

Whitehills & District Community Council
Minutes of the meeting held Thursday 17 October 2019
in St Brandon's, Whitehills at 6.30pm.

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

Also attending: Cllr John Cox, David West, David Robertson, Annette and Alan Addison, Billy Gatt, Pat Milne, Jill Gallon, Gordon and Mary Patterson and Raymond Ritchie.

Apologies: Cllr Mike Roy and Alan Stewart.

Ross welcomed everyone and said it was nice to have a full house.

Minutes of the meeting 19 September 2019.

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

Matters Arising not mentioned elsewhere:

- Chas will ask Malcolm if he can fix the rotted base / struts of the information board at the church, as Paul at "All in House" has moved.

Police Report:

Banff Community Beat Officer, PC Graeme Smith, was welcomed to the meeting and gave a report of various incidents of crime as well as information for the area.

In Whitehills a female was caught shoplifting and has been dealt with.

Bail conditions have been changed to try and curb anti social behaviour. On the spot fines can be issued to those committing minor crimes, such as urinating on the street, to save work and time.

It is pleasing to note that there has been a significant reduction in crime this year from September 2018 in Banff and Buchan West, though the reason is not clear.

Looking ahead, there is planning for awareness and information regarding speeding, traffic around schools and around Chalmers Hospital.

This week (12-19 October) is National Hate Crime Week to create awareness and Graeme explained what Hate Crime is. Any cases can be reported.

Time was given for questions and Graeme could respond:

There is an increased presence of travellers in the Banff area but Police are only interested in travellers who commit crime of which a few incidents have been reported.

There is bad behaviour rife among some youngsters between 7 and 12 years of age in Whitehills village. Juveniles (under 12 years) are treated differently to adults. One would like to think that parents will educate their children to prevent bad behaviour.

An empty house in Seafield Street was vandalised. It is the home owner's responsibility to look after their empty house.

It is appreciated that a campervan may be partly parked on a pavement to help alleviate pressure along narrow roads but it is actually a criminal offence to park on pavements. Young mothers are permitted if it is for the safety of the child.

Officer Graeme was thanked for the report and work done by the Police.

Treasurer's Report:

Anne distributed copies of the monthly accounts and went through the little activity since the last meeting. Income was from the toilet and Christmas light collections. 50,000 doggy bags were ordered and delivered free of charge for £532. Payments were made for poppy wreathes and renting St Brandon's, leaving a balance of £4592.10 in the working current account.

B Stewart received sponsorship of £250 from the Gift Account leaving the balance at £ 22219.78. The Wind Farm Account balance remains at £83750.41. There were no queries and Anne was thanked for her work.

Community Action Plan - Monthly Review

Duncan reported that Angela Keith is happy to work with the team initiating identifying ownership of properties along the route of the proposed path to Ladysbridge.

Flooding Issues: Update on present position and recent damage

Ross emailed a comprehensive report received today, 17 October 2019, from Nick Rae of Ab. Council to CC members to read before this evening's meeting.

Ross briefly went through the report for residents attending the meeting. Bill and David West met with Nick Rae. Ross was unable to attend but invited Bill and David to report back to the meeting. Both said it was a very productive meeting.

Nick also wrote: "David was well informed of what residents/properties had been affected during the flood event, particularly in relation to internal flooding. I also took the opportunity to discuss the council's planned works, and further works going forward, with David, seek his opinion, and utilise his local knowledge. I hope we are now well aligned with the proposed way forward."

Bill took photos of the flood event of 28th September and sent them to Nick Rae. They enabled Nick to get a better understanding of the sequence of events and floodwater flow paths and the extent and amount of water during the flood.

David said initially there will be excavation work at the back of the hall and above to establish what drains are there. The preferred option is to deepen the ditch. Nick contacted the MET office and they say there will be 30% increase in water over the next 10 years. Flooding will get worse in time due to climate warming. Putting a drain down Ogilvie Street will be extremely expensive as there are other things underground in the pathway - like Fibre optics which would have to be moved at great cost. Jill had also taken photos of the drains all along Boyndie street as water was bubbling up during the flood and was asked to please send them to Bill who will pass them on to Nick. The more photos, the better the understanding of the problem.

It is felt that Scottish Water (SW) should also have some responsibility. Kevin Muir from Scottish Water promised he would give a report including explaining why water from Seafield Street was redirected to Reidhaven Street but the report has never been received. Nick Rae has also asked SW for a report but has had no reply. The sewers were overloaded with flood water and SW should help. Cllr John Cox was asked if he could please approach SW to do something. Annette said they had had a good meeting with Scottish Water in Aberdeen years ago and a specific problem was solved at the time. SW don't seem to have an internal procedure in place to lodge a complaint. Great appreciation was expressed to Nick Rae for giving so much attention and priority to Whitehills. Bill said that the Tideflex valves for the lowshore have been ordered.

Alan Addison asked if WDCC would please thank Cullen and Macduff Fire Brigade for their excellent service and help. Ross will write to the Watch Managers Ronald Simpson of Macduff and John Jackie of Cullen.

Bill said he was really confident Nick has worked hard and things are happening. Everyone is happy with the way things are moving forward and residents were free to leave the meeting.

Remembrance Day arrangements

Mattie said Myburgh had arranged with the Lord Lieutenant Andy Simpson to conduct the ceremonies on Sunday 10 November by the Monument in Seafield Street, Whitehills at 12.45pm and on Monday 11 November 10.45am at the Cemetery. Ross contacted the piper, Kevan Cook and he agreed to play for both ceremonies.

Anne has arranged for tea for 20 people in the Seafield Arms conservatory on the Monday after the ceremony. The poppy wreathes have come and Bill will lay a wreath on Sunday and Stuart on Monday at the ceremonies. Cllr John Cox may not make it on Monday, in which case someone will lay the wreath on his behalf. Hopefully there will be no vandalism of the poppy wreathes like last year.

Archeological find at Inverboyndie

Ross received posters from Teresa Dawson for advertising the presentation to be held on Wednesday 6 November in St Brandon's at 6.00pm. Dr Melanie Johnson will talk about the Iron Age tunnel discovered during earth works for the Moray East Windfarm. They will come at 4.00pm to set up sandpits for children to do activities. The meeting is open to the public as there is much interest and schools have been invited to come. It is disappointing that they cannot make something more of the find but it is apparently not of sufficient historical interest.

Planning Issues:

Duncan said there was only one planning application to which there are no objections from local residents.

Correspondence (not already mentioned elsewhere):

- Ross received a letter from Seafield Estate asking what size Christmas tree and what date to be delivered. Anne will reply: a 20ft tall tree to please be delivered on 2 December.

AOCB

- Billy Gatt said that Nicola had replaced bags for the defibrillator outside the Premier Shop and is going to organize a fundraising event to raise money towards costs for the upkeep.
- Robbie and helpers will put up the Christmas lights on Sunday 1 December.
- Bill offered to raise awareness with residents and businesses that there are a number of products available that can assist them in taking steps to protect their property against flooding. AB Council stock and sell a number of products (floodgates, air vent guards, and a sandbag alternative) made by the companies *Floodgate* and *Floodsax* at a slightly reduced cost compared to residents sourcing them directly from the manufacturer. Bill also offered to go around the residents and see who wants sandbags. He will then have the required number of sandbags delivered to an address and everyone can come and collect theirs as ordered, thus taking responsibility of their own properties. Bill will see that the elderly receive their sand bags. Bill was thanked for all his help.
- A stream of water is coming out below the Redwell. Duncan said there are many springs around as there is an extraordinary amount of underground water at the moment.
- Anne ordered two new dog bag dispensers for Boyndie as it was cheaper than buying bags to fit the old dispensers.

In closing, a presentation was made to Mattie in appreciation of her work and help as this is her last meeting before leaving. Photos were taken. Ross thanked everyone for attending and the meeting was closed.

Date of Next Meeting:

Thursday, 21 November 2019 at 6.30pm in St Brandon's Centre, Seafield Street, Whitehills.

Important numbers:

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

Tel: 0800 555 111 – Crimestoppers

Web – www.scotland.police.uk

Facebook – www.facebook.com/NorthEastPoliceDivision