**Whitehills & District Community Council**

**Minutes– Thursday 15th April 2021**

**Present:**  Duncan Leece (Chairman), Anne Balharry, Chas Findlay, Alan Stewart, Bill Bain, Mike Duncan, Jill Clark, Mick Moloney

**In Attendance:** Cllr John Cox, Rebecca Ross

**Apologies:** Alistair Wiseman, Cllr Glen Reynolds, Cllr Mike Roy, Robert Mackie

**Adoption of Minutes of 18th February 2021:** Proposed by Mick Moloney and seconded by Bill Bain.

**Matters Arising:**

* Duncan updated on his attendance at the Community Council Forum on the 14th April. Some Community Councils will continue in an online format when restrictions ease, it was unanimously decided that WDCC will return to face-to-face meetings as soon as possible.

**Police Report:** Duncan delivered the police report. A surge in various ‘scams’ has been noted. People are asked to be vigilant particularly of older and vulnerable people being taken in by these frauds.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Anneupdated on the activity since the last report. £408.64 was paid to Malcolm Jack foe cementing the signs in. The Hub has taken £500.00 of their money. £66.00 was received in the toilet box. £ 3548.28 is in the working account and the other accounts remain the same. Anne is going to contact Robin Maddock to audit the end of year accounts.

The Playingfeilds Association invited Duncan and Anne to have a look at the new flooring paid by a Windfarm application and they both reported that it looks terrific.

**Planning Issues:**  2 planning applications are noted; the erection of an agriculture building at Loanhead, Cornhill – no objections or comments. Plot 109, at Ladysbridge Village, erection of house – no comments or objections.

**Public Toilets:** Jill outlined her proposal for the running of the toilets and a discussion was held regarding the way forward. There was a unanimous decision to contract the cleaning of the toilets to Jill. Duncan will contact Aberdeenshire Council and Anne and he will look at the financial side.

**CC AGM and Elections process/dates:** Duncan updated and explained that he had sent an email explaining the process

* Robbie is standing down as a Community Councillor but will remain involved as an ‘official helper’ in order to run the Christmas lights.
* Mikey and Jill are presently co-opted members and will stand for election.
* On the 6th of May nomination forms will go live on Aberdeenshire Councils website – ***Action – Rebecca will circulate the link when it becomes available.***

**Correspondence:**

* Cllr Cox forwarded an email flagging up an upcoming event at the links ‘adapted surfing’
* Guidance has been received from the Area Managers office for VE day on the 8th May.
* Notification has been received that the Area Initiatives fund is now open for applications.

**Projects Update:**

* Flooding – Bill updated on a recent email from Nick Rae and a site meeting to be held on the 27th April.
* Reidhaven Street path – Bill has received a quote from Colin Smith to do all the work involved. All agreed to go ahead with the work. Duncan and Anne will do a Windfarm application to cover the costs.
* Coastal erosion – Cllr Cox will try and progress a site meeting.
* Paths - Alan updated that there are no new issues.

**AOCB:**

* No other business.

**Confirm DONM:**

The next meeting will be held virtually on the 20th of May, joining instructions will be sent out by Rebecca.

Views sought on Canal Park supermarket project

The communities of Banff, Macduff and the surrounding area are being asked for their views on plans to use common good land for a supermarket development.

Supermarket firm Morrisons was named as the preferred bidder for the project, which could see a new store and other facilities built in Banff.

The development would involve the creation of a supermarket, café, filling station, car wash, and parking on land at Canal Park/Old Market Place.

The area of ground and buildings proposed for the project lies to the west of the Deveron Bridge and currently features a grass football pitch (Canal Park), pavilion, and the former Bridge Street Community Centre.

The land also includes three redundant tennis courts and a basketball court. The adjacent Princess Royal Park does not form part of the project.

As a large portion of the site is designated as ‘common good land', part of the procedure for the proposed sale requires the council to consult with the community and invite views for consideration before a decision is made.

The consultation is now open and will run until Wednesday, June 30, and there’s a variety of ways to get involved.

Full details about the consultation can be found on Aberdeenshire Council’s website via <http://bit.ly/CanalParkCG>

And a virtual exhibition space has been created online, allowing visitors to access a range of materials.

As well as the consultation documents, the exhibition space has images, a video slideshow and other information about the common good process and how views can be shared. The platform can be accessed directly at [https://CanalPark.Consultation.ai](https://canalpark.consultation.ai/)

Those who do not have access to the internet can request a paper copy of the consultation documents by contacting the Banff & Buchan Area Office on 01467 530700. Comments on the proposals can also be emailed to  
[canalparkconsultation@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:canalparkconsultation@aberdeenshire.gov.uk)

Acting Banff & Buchan Area Manager David MacLennan said: “We’re pleased to be at a stage where we can invite people to comment on the proposed development at Canal Park.

“As we’re not able to hold public meetings at the moment, the virtual space has been designed to give the feeling of an exhibition you might find in a local hall. It has all the information people would expect to find and is easy to navigate.

“We’re keen to hear from all sections of the community, from individuals to local groups, and we look forward to hearing people’s thoughts on the proposals.”

Once the consultation has ended, the views collected will be shared with the Banff & Buchan Area Committee. If the committee then decides to support the sale of the land, court approval would need to be secured.

Proceeds from any sale of the land would be passed to the council’s Common Good Fund, with the money reserved for the benefit of the Banff and Macduff under the council’s Common Good Fund