

Whitehills& District Community Council
Minutes of the meeting Thursday 16 May 2019
held in St Brandon's, Whitehills

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

Also attending: Cllr Mike Roy, Cllr John Cox; Craig Milroy (Moray), Colette Flynn (Siemens), Tim Riggall (Moray) and Whitehills residents Terry Pickard and David West.

Apologies: Stuart Ironside.

Ross gave a warm welcome to everyone and a special welcome to the team from Moray.

Minutes of the meeting 18 April 2019.

Minutes were approved as correct, proposed by Alan and seconded by Bill.

Matters Arising:

- **AGM Election Process. AGM is on Thursday 20 June**

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 assuming election is needed. This will only be known after 31 May.

- **Flowers.** Bill has arranged with a friend to collect the flowers for the village which, according to Alan Anderson, should be ready on 27 May.

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

Treasurer's Report:

Anne gave the May 2018 - April 2019 accounts to Robin Maddock for auditing ready for the AGM in June.

Anne distributed copies of the monthly accounts starting fresh from May 2019 and detailed the little activity since the last meeting leaving a balance of £5236.35 in the working current account. After paying £500 towards the Regatta, the Gift account has a balance of £29727.75. The Wind Farm Account balance is £83750.41 after payment was made for Whitehills rowing club strips. A letter of thanks was received from Alistair for the contribution.

Anne phoned the bank to reinvest the £74172.67 at 1.15% which is up from the previous 0.8%.

Anne was thanked for her work.

Moray East Offshore Wind Farm

Craig Milroy, Projects Communications Officer of Moray, gave a detailed presentation of the Moray East Offshore Windfarm 2019 works at Inverboyndie Bay. A handout was provided.

This place was chosen between Banff and Whitehills at Inverboyndie Bay with the aim to minimize impact and cause the least disruption to Banff beach. Horizontal Directional Drilling is being performed through the rocky shoreline and beneath rivers and roads following a 33km route which has been selected to optimise installation with minimal environmental impact. A new electricity substation is under construction south of New Deer to enable the electricity generated offshore to be routed to the existing high voltage overhead transmission line so it can be conveyed to homes and industry. The project will provide almost a million households with low cost power on completion of the work. Work is being done in collaboration with the fishing community. Norway has supplied casing and materials which are being stored in the Moray Firth. Tim Riggall, the Engineer, gave more details.

Colette (from Siemens) said she has been in contact with schools along the route talking about renewable energy projects and careers. People are being made aware and educated about the whole project. Tours of the works can be arranged. Cllr Cox said local schools are being engaged and class visits encouraged. A competition is currently running.

There was time for questions. The on-land works should be complete by October 2020 and ready to take electricity to the substation from the turbines as and when they are completed. The wind farm is expected to be operational by 2022. After re-instatement, the only visual evidence of the infrastructure will be cable identification signage and occasional underground access covers. Craig welcomed the WDCC to work together to restore and improve enhancement of the area and rural walks. The project also generates local employment. If there is no wind, no electricity can be generated but the machines put in place will take the most advantage of any wind. A great deal of measuring has been done in the Moray Firth and this area has the least number of days when the wind does not blow.

Chas remarked how neat and tidy the contractors worked and excellent to see the coastal pathway is kept open. Ross thanked the visitors for an excellent presentation of a good and exciting program.

Community Action Plan - Monthly Review/

Duncan and Ross took a drive around Whitehills and district with Angela Keith, councillors Mike Roy and John Cox, and Alistair Millar on the 10th May talking about various matters including:

- possible alterations to make parking spaces at the Football park.
- the proposed wild life area between Whitehills caravan park and the Redwell.
- a path from Annie's woods to Ladysbridge. There was an indication from Alistair Millar, Ab. Council, that they would assist with contacting owners, and Jim Martin assist for planning, but not financially. WDCC does not want to take on the project solo.
- There is no option to make the pavements safe at the Seafield Street and Loch Street junction.
- In view of past meetings about access past parked cars outside the Public Hall, in the event of an emergency, it was proposed that yellow lines be put along Reidhaven Street and Seafield Street by the junction. By law, it is an offence to park within 10meters of a road junction. The meeting decided that Alistair Millar go ahead as the yellow lines just highlight law enforcement.

Ross thanked the officials and councillors for coming along, much appreciated.

Colin Smith, Contractors, quoted for resurfacing the 650m back-path for £3508. He has already filled holes in the road beyond the yacht compound with tar at no cost. Chas was thanked for getting things going and the meeting agreed that Colin Smith proceed.

Flooding Issues:

David West and Terry Pickard gave a brief update of their meeting with Jacqueline Sutherland and Kevin Muir from Scottish Water, and Lee Watson and Nick Rae from Ab. Council (Ross attended for C.C.). Terry said it was understood that Ab. Council have limited funds for remedial works but the environment has not been taken into consideration. There is still no explanation why water from Seafield area was redirected into Reidhaven Street. Kevin Muir will come back with a report on 17th May. Ross will copy email to Terry and David. Various works have been completed at the back of West End utilising the £10k budget for 2018/19 and a budget of £40k is available for further remedial works in this financial year.

Planning Issues:

The letter of objection to the new application for one house by Blackpots caravan site, that Ross sent, has been acknowledged. This was on the basis that this development could create a precedent for further development. There are a further 44 public objections.

Phase 5 of Ladysbridge development is not yet passed but it will need access roads. WDCC has made the point to the authorities on several occasions that further development will also impact on school numbers and a possible requirement for extension of the primary school facilities.

There were no further issues.

Correspondence (not already mentioned elsewhere):

- Jimmy Forbes sent a letter of thanks for the £500 donation for the Regatta. James Cowie will be taking over from him as Chair. Jimmy also kindly helped put up the 'Whitehills Welcome' banner as a favour.

AOCB

- Ross will contact Seafield Estate regarding the derelict fencing along the park between Whitehills Caravan Park and the Red Well. There is also a complaint about the fence alongside the road at the Falka which is in total disrepair.
- Alan said the substance misuse matter continues. It is frustrating that nothing seems to be happening but if nothing is reported, nothing can happen, so persevere.
- Duncan said compost can be obtained from Boyndie for flower tubs and beds.
- Members were thanked for clearing flower tubs in the village.
- Alistair said David Addison and Steve Inglis are keeping the grass cut by "no man's land". He has arranged that Ab Council clear out an area and WDCC will supply a blossom tree to plant in the space.
- Bill said the mower has been serviced but no longer used. A suggestion was made to donate it to the Kirk to use. Unanimously agreed and Mattie will speak to the gardener and arrange transfer with Bill.

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

Date of Next Meeting and AGM:

Thursday, 20 June 2019 at 6.30pm in St Brandon's Centre, Seafield Street, Whitehills.