**Whitehills & District Community Council**

**Minutes– Thursday 17th September 2020**

**Present:** Duncan Leece**,** Anne Balharry, Chas Findlay, Robert Mackie, Bill Bain, Mick Moloney

**In Attendance:** Cllr John Cox, Cllr Glen Reynolds, Liz Farquhar, Heather McKay, Mike Duncan, Rebecca Ross.

**Apologies:** Alan Stewart, Alistair Wiseman, Cllr Mike Roy, David West, PC Rachael Davison.

**Adoption of Minutes of 20th August 2020:**  proposed by Bill Bain and seconded by Mick Moloney.

**Matters Arising:** No matters arising.

**Police Report:** Duncan updated on behalf of PC Rachael Davison, a drug related crime had been reported and dealt with in the village and members of the public are encouraged to report any suspicious activity to the police using either the **101** phone numbers or the Crimestopper’s phone number: **0800 555 111**.

During September the focus will be on targeting Road Safety and Road Crime around schools in the area.

**Flood prevention work update:** It has now been confirmed that despite the challenges faced by Aberdeenshire Council the flood prevention work remains a priority and will go ahead. David West has put in a request that the community is kept updated on any developments. Bill confirmed that all the sandbags are in position if required.

**Financial Report:** Anneupdated on the activity since the last report. £40.00 has been received into the Christmas light fund. The poppy wreaths have been purchased and delivered, costing 108.00. £500.00 has been given to the Community Hub. £208.80 was paid for the flags at the harbour. The balance of the working account is £8422.50. The gift account stands at £21219.78 and the windfarm account £102516.91. The end of year accounts have been sent for auditing.

**Planning issues:** There are no planning applications to report.

**Update on projects underway:**

* **Ladysbridge Village –** the transfer of the community building to the Ladysbridge Community Association had been put on hold but is now progressing. The equipment costs had been agreed in principle as an application to the Windfarm Community fund and it was agreed by all Community Councillors that Duncan and Anne will progress this.
* **Red Well Road** – Bill and Alistair met with Susan Shand of Seafield Estates to propose a solution for the congestion. It has now been confirmed by Seafield Estates that they will create potentially 3 pedestrian passing places to be built – it must be noted that these are passing places/safe haven places for pedestrians and not car passing places. Bill and Alistair will co-ordinate with Seafield Estates to choose the most suitable positions for these passing places. Alistair Miller from the roads department has been contacted to have proper signage made that emphasises that these passing places are for pedestrians and all Community Councillors were in agreement to pay for this.
* **Grass/path maintenance** – All the paths have been checked and passed for insurance purposes apart from the Reidhaven Street to the old Portsoy road one, however this has already been flagged up as part of the flooding work and signage has been put in place saying that the Community Council are aware of the damage.
* **Public toilets** – Bill confirmed that the new system is working fine and the toilets are clean.
* **Remembrance** – Duncan has received correspondence from Andrew Simpson outlining the current arrangements although he is still awaiting guidance from the Scottish Government on the format that the services will be held in. As the village does not have a current minister, Anne will obtain a list of people who could conduct the ceremonies.

**Correspondence:** correspondence has been received from Aberdeenshire Council flagging up that the service point has re-opened in Banff and asking that the Community Council pass on this information. - ***Action – Rebecca will post this on the website.***

Correspondence has also been received from Aberdeenshire Council regarding consultation on the scheme of establishment.

A letter has been received from Caroline Close regarding taking part in a survey on Bridges and infrastructure – Duncan will look at this.

**October meeting arrangements (AGM):** Duncan has received guidance notes from Aberdeenshire Council regarding holding the Community Council AGM in October, the AGM can be deferred until next year but all Community Councillors were in agreement that the AGM will go ahead as planned in a virtual format in October.

**AOCB:**

* Chas updated on costal erosion near the Compass Rose, he will progress getting professional advice on what work may be required.
* Alan and Chas brought up the amount of weeds in the village particularly in the bull ring area. Cllr Cox and Cllr Reynolds outlined the council’s position and indicated that a Community led initiative working with council officers was probably the way forward. Bill will put out a call on the hub to see if anyone would like to volunteer to help.
* As regards to the vacancies on the Community Council, Duncan said that a couple of people have expressed an interest including Mikey Duncan who has joined us today. Ladysbridge Village Association has also expressed an interest to come and contribute the meetings. Duncan reminded everyone that as the elections cannot be held until next year anyone joining at this point will be a co-opted member.
* Robbie updated that the application is in to put up the Christmas lights and the lights will be up from the 29th November until the 10th of January.
* Chas said that the ‘Welcome to Whitehills’ banner will have to come down at the start of October; Stuart Ironside is going to help.
* Anne reported that the email spam situation has improved and thanked Rebecca.
* Chas updated on the memorial bench.

**Date of next meeting, which will also include the AGM:** Thursday 15th October, 6.30pm.