

Whitehills & District Community Council
Minutes of the meeting Thursday 18 April 2019
held in St Brandon's, Whitehills

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

Also attending: Cllr Mike Roy, Terry Pickard, David West and Gordon Patterson.

Apologies: Duncan Leece, Cllr Reynolds and Cllr John Cox.

Minutes of the meeting 21 March 2019, were approved as correct, proposed by Robbie and seconded by Bill.

Matters Arising:

- There has been subsequent action taken regarding the misuse of illegal substances and a man has been charged with being concerned in the supply of a Controlled Drug at Old School Court. Neighbours were made aware. Matter is ongoing.
- **Ladysbridge complaints** Duncan and Ross prepared a letter to consider another pathway from a different end of the development but there has been no response. Cllr Mike Roy says a walk about has been arranged including Ladysbridge, Blackpots and Whitehills village on 10th May 2019.
- **The RAF Memorial** has been replaced and in correct position.

Recent fatal accident at Redwell Court/Senior Fire Officer Ronnie Simpson and Craig Shand from the Scottish Fire and Rescue

Ross welcomed Ronnie and Craig to the meeting. Sadly there was a tragic event at Redwell on Saturday 6 April and the officers expressed their sympathy with the family and friends. Unfortunately there was much negative comments on social media after the event. Scottish Fire and Rescue don't get caught up in social media but came to read a statement to clear up any misunderstandings or incorrect information put on social media. Ronnie read the following statement:

Briefing for Community Safety Group / Community Council in relation to the incident at Whitehills

The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service received a call from Redwell Cottages at 18:14hrs on Saturday the 6th April. On receiving the call our Operations Control Room mobilised 3 appliances and a flexi-duty officer to the incident.

The first appliance arrived on scene 11 minutes later and crews were committed to the building to search for casualties and extinguish the fire. A casualty was quickly located within the property and fire crews removed them from the building and immediately began delivering first aid. At this time it could not be confirmed if anyone else was in the building and the fire crews were recommitted to search the building and ensure there were no further casualties inside.

Crews continued providing casualty care to the casualty until the arrival of the SAS and then assisted the SAS with casualty care (sadly despite the best efforts of attending crews the casualty later died at the scene).

Our thoughts and condolences are with the family, friends and community affected by this tragic event. Local crews from the Scottish Fire and Rescue will be carrying out a Post Domestic Incident Response over the forthcoming weeks to offer Home Fire Safety Advice and Free Home Fire Safety Visits to provide the community with reassurance.

As with all domestic fires that result in Fire Fatalities, the Scottish Fire and Rescue will investigate a Case Conference. The purpose of this is to look at the circumstances surrounding the incident from a multi-agency perspective, identify if there are any lessons to be learned and if there are to put appropriate action plans in place to reduce the number of fire casualties.

David Meldrum

Group Manager B – Service Delivery, Aberdeenshire and Moray LSO Area, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service. Mobile: 07989661991 Email: david.meldrum@firescotland.gov.uk

Craig could assure everyone that attendance time was quite impressive. Availability of Fire and Rescue is the highest in the area and all crews have outstanding training and level of commitment. It was annoying that the services were tarnished as the relationship between the public and the services is very important. WDCC all appreciate and acknowledge the services as first class. Ross thanked the officers for their professional presentation and asked them to take our support back to the services and thank them for their excellent work.

There was wilful fire raising behind The Retreat early morning. If anyone saw or knows anything - even a rumour, please let Sgt. Grey know by contacting her on 101.

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 £13.00 came from the toilet collection box and the annual toilet grant of £1200 received from Aberdeenshire Council. £1000 was moved from the Windfarm account to the working account to pay for the Redwell maintenance. Expenditure was for cleaning products, toilet paper and Seivwrights for repairs to the stairs leaving a balance of £5503.80 in the working current account.

The Gift account balance remains at £30227.78.

Wind Farm Account balance is £84050.41 after £1000 was moved to the working account. , Ab. Council

Anne said the Fixed term deposit matures end May. All agreed it be rolled over.

Community Action Plan - Monthly Review

Pathway to Inverboyndie Cottages/Ramp to beach at Maggie Mauchlin's update

The work is going ahead. Mr Chalmers from Seafield Estate came to look but Ross has heard nothing back from him. Representatives from Moray East were going to come to the meeting but couldn't make it. They are committed to their contribution and will attend the May meeting.

AGM Election Process

Everything has to go through Aberdeenshire Council now creating extra work and cost. Alistair, Chas and Mick's term ends and they can submit Nomination Forms for re-election. Nomination forms are available at the Post office and must be returned to Angela Keith, Area Manager, Ab. Council by 4.00pm on 30 May 2019. Formal election posters are to go up in the village for two weeks prior to this date. Should there be more nominees than spaces available, an election will take place on Friday 14th June 2019 in St Brandon's between 6.00pm and 8.00pm.

Community Council Forum, Crudie

Duncan attended on our behalf and the main discussions concerned the new Scheme of Establishment for Community Council. Mainly the attitude towards the whole extended exercise was negative and while comments were invited, it was made clear that amendments were not to be considered.

Planning Issues:

Whitehills recycling centre closes on 28 April. Portsoy Recycling is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays 9.00am - 12noon and 12.30-4.30pm.

There is a new application for one house by Blackpots caravan site instead of four. This could be the beginning of further development in the future. There is no guarantee that they will not expand. Please send your comments to Ross who will pass them on to Duncan. Any comments are to be made by 13 May.

Ross received a letter from the traffic department offering to create a 'disability space' in Loch Street either in front of Rockfish Restaurant or the charity shop. It was decided to leave it as is, in view of the problems it may cause.

Correspondence: None other than already mentioned in meeting.

AOCB

- **Flooding Issues.** Work has been done utilising the £10,000 awarded for the past fiscal year . £45,000 has been budgeted for this coming year for further work. David West received an email from Jaqueline Sutherland from Scottish Water asking to have a meeting with him, Lee Watson and Ross and on 29 April. This is not a public meeting and is about the diversion of the water in the ditch. David will send the venue and time to Ross. David wants an engineer to explain what was done and the consequences of what they did and speak to the residents to make a plan forward.
- **Fence posts along the park between Whitehills caravan park and the Redwell, on Seafield Estate.** Chas said the fence posts are in a poor state and need repair. Ross will write a friendly letter to the farmer.
- **Flowers.** Bill will let Alan know when the flowers are ready for collection for the village so he can arrange with the farmer Stuart Geddes.
- The road between the yacht compound and the caravan park (belonging to nobody) is in a poor state with potholes and the tar breaking down at the edges. Chas will ask Colin Smith if he could possibly please help.
- Robbie said there were residents being bothered by children ringing bells along Knock Street and running away. Sometimes they even open doors. Chas had phoned the school to report this behaviour but was told it is happening outside school time and thus not their concern.
- **Rural Litter tipping.** Mick reported litter tipping along the road to Hamlyn's. Cllr Mike said any litter tipping to be reported to Aberdeenshire Council, Environmental health, and they will come and remove it.

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

Date of Next Meeting:

Thursday, 16 May 2019 at 6.30pm in St Brandon's Centre, Seafield Street, Whitehills.