

Whitehills& District Community Council
Minutes of the meeting Thursday 19 September 2019
held in St Brandon's, Whitehills

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

Also attending: Cllr Mike Roy and David West.

Apologies: Cllr John Cox, Alistair Wiseman and Mick Moloney.

Ross welcomed everyone on a pleasant evening.

Minutes of the meeting 20 June 2019.

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

Matters Arising not mentioned elsewhere:

- Cllr Mike confirmed that the request for the area between the tile works and the south end of the park to be declared as protected area has been submitted at the meeting for the Local Development Plan.
- The sign by the collection box at the toilet has been sorted as well as the signs at the compass rose and pathway by West end.
- Ross emailed environmental health about the smell of muck spreading around the village which has gone.

Police Report: There was nothing relevant to report.

Treasurer's Report:

Anne distributed copies of the monthly accounts and went through the little activity since the last meeting. Receipt of the Administration Grant of £390 from Aberdeenshire Council and income from the toilet and Christmas light collections, less payments for Data Protection and the Red Well maintenance leaves a balance of £ 5341.10 in the working current account.

Anne paid Colin Smith the £7008 from the Gift account as Ross has not yet heard from Moray Windfarm regarding their contribution. Kirsty Meikle received sponsorship of £250 leaving the Gift Account balance at £22469.78 and the Wind Farm Account balance remains at £83750.41.

There were no queries and all were happy with Anne's work. Thanks to Anne.

Community Action Plan - Monthly Review

Duncan spoke to Maureen of the Ladysbridge Community Association. There has been a significant move to get the pavilion built. It has been gifted to the Ladysbridge Village community but there is a need to find a person to get the pavilion going - the running and maintenance etc. WDCC can't pay for running costs but are willing to provide things for inside the pavilion and encourage them to apply for funding as part of the Community Council projects.

We are back in touch with the Community Service and Dom Grascia is keen to help and looking for regular work to do. They are clearing the path by Boyndie Turbines and could help with the three core paths. Ross can arrange a backpack and weed killer if needed. Alan could ask Stuart Geddes for weed killer if required.

The yellow lines to be painted outside the Public Hall are still to be done but in the process.

Flooding Issues: Update on present position

Ross read out a comprehensive report received on 7 August 2019 from Nick Rae from Ab. Council. Further investigations and studies have been carried out. More investigations are being done to improve drainage and the possible fitting of tide flex valves at the shore to prevent blocking of drains by shingle. All continue to work together to improve the flooding problem.

David West met several times with Nick and is pleased to see things moving forward. Drains behind Terry Pickard are very old and not working. David would like to see a proposal of the whole solution before more money is spent but the committee felt there is progress and to leave Ab Council to continue their work.

Remembrance Day arrangements

Although Rev Myburgh Verster is retiring, services will go ahead on Sunday 10 November by the Monument in Seafield Street, Whitehills at 12.45pm and on Monday 11 November 10.45am at the Cemetery. The Lord Lieutenant Andy Simpson has confirmed he will be at both services. Mattie will ask if Andy will do the service or if Myburgh needs to find someone else. Ross will ask the piper, Kevan Cook if he can play, when he returns from holiday. Anne has ordered poppy wreathes and will ask Billy Gatt if we can please have tea on the Monday in the Seafield Arms conservatory as Boyndie is not open. Bill and Stuart offered to lay wreathes but will finalise nearer the time.

Archeological find at Inverboyndie

Theresa Jane Dawson is the new Community officer for Moray East Windfarm and has been in contact with Ross. They will do a presentation in St Brandon's on Wednesday 6 November at 6.00pm when the archaeologists will talk about the Iron Age tunnel discovered during earth works. The meeting is open to the public as there is much interest. Ross asked for posters for display.

Planning Issues:

Duncan briefly went through the planning applications, many of which are for the Stage 5 development at Ladysbridge. There are no objections from local residents.

Correspondence (not already mentioned elsewhere):

- A letter of thanks was received from Rev M Verster on behalf of Whitehills Parish Church in appreciation for the mower kindly donated to the kirk by the WDCC.
- Kirsty Meikle sent a letter of thanks for the £250 contribution towards fundraising for her school trip to Tanzania in June 2020.
- A request was received from a resident teacher in the village for assistance towards the cost of a school trip to Tanzania with the Vine Trust. She is currently fundraising and has requested some financial support towards the costs. The matter was discussed and it was agreed to award £250 from the Gift Account.
- Another application was received from John Milne for the Deveron U15 Amsterdam 2020 community going to Amsterdam next year. The players have outgrown their kits. Funding is requested for new tracksuits with sponsors printed on them for £850. The tour will cost £12085. The application was discussed and decided that in view of there only being 2 players from the village, sadly, it did not fit the Windfarm Fund directives.

AOCB

- Robbie has applied for and received permission for the work permit to put up the Christmas Lights in Whitehills. The insurance is in order.
- The information board at the church has rotted at the base and needs repair or replacement. Ross will ask Paul at "All in House" if he will see to it as he did the others.
- Alistair mentioned to Ross that the blocks supporting the steps up the brae are eroding. It was decided to keep an eye on any further deterioration.
- Anne found cheaper Doggy bags and has ordered more.
- There have been two 'near misses' at Whitehills School. Cllr Mike Roy says AB Council acknowledge there is a problem at all schools. It is down to the parents and people of the place to be careful and monitor first.

- Bill said some of the flowers in the flower boxes at the low shore look sad, probably due to the sea spray and wondered if he should get new flowers. It was decided to leave it as summer is over. Ross has ordered flowers for next year (1304 plants).
- Stuart said the cemetery paths are a disgrace. Ross will contact Ken Regen. It was noted Portsoy cemetery looks beautiful but they have a different squad.
- Alan said the neighbourhood watch at the Old School Court continues. Leaflets have been given out to locals but the substance misuse problem is still going on, if not worse. Alan will contact the police officer and get feedback to WDCC.

Alan put in his apology for the next meeting in October.

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

Date of Next Meeting:

Thursday, 17 October 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

Web – www.scotland.police.uk

Facebook – www.facebook.com/NorthEastPoliceDivision

Tel: 0800 555 111 – Crimestoppers