**Whitehills & District Community Council**

**Minutes – Thursday 15th December 2022**

**Present:**  Duncan Leece (Chairman), Anne Balharry, Chas Findlay, Billy Gatt, Mike Duncan, Alan Stewart

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

**Apologies:** Jill Clark, Brian Wilkie, Cllr Glen Reynolds, Carol West, Audrey Cameron, Cllr Stewart Adams, Jill Hutchison

**Adoption of Minutes of 17th November 2022:** Prop.-Mike Duncan – Seconded Billy Gatt.

**Matters Arising:**

* Notification was received that gas main replacement work will be starting in the area of the old railway and links from the 14th of November for a period of six weeks – no further update.
* Following the query from David West about yellow paint markings in the ditches, Nick Rae was contacted who explained that the works needed a period of time to settle (hence the markings denoting minor corrections) he had been back to check them.

**Police Report:** The police report was received and no incidents were pertinent to Whitehills & District. The report gave general information about the ‘fraud’ type crimes currently happening and a reminder to be vigilant particularly for the elderly and vulnerable. A recruitment drive is being held for special constables and a link is available for those interested**. DL to circulate**

**Treasurer’s Report:** Anneupdated that there has been little activity since the last report. £600.00 has been received from Seafield Estates. The path clearing bill came to £2400.00 and money has been transferred from the Wind Farm Account to the Working Account to cover this. £1000.00 was paid to the Parent Council to cover the costs of the school event.

**Planning issues:** No new applications.

**Discussion on Early Years’ service provision:** Duncan updated on the current situation. He also updated on Brian’s behalf that a live link has now been received from Aberdeenshire Council for a consultation with the residents of Whitehills & District into Early Years’ service provision. A discussion was held as to the best way to publicise this consultation so that as many people as possible have access to it. The consultation is live until the 8th January 2023 at the present. ***Action – Duncan & Rebecca will take forward producing a hard copy poster and sharing the link on Social Media.***

**Ladysbridge update:** Duncan updated on Brian’s behalf that there are no specific new updates.

**Correspondence:**

* Duncan has received notification that the FALCK return needs to be completed.
* Aberdeenshire Council have been in contact to advise that they are undertaking a piece of work at the old St Brandon cemetery – Cllr Cox updated on his knowledge on the project.
* The next Community Council Forum will be held at Crudie School on the 17th April 2023. Open to all CC members.
* A guide has been received outlining how the Community Council should approach Social Media.

**Project updates:**

* Toilets – it was reported that there are still issues with dog mess at the back of the toilets despite new fencing being erected. Mikey is going to have a look at the fencing and see if it can be improved upon.
* Xmas lights – the lights and the tree are all up and everyone commented on how good they look.
* Plants & Greenspace project – no new update, thanks go to Carol and her team.
* Paths upgrade and maintenance - Mikey updated that he is waiting for a quote for the weed spraying of the path heading out of Whitehills to ‘Annie’s Wood’. Upgrades to other paths will be looked at in the spring. No other path maintenance issues have been reported.

**Ideas for new projects we can take forward – discussion continued** – ideas that were discussed included:

* Possibly holding a youth engagement event to look at what the young people in the village wish to see happen.
* Continued involvement and projects with the Primary School.
* Lighting along the Blackpots area.
* Continuation of the Greenspaces project.
* Upgrades to the toilet building.
* Continuation of path upgrades, with a view to reducing on-going maintenance costs.
* Re-investigate second half of the Ladysbridge path.
* Investigating the possibility of a wildlife viewing area and/or telescope.

Many of these ideas were included in some form, in the last Community Action Plan, much of which has now been progressed. It is worth contemplating forming a new CAP in the not too distant future.

**AOCB**

* Chas updated that he had received a query regarding a plaque being placed by the Compass Rose to commemorate Ian Chapman (who built it) – Chas will take this forward.
* Gordon asked if there was a location map for the grit boxes in the village – Cllr Cox pointed him towards the My Aberdeenshire App which not only shows this but many other useful pieces of information.

**DONM:** Thursday 19th January 2023 at the St Brandon Centre. 6.30pm