also attending:** Cllr Mike Roy, Cllr John Cox, Angela Keith (Aberdeenshire Council Area Manager) and Gil Gilbert.

**Apologies:** None.

**Minutes of the meeting 21 February 2019**, were approved as correct, proposed by Alan and seconded by Mick.

Matters Arising:

- Alan will print, laminate and distribute posters about the emergency services.
- Alan has heard nothing further from Sergeant Gray on the ongoing misuse of illegal substances but it is a process and in hand.
- The steps on the Braes have been dealt with and Ross sent a letter of thanks to Seivewrights.
- Flooding Issues. Work has been going on at the end of West End. The engineer, Nick Ray, emailed Ross to say this is the first phase, budgeted for £10,000, to correct the bund outfall from the end of Reidhaven Street to the sea. David West has asked to meet with Cllr John Cox tomorrow, Friday, to discuss new information that has come to light. Bill will also go as no one else is available.

**Police Report:**

PC Scott Murray and PC Ian Bain were welcomed to the meeting. Thankfully, they had nothing to report and were thanked for their presence and work.

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

**Treasurer's Report:**

Anne presented the statement for income and expenses since the last meeting. Income of £15.00 came from the Christmas lights collection box. £39.72 was spent on stamps and an ink cartridge leaving a balance of £ 3888.74 in the working current account.

The Gift account balance remains at £ 30227.78. The sum of £26,408.80 was paid in to the Wind Farm Account bringing the balance to £85050.41. Duncan suggested this amount was due in June 2018 but only deposited in December 2018. Anne will keep an eye out that payments are made within the year due.

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

**Ladysbridge complaints**

Ross welcomed Gil Gilbert to the meeting and gave him the opportunity to explain his complaints and frustration about the two main issues being a). the old Portsoy Rd / B9121 to the A98 junction and b). the pathway to the crossroads to Whitehills from Ladysbridge. The problem has been ongoing since 2007. Gil has requested help from the Roads Department but they have done nothing. He requested a survey be done after a major accident at the intersection in June 2018 but was told they don't have the equipment. Transport Scotland say it is not their responsibility. Rules and regulations require a second exit from Ladysbridge in the event of an emergency and in the event of one entrance being blocked. This is a requirement when there are a certain number of houses in a development, which is the case at Ladysbridge, and the developer should be mindful of this.

The verges, some of which are 18 inches high after dust storms etc., need to be cleared to enable easy and safe passage of pedestrians. Gil said he is not asking for a big job or a 'Rolls Royce' model as has been put forward by the Ab. Council for a pathway. The WDCC has already had a path made for the first section of the road and as stated in the new Community Action Plan, wishes to extend it to Ladysbridge if and when possible. There are multiple land owners of the ground needed for the suggested pathway.

Cllr John Cox wrote to Philip McKay but was denied the information due to data protection. John will arrange a meeting with Philip, Gil and Angela (with her fresh approach) to discuss and resolve the problems.

### **Community Action Plan - Monthly Review**

- Not much has been done but there are things going on.
- The A98 intersection and bus stop have had some attention, but need further attention. Angela and Alistair will meet together to discuss.
- We have not heard from Ladysbridge Village Group concerning proposed recreational items. Duncan will contact them.
- Ross will approach James Milne about putting up exercise program notice boards at the playing fields to promote people to use the exercise equipment already there. Duncan offered to help them with the application form if they are interested.
- Under 'Jobs and economy' there is a suggestion to develop tours from the harbour in the summer. Duncan and Cllr Cox will take it up with Coastal Cabs.
- Cllr Mike Roy said that the Banff and Buchan Area Initiatives Fund is open from the end of March and closes 30 May. Communities across Banff and Buchan can apply for the funding of up to £10,000 for projects such as improvements to towns or volunteering schemes. The fund is set aside to support local groups to meet the needs of their communities and tap into the talent and resources that exist throughout the area.

### **Upgrade of Pathway to Inverboyndie Cottages/Ramp to beach at Maggie Mauchlin's**

Chas has been in touch with Colin Smith and he has provided a very reasonable quote for both the pathway and ramp. Colin proposes a dust path 1,2m wide by 250m from the new bridge to the Manse Cottage and a 12m long by 150mm deep cement path to the beach at Maggie Mauchlin's. The WDCC is very happy with this quotation. Colin will get the material from Moray East who are willing to help. Ross will notify Seafeld Estate about the pathway.

### **Christmas Lights**

Robbie spoke to Colin Smith about installing a column, ducts and a pole to comply with new regulations for the security and safety of Christmas lights made by Aberdeenshire Council. The quote is very reasonable at £1735 and no further quotes are necessary. Colin will also make a proper manhole where the Christmas tree stands. Robbie had no reply from another person he had asked for quotes. Cllr Mike Roy said there is a Project fund for communities for Christmas lights. Robbie can check if the regulations apply and ask as it is the Ab. Council insisting on the changes. Robbie was thanked for his work.

### **RAF Memorial**

Ross received an email from Ken Regan saying that the job is in progress and Cllr Roy confirmed work is to commence in April.

**Planning Issues:**

Whilst there are no public objections to Phase 5 (the development of a further 35 houses, when the original planning consent was for 72 houses), the WDCC says the developer has obligations and needs to have the community plan in mind. There are many young families with children who need a safe path to Whitehills village and school.

Ross and Duncan will write a recommendation that a pathway should be part of the development. Angela is aware of this. The developer has always been very helpful / considerate.

There were no further issues.

**Correspondence:** None other than already mentioned in meeting.

**AOCB**

- A notice has been given by Aberdeenshire Council of road closures on the B1921 and restriction on the B9038 for road work in June 2019.
- The application for development at Blackpots has been rejected twice and now going for a special review.
- Alan received a phone call from Margaret, a bus driver, who has an issue with access along Reidhaven Street as she has been told to take that route. Alan will let her know that posters will go up and hopefully help educate drivers to be considerate and park closer to the pavement making space for other vehicles to pass safely.
- Bill said Alistair Millar has cleared all the drains at the seashore but a cage is still needed at the end of the pipes to prevent stones returning. Bill asked if a digger could be used to move stones as it is a big volume. Bill will speak to Jo Walsh about help from the Community Service.
- Bill asked if the flowers from Ab. Council could be delivered in Whitehills but Cllr Roy said this is unlikely. Alan will ask Mr Geddes and Mr Murray if they can please help transport the flowers from Aberchirder. Bill will give Alan the dates they are due, usually end of May or early in June.
- Alistair spoke to David Smith about the grass at the back of the Cutty by the new housing where children cut across. All agreed that the grass be replaced with bark and / or shrubs to look neater.

There being no further business, Ross thanked everyone and the Councillors for attending.

**Date of Next Meeting:**

Thursday, 18 April (Maundy Thursday) 2019 at 6.30pm in St Brandon's Centre, Seafield Street, Whitehills.