**Whitehills & District Community Council**

**Minutes – Thursday 17th November 2022**

**Present:**  Duncan Leece (Chairman), Anne Balharry, Chas Findlay, Jill Clark, Brian Wilkie, Billy Gatt, Mike Duncan

**In Attendance:** Rebecca Ross, Cllr Stewart Adams, Rosemary Crameri, David West, Alison Jenkins, Jill Hutchison

**Apologies:** Alan Stewart, Cllr Glen Reynolds, Carol West, Audrey Cameron, Cllr John Cox

**Adoption of Minutes of 20th October 2022:** Mike Duncan – Seconded by Brian Wilkie.

**Matters Arising:**

* A reply has been received from Alan Anderson of landscape services clarifying Aberdeenshire Councils position on responsibilities for maintenance of the football park. A map has been received clearly defining Aberdeenshire Councils grass cutting responsibility's and will be kept on file.
* A new community police officer has been appointed and will be attending Community Council meetings when possible.
* The community council would like to extend thanks to all those who made the Remembrance ceremonies possible. Particular thanks are extended to the three ex-servicemen who laid wreaths: Bill Bain, Stuart Law and Mark Holmwood.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Anneupdated that there has been little activity since the last report. £78.00 Has been received in the toilet donation box and £10.00 into the Christmas light fund. £150.00 has been paid for the yearly hall hire. Banffshire Partnership have received a cheque for the yearly secretarial duties for their Dial-A-Bus funds.

**Planning issues:** A link is now sent out to all Community Counsellors with the agenda showing current planning applications. Of the current applications no comments or objections are noted.

**Funding Application – School Event:** Duncan welcomed Jill Hutchison, head teacher of Whitehills primary. It is felt that the good relationship between the primary school and the Community Council could be further-enhanced. The primary school submitted a wind farm application for the children’s annual Christmas event. Jill explained the ethos behind a whole school event and that traditionally this has been fully funded by the parent council however due to the Covid 19 situation over the last two years the parent council have not been able to undertake their usual fundraising activities. The community council unanimously voted to support the school’s application. Jill updated on all the schools’ recent activities and plans for the future, Chas also updated on progress with the school bell.

**Ladysbridge update:** Brian updated that sadly the fireworks display on the 5th of November had to be cancelled due to licencing issues however they have now met with Aberdeenshire Councils licencing officer who proved extremely helpful and knowledgeable with licencing issues going forward. The issues with the nursery provision are no further forward but James Martin will be attending the December meeting. Brian and Duncan had a useful meeting with Paul Macari and future developments will be reported upon. Brian has had a discussion with Ballater Community Council who have shared their resilience plans with him - this document can now form the basis of our own resilience strategy.

**Correspondence:**

* Duncan has been in correspondence with the new community police officer and discussed current issues within the village.
* An online survey has been received from Aberdeenshire Councils licencing department regarding a consultation on alcohol licencing.
* Notification has been 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.
* A link to a survey has been received regarding how people wish to receive health information - please contact Rebecca for the link if you wish.

**Project updates:**

* Toilets - Jill updated that damage has been done to the baby changing area, it has been reported two Aberdeenshire council who will replace the equipment. Jill has met with AJ Rennie and quote should be received soon for potential upgrades to the toilets.
* Xmas lights – a sufficient number of those present volunteered to assist Robbie erect the lights. Duncan will confirm when the Christmas tree will be delivered **(note:25th November).**
* Plants & Planter’s – no new update, but work in progress.
* Village notice board - the notice board is up and running in the new shop. Thanks to Billy Gatt for providing the space.
* Paths upgrade and maintenance - Mikey updated that the major work to remove unwanted vegetation etc from the path heading out of Whitehills to ‘Annie’s Wood’ has now been completed, and thus this path should no longer require to be strimmed regularly, reducing maintenance costs. A discussion was held around scope for a similar upgrade to other paths. No other path maintenance issues have been reported.

**Ideas for new projects we can take forward – discussion continued** - Chas updated on conversations he has had surrounding new lighting and Duncan discussed his research thus far. Billy flagged recent conversations he has had with young people in the village regarding facilities such as skate park and discussion was held around activities for younger people being something that could be a topic for 2023 projects. This would link well to discussions with the School too.

**AOCB**

* David queried yellow paint markings on the ditches - no one knew what they were for, but inquiries will be made.
* Cllr Adams flagged up two potential funding streams but may be of use to the primary school or projects that may wish to be started within the village.

**DONM: Thursday** December the 15th at the St Brandon Centre. 6.30pm