

Whitehills& District Community Council
Minutes of the meeting Thursday 20 June 2019
held in St Brandon's, Whitehills

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

Also attending: Cllr Mike Roy, Cllr John Cox and Gordon Patterson.

Apologies: Cllr Glen Reynolds, Bill Bail, Karen Wiles Interim Area Manager, Aberdeenshire Council (Ab. C)

Ross gave a warm welcome to everyone and a special welcome to the Police Officer, Graeme Smith.

Minutes of the meeting 16 May 2019.

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

Matters Arising:

- **AGM Election Process was all done as required.**
- **Ross thanked** Bill and Stuart for doing the flowers in the village and said it looks very nice. Bill's friend offered his help with no charge.
- Ross sent a letter to Seafield Estate regarding the derelict fencing along the park between Whitehills Caravan Park and the Red Well and alongside the road at the Falka.
- Mattie has spoken to the Kirk gardener about arranging the transfer of the C.C. Motor mower with Bill.

Police Report

PC Graeme Smith has been appointed as the new Community Beat Officer in Banff. He is an experienced local police officer with 19 years' service. He has worked in the North Aberdeenshire area throughout his career. He will be the primary point of contact for Community Council matters and will attend the meetings so that we see the same face each time, bringing continuity. Graeme is keen to tackle the issues which impact on the quality of life in our community and will try and answer questions and bring answers where he can. He is on a push bike to promote that he is community based and has a large area to cover. Much education is needed and pamphlets are being distributed around specific problems and can be filled in and returned to the Banff Police to gain information. Cases are intelligence led. People can remain anonymous. There is an independent organisation "Rural Watch" that one can be subscribed to by text, mobile phone, computer to get local information. Filters can be set to determine what one wants to hear. This is purely for the benefit of the community. Alan Stewart will be the representative for the WDCC.

Duncan said Vic Cowie had a list of people in the Boyndie area interested in neighbourhood watch. This could be added to the website.

A few matters were raised to PC Graeme:

- It looks like there has been wilful littering of newspapers along the B9139.
- There have been incidents of vandalism by the public toilets. PC Smith said incidents of vandalism justify putting up a camera to discourage vandalism. The sign by the collection box at the toilet has been removed. Chas and Alistair will sort it out, thank you.

Ross thanked PC Smith for coming and welcomed him to his new job.

The Public can communicate with PC Graeme Smith and/or the Police by using any of the following:

Tel: 101 – Non emergency;

Email - BanffDistrictCPT@Scotland.pnn.police.uk

Tel: 999 – Emergency;

Twitter - @NorthEPolice

Web – www.scotland.police.uk

Facebook – www.facebook.com/NorthEastPoliceDivision

Tel: 0800 555 111 - Crimestoppers

Treasurer's Report:

Anne distributed copies of the monthly accounts. There was little activity since the last meeting being payment for the website and income from the toilet and Christmas light collections leaving a balance of £ 5187.10 in the working current account.

The Gift account balance remains at £29727.78 and the Wind Farm Account balance at £83750.41. Anne received a letter from the Bank of Scotland confirming the term deposit of £74172.67 has been reinvested at 1.15% for a year and matures 26 May 2020. Remember to phone them then as the bank does not send out a reminder.

The standard of Colin Smith's work is outstanding at Banff Links, the back path and ramp to the beach. Ross will ask if Moray Windfarm will provide a donation towards the cost of the first and third of these. Anne will provisionally pay the £7008 from the Gift account as it is maintenance work. Colin Smith also kindly repaired various potholes on the road towards Blackpots Caravan Park. Chas said that the signs at the compass rose and pathway by West end are in a very poor state. Chas will approach Stan Falconer to get signs done.

Anne was thanked for her work.

Community Action Plan - Monthly Review/

The Pathway to Inverboyndie Cottages, Ramp to beach at Maggie Mauchlin's and the Back Path from Reidhaven Street to B9139 has all been done.

The play equipment for Ladysbridge development doesn't seem to be going forward. Duncan will speak to Maureen of the Ladysbridge Community Association about facilities and funding available. Also to encourage someone to come to the WDCS meetings and maybe become a member. We want to be inclusive of Ladysbridge and the different associations (ie. The residents' association of the new flats that were the old hospital building and the residents' association for the houses.)

Flooding Issues: Update on present position

Ross was in touch with Nick Rae from Ab. Council and read the letter received from him. The second phase of works promised will be carried out up to April 2020. They are liaising with Scottish water. David West is in the process of arranging another meeting independently.

Walkabout with Area Manager

As reported in the last meeting and minuted, Ross, Duncan and various people went around Whitehills and District with the Area Manager, Angela Keith, on 10 May. They looked at

- The possibility of a wild life area between Whitehills caravan park and the Redwell.
- Possible alterations to make parking spaces at the Football park. Alistair Millar said not justified to cut the sides. There is no place for a pathway. A costing exercise was done but it is extravagant and not what was in mind. WDCS can't do anything as it is AB C ground. Leave it for now.
- Yellow lines will be put along Reidhaven Street and Seafield Street by the junction.
- There is no option to make the pavements safe at the Seafield Street and Loch Street junction.
- A path from Annie's woods to Ladysbridge. A definite "no" to Gill's idea of flattening the verges. 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. WDCS does not want to take on the project solo.
- The bus stop at the bottom of the B9121 road along the A 98 is mainly used by students for Fraserburgh College. The AB Council's view is to remove it but it is being used and is not safe to walk there. The request is for a pathway all the way and possibly a filter lane by the A98 which roads department must look at. Cllr Cox suggested Neil Stuart be invited to the meeting in September to talk about the bus stops. Susan Watt is the co-ordinator.

Planning Issues:

Duncan went through the various applications but they are all non-controversial.

The application for several houses by Blackpots caravan site has been blocked and an application for a single house has been lodged.

Correspondence (not already mentioned elsewhere):

- A letter of thanks was received in appreciation of the lovely clean toilets. (Pearl said that the soap dispenser had been emptied and filled with coke and some money left for the donation box went missing. Nothing much can be done about it.)
- Kirsty Meikle, a S4 pupil from Banff Academy and residing in our area, has volunteered to be part of a group going to Tanzania with the Vine Trust and is asking for help. They have organized fundraising and need £3000 per person for the trip. WDCC are very happy to give her £250 from the Gift Account.

AOCB

- **Scottish Ambulance Service asked to cascade the information about their New Clinical Response Model (NCRM)** Dr Jim Ward, Medical Director, Scottish Ambulance Service improved the way we respond to emergency calls. The new response model has saved lives with more people in Scotland surviving a cardiac arrest.
- The new Toilet cleaning rota has been drawn up until 2 December. There are now 7 permanent volunteers.
- The smell of muck spreading around the village is really bad. Ross will email environmental health to check it.
- It looks like there is work being done at the cemetery.
- Chas said that the Moray East Wind Farm diggers had come upon an Iron Age tunnel and all work was stopped for excavation work to be done. Cllr Mike Roy suggested Craig Milroy from Moray East be encouraged to make something of it, something for people to come and see.
- In closing, Ross presented Chas Findlay with a framed certificate for in excess of 20 years as a Community Councillor. Chas was congratulated and thanked for his contribution and Cllr Cox took a photograph.

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

Date of Next Meeting:

Thursday, 19 September 2019 at 6.30pm in St Brandon's Centre, Seafeld Street, Whitehills.
Should there be any urgent business before then, Ross will email everyone.