**Whitehills & District Community Council**

**Minutes– Thursday 20th January 2022**

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

**In Attendance:** Cllr John Cox, Rebecca Ross, Brian Wilkie, PC Racheal Davison & colleague.

**Apologies:** Cllr Glen Reynolds, Cllr Mike Roy

**Adoption of Minutes of 16th December 2021:** Proposed by Alan Stewart – Seconded by Bill Bain

**Matters Arising:**

* Duncan has received a reply from Zurich Insurance. No building re-valuation needed.
* Ladysbridge Village junction – ongoing.
* Recent weather discussion – Duncan has passed on the points from the last minutes. A commitment has been made from Aberdeenshire Council to conduct an area based de-brief, no date has been received yet – ***Action - Cllr Cox will check to see if there is a date.***

**Police Report:** PC Davison updated on some minor nuisance issues, but nothing overly concerning within the village. PC Davison advised the group to report any issues using the 101 number or the online ‘contact us’ facility. A discussion was held around the parking issues within the village. Brain Wilkie raised the issue that he has had no reply regarding the data for the last 4 years for the Ladysbridge junction ***– Action – PC Davison will make enquiries.*** Brain Wilkie also expanded the thanks of the Ladysbridge Village residents to the police for their visible and reassuring presence during the power cut that followed storm Arwen.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Anneupdated on the activity since the last report. The balance of the Working Account is £11847.39 (this includes the Hub and Fisherman & Seafarers Memorial Fund money). £15.00 was in the Xmas light collection and £29.50 in the toilet box. The balance of the Gift Account remains the same.

**Planning issues:** No new applications.

**Local Place Plan project:** Duncan advised that he has been in conversation with the Area Managers office. As WDCC has an existing Community Action Plan, would we be interested in converting this to a Local Place Plan. Duncan has agreed that the Community Council would be happy to be kept in the loop whilst Aberdeenshire Council await further guidance as to next steps.

**Funded project update - Ladysbridge:** ongoing

**Harbour Commissioners project:** Duncan wrote to the Harbour Commissioners on the 17th of December 2021 to confirm that the grant had been awarded – is awaiting a reply.

**Correspondence:**

* Alison Simpson has emailed Duncan in her new role as Project officer for Coast Aberdeenshire and she would like to come and talk to the CC regarding the Coastal Path Corridor project – date to be confirmed. Duncan met with Alison Simpson for a general discussion about the project and updated the group. The Community Council had a discussion around projects that could be of benefit.
* Susan Shand from Seafield Estates has been in contacted to advise that she has received correspondence from Aberdeenshire Council regarding the erection of metal arrows for signage on core path networks – Seafield Estate have advised they have no objections.
* Correspondence flagging up future training opportunities in the explanation of the planning process has been received. Contact Duncan for the dates etc.

**Project updates:**

* Toilets – Duncan updated that he had received a letter from Aberdeenshire Council to say that the contract for the toilets for the financial year ending 31st March 2022 had not been signed, he has done so and the monies to cover toilet expenses for this period will be remitted shortly. A discussion was held regarding the terms of the contract. Jill raised the issue that some other toilets have been upgraded locally recently and a discussion was held regarding this and the condensation issues and leakage from the roof in heavy rain. ***Action – Duncan will try and organised a site visit with Jill and the relevant Council officer to look into these issues.***
* Plants & Planter’s – Bill updated that the list of perennials has arrived for the Green Space Project – the timetable is tight but Bill is taking this forward. Bill has put out a call on the Hub requesting volunteers for a gardening group.
* Flooding – Bill updated that the tendering process deadline is the end of the month (January).
* Other paths – Alan updated on the dreadful amount of dog mess that is now affecting some of the paths a discussion was held regarding a way forward with this issue.

**AOCB:**

* Cllr Cox wished to draw the attention of the Community Council to potential funding opportunities.
* Brain raised the issue of the Ladysbridge residents’ concerns over dangerous trees and the amount of dry brush very close to residences – who do they contact to find out whose responsibility this is to make safe? **Cllr Cox will liaise with Brian.**
* Rebecca has received communication from the new member of Aberdeenshire Council’s Digital engagement team who have a link for people to access with help with assistance to achieve better broadband speeds. Bill is going to put it on the Hub. [digitalengagement@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:digitalengagement@aberdeenshire.gov.uk)
* Further information has been received regarding the Queens Platinum Jubilee. All events and guidance can be found at <https://www.royal.uk/platinum-jubilee-central-weekend>
* The condition of the gate at the old cemetery (Inverboyndie) was raised; Duncan will try and find out who is responsible for the maintenance.

**DONM:** The next meeting will be held in person on the 17th of February at the St Brandon Centre, 6.30pm (subject to the Covid-19 situation).