



Westhill & Elrick  
Community Council

## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 8<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2016 IN THE HOLIDAY INN, WESTHILL

<b>Community Council</b>		
<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Present</b>
(vacant)	Chairperson	X
Audrey Findlay	Deputy Chairperson	✓
Becky Ferguson	Secretary	✓
David Ritchie	Treasurer	✓
Shona Collins	Minutes Secretary	✓
Mervyn Barr	Member	✓
Alan Eastell	Member	✓
David Ewen	Member	X
Bill Loudon	Member	X
Ken Seward	Member	X
Raymond Swaffield	Member	✓
Kate Lumsden	Member	X
Nara Morrison	Member	✓
Tim Yeomans	Member	X
Cllr David Aitchison	Ward 13 Councillor	✓
Cllr Amanda Allan	Ward 13 Councillor	X
Cllr Ron McKail	Ward 13 Councillor	✓
Cllr Iris Walker	Ward 13 Councillor	X

<b>Members of Public/Invited Guests</b>		
Glenn Adcock	Aileen Swaffield	Gurudeo Saluja
Gordon Ballantyne	Maria Ballantyne	Patricia Gail Saluja
Hazel Davidson	Amanda Davidson	Dawn Anderson
Heather Cook	Beryl Burbidge	Myra Watt
Jim Gordon	Sheila Gordon	Shona McCulloch
Calum Johnston	Jules Hunter	Graham Hunter
Freda Dickson	Ian J Dickson	Gordon Allardyce
David Hamilton	Lorraine Hamilton	Richard de Verteuil
Cathy de Verteuil	Barbara Crane	Alan Crane
Sheila Gray	Graham Vickers	Susan Vickers
Geoffrey Sheppard	Mrs Sheppard	Sally Munro
Judith Greig	Allan McArthur	John Long
Gary Scott (MoD Police)	Carole Thomasson	Tony Thomasson
Arthur Henderson	Diane Priestley	Diane Reid
Heather Brock	Dale Lamont	Nigel McAllan
Moira Archibald	Clare Davidson	Colin Davidson
John Thornton	Margaret Thornton	Carole-Anne Carr



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	<u>Item</u>
1	<b><u>Chairperson's welcome and opening remarks</u></b> Audrey Findlay opened the meeting, welcoming our many guests to the meeting.
2	<b><u>Apologies</u></b> Bill Loudon, Cllr Iris Walker, Tim Yeomans
3	<b><u>Review and Approval of the 2015 Annual General Meeting</u></b> Proposed: Raymond Swaffield Seconded: Gordon Ballantyne The minutes were approved by the meeting.
4	<b><u>Chairperson's Report</u></b> As the post of Chairperson has remained vacant since the summer of 2015, I as Deputy have been filling in as the Acting Chair with help from others who have chaired two meetings during that time. I hope that following tonight the situation will be different. WECC has once more had a very busy, and I believe, successful year. Our meetings are generally well attended and I hope to give you a flavour of what we have been doing over the past 12 months. Unfortunately, over that time we have lost another six or seven people who, for different but genuine reasons, have had to step back and are no longer members. This happens with people moving away for work or study reasons or through family illness. Some have found that they just could not fit in the time needed and others have arrived at the time when they want a break after contributing to this community for several years. We lost our very efficient Secretary of recent times when John Imrie stepped back in January this year. I was delighted when Becky Ferguson, who had been our Mins Secy, took over the role. She has settled into her new role now and is coping very well. That of course left the Mins Secy slot vacant but that has been filled by Shona Collins who joined us last year. It is essential that we have a team of Office Bearers' who work closely together at all times so that we can be prepared for our monthly meetings and so that our members, and residents, are kept well informed when decisions have to be made. We do our best to achieve that regularly, through information going out in our quarterly Bulletin. I must make mention at this point that the Bulletin Editor who is also our Treasurer, David Ritchie, really does a power of work getting the publication produced in time each quarter, as well as making sure it is delivered by his willing bunch of volunteers to every household in our area. You will read in the Bulletin just how many organisations are run by volunteers in our community. It can be time consuming and at times demanding but also at the same time it can be very satisfying to be a volunteer in the place where you live and call home. Of course more and more people access their information through our busy website and also by checking our Facebook page which a small group of our members do their best to keep up-to-date under the watchful eye of David Ewen. Now I will update on our annual special events. We again held a successful Christmas Event on 12 <sup>th</sup> December 2015. This is now becoming part of the calendar in the lead up to Christmas in Westhill. We are well underway with plans for this year again and the date is fixed for 10 <sup>th</sup> December. We are very grateful for the support we get in contributions of food and sweets from some local shops and also the drinking chocolate provided now by the Holiday Inn. The music last year was again provided by the local churches and we hope to add to that this year with musicians from Westhill Academy, so please do put the date in your diaries to pop along and join in the singing! We will again have our tree provided by Dunecht Estates and the Art Group will be organizing the children making tree decorations. Rosemary Murray who has been leading the Art Group for several years, has also recently stepped back as a Community Council member but she will retain her interest in matters relating to Art. This is not only for the festive activities but the Easter 'Eggstravagansa' and the Scarecrow Trail that is held just before the Gala.



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Gala Day back in June was a great success this year and the weather helped a lot. There appeared to be a really 'feel good' factor on the day and again these things don't just happen without lots of effort from volunteers.

Of course we continue with all the regular things like the monthly Litter Picks, always well organised by Raymond and Aileen Swaffield who lead a team of willing helpers. At times they must feel they are fighting a losing battle. This year, although John Imrie, as I mentioned before, stepped back from WECC he has done a great job working with Westhill Rotary Club, to once more ensure that the hanging baskets and planters appear to brighten up our streets. All these environmental commitments do matter in our community and they happen because of efforts by individuals.

We are delighted that later in this AGM we will be presenting the 'Westhill in Bloom' prizes to the winners of the Garden Competition which has been revived after a break of a few years. Bill Loudon organised that competition for many years and we were very grateful for that but he found for health reasons it became too onerous. Thanks to encouragement from two of our Aberdeenshire councillors we formed a small group to get this important competition going again. We are delighted to be joined by Osprey Housing in this venture, but more of this in a little while.

We in WECC are so pleased in to learn the recent news that SensationALL, who provide a fantastic service in this community and much wider, have been successful in their efforts to achieve a long term lease through the Community Asset Transfer (CAT) initiative for the Old School and Schoolhouse. This will help them a lot with their plans to expand as well as save one of our few precious old buildings in Westhill.

Gertrude, the wild boar and off spring have appeared at the corner of the new shop units at the town centre. That caused some local comment initially but once again, can we make it clear that is not a WECC responsibility as it was part of the planning permission for these new units. We will however, continue to work with the owners of the Shopping Centre to try to get a plaque about the story of Gertrude which we know has been provided by the artist Helen Denerley.

We are continuing to progress the idea that in the next couple of years we will try to find a tangible way of celebrating the birth of the 'new town' of Westhill which has grown up over the past 50 years. Of course we are aware of the present financial climate with the big drop in the oil price over recent times. When we think however, of the dramatic change in this community over the past half century we do believe it is worthwhile to try to plan for some recognition of what has happened here in what was originally a couple of villages in the parish of Skene.

I have to now speak about the biggest happening in our area for a long time! Since May we have been a bit shell shocked with the news that there is the possibility that we may have Aberdeen Football Club re-locate to their long awaited new stadium right up hard on the edge of Westhill, at what is now called the Kingsford site. This has created a very divisive situation in this community with a well organised NO campaign but also a strong feeling in other people wanting this to go ahead. The site itself is full of serious basic planning issues. It is in the 'Green Belt' which is supposed to be a buffer between cities and their more rural surroundings. Also there are two oil and gas pipelines running through it – to mention only two major issues. However, it is becoming clear that although we will be the community which will be most affected if this proposal goes ahead, that we do not have the direct influence that we would have had it been within Aberdeenshire Council boundaries.

There is no planning application lodged yet with the City Council, but that is expected later this year. There are very few real details coming through so far but certainly plenty questions which need answered. We are working closely with our neighbours in the Community Council at Kingswells, who are very supportive of the situation that we are in.

We have now got a representative person on a new Transport working Group which has been created and Becky will be our person on that group. Clearly all matters relating to traffic management, including the increase in volume, as well as everything else relating to roads is of vital importance. We, as a Community Council, are trying to find out as much as we can and to represent all shades of opinion in this community and we will continue to do so.



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	<p>I want to finish by thanking you all for coming along tonight. It is very good to see people taking an interest in what we are trying to do on their behalf. I want to thank our four local authority, Aberdeenshire, Councillors for their interest and input over the past year, as well as the officers of Aberdeenshire Council. A very special thank you to my fellow community Councillors and in particular my office bearer colleagues for their help and support over the past 12 months. Thank you all, very much. - <i>Audrey Findlay</i></p>
5	<p><b><u>Treasurer's Report and Presentation of Accounts</u></b></p> <p>This year we have just broken even, with a net surplus of £24. See detailed accounts attached to these minutes.</p> <p>The Bulletin continues to make a healthy surplus, this year it is £7168, due to the strong demand for advertising. This enabled the Community Council to continue to make donations to local voluntary groups and £2747 was donated. We made 11 donations, the largest being £400 to Citizens Advice Bureau who have been getting an annual donation from WECC. We started allowing local voluntary groups to apply for donations 5 years ago and have made donations totalling nearly £19000 since then.</p> <p>The main new expenditure item this year is that we started paying honorariums to the secretary and the webmaster, in addition to the minutes secretary and Bulletin team who have been getting honorariums for a number of years. Honorariums are permitted per the Constitution and are to recognise the amount of work involved in these roles. Honorariums to the secretary and the webmaster totalled £2400 in the year but cover more than one year because, when these new honorariums were approved in August 2015, back-dated payments for a year for the secretary and 6 months for the webmaster were made</p> <p>Hanging Baskets sundries are lower this year, mainly because the watering firm Perfectshine started doing the watering for free in Summer 2015 in exchange for an advert in Bulletin. The watering this summer has been done weekly compared to fortnightly in previous years, and would have cost over £600 if we were paying for it.</p> <p>The table at foot of the accounts splits the £33227 of funds as at 30<sup>th</sup> June into various categories, the main one being 'General Funds' of £19326 which can be used for any future projects or activities that WECC decide to undertake. It is likely that part of this will go towards the Gateway Art Project.</p> <p>Details of two of the 'ring-fenced' funds:- Grant and Donation for Community Resource Centre Study - £2390 - a number of years ago the Community Council got a grant from Shell and a donation totalling £2390 to employ a consultant to advise on how best the town could be provided with extra community facilities that it needed. That study never took place so the £2390 is still available and there is no requirement now for it to be spent on a study. SensationALL are now going to be running the Old School and Schoolhouse as a community facility as well as using it for their own activities so it may be appropriate for this sum to be donated to them to help with cost of the extensive renovation works that will be required.</p> <p>Making it Real Fund- £1582 – this is monies left over from grants for the 'Making it Real' project that we carried out some years ago. The intention was for these funds to be put towards a similar project in the future, but there is no indication that it will ever happen, so it may be best that this amount now be used for donations to local groups. Further discussion on both of these above items can take place at one of our normal meetings in the near future.</p> <p>The AGM approved the Treasurer's Report and Audited Accounts.</p> <p>David then invited the floor to ask any questions. The first question noted that the business community gives 95% of funding to WECC through the bulletin, which in turn gives us the</p>



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	<p>opportunity to give donations and also fund the Christmas Lights, hanging baskets, Art Projects etc. It was questioned whether WECC could facilitate different events in Westhill through our contacts. This has previously happened through the Westhill Business Network, however it is believed these events have stopped. Another resident asked whether WECC could organise raising funds for retired individuals to clean up areas, and improve Westhill in many ways. It was noted that WECC is but one group in Westhill for people to get involved in and help.</p> <p>One resident raised her appreciation to WECC for the work that has been done. Another question related to the treasurer's report was relating to the honorariums, and what they consist of. David explained that the honorariums began when WECC had to find someone out with WECC to take the minutes. Years later when someone within WECC was willing to do this role, the honorarium continued. This same procedure took place with those who help with the Bulletin. Last year, it was proposed that the Secretary and Webmaster receive an honorarium, due to the high volume of work carried out. This was agreed, and therefore since then this has been the way that we have operated.</p> <p>It was also noted that Kingswells have a small magazine similar to ours, however it is published through a commercial company. Kingswells Community Council therefore do not receive the same kind of profits that we do.</p> <p>Another question was on the £19 thousand, and will it be spent on Art. It was answered that plans for the Gateway Art Feature are not yet clear, and we have not committed a set amount to it, however we do feel that we will make a contribution towards it.</p> <p>It was clarified that WECC is focused on our Community as a whole, from residents in the community to those who work in our area and the local businesses. We work with other local groups to make Westhill the best it can be, as we all love the town we live in.</p>
6	<p><b><u>Westhill in Bloom Gardening Competition presentation of prizes</u></b></p> <p>Glenn Adcook explained the background of Osprey Housing, and the work they have been doing within Westhill. Their offices are now based in Westhill, and there are a number of houses now built for Osprey Housing. There are 20 properties, with 12 one bedroom and 8 two bedroom at Broadshade. These are mid-market rental properties, giving many the opportunity to rent at a competitive cost where they would be unable to meet the private rental costing. The prizes were awarded as follows:</p> <p>Best Communal space/residential street: 1<sup>st</sup> - Trinity Church. Runner up – Straik Place. Best front garden: 1<sup>st</sup> equal – Pam Yeoman &amp; Mrs Dickson. Highly commended – Alan Crane. Best back garden: 1<sup>st</sup> – Ian McAllan. Highly commended – Moira Munro. Best container: 1<sup>st</sup> – Hazel Davidson, Highly commended for front and back gardens – Mr &amp; Mrs Davidson Overall winner: Ian McAllan Each winner received a trophy and a prize, many of which were donated by local businesses.</p> <p>Glenn also thanked his colleague Lynn for her assistance in judging the competition, who unfortunately was unable to present the prizes, although her help was invaluable.</p> <p>Many thanks also to Fara West for taking the photographs of our winners and runners up.</p>
7	<p><b><u>Close of meeting</u></b></p> <p>The meeting closed at 8pm.</p>

Becky Ferguson  
Secretary

**WESTHILL & ELRICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**INCOME and EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT  
for year to 30/6/16**

	2016 £	2015 £
Funds in Bank Accounts at start of the year	33,203.60	31142
<b><u>Income</u></b>		
Westhill Bulletin Advertising Income	33,466.00	34540
Admin grant from Aberdeenshire Council	1,570.42	1449
Bank Interest Received	204.02	286
Scaffold tower hires	120.00	30
Donations	0.00	197
<b>Total Income in year</b>	<u>35360.44</u>	<u>36502</u>
<b><u>Expenditure</u></b>		
Westhill Bulletin Printing	24,404.03	24524
Bulletin Fees	1,600.00	1600
Bulletin Postages & Sundries	293.61	344
<b>Bulletin Expenditure</b>	<u>26,297.64</u>	<u>26,468</u>
Honorariums for Secretary, Minutes Secretary & webmaster	2,900.00	480
Donations to Local Voluntary Groups	2,746.90	3850
Christmas lights refurbishments and sundries	1,548.81	922
Community Council Sundry Expenses & Website	823.94	669
Dog Poo Project	408.54	0
Hanging Baskets sundries	276.79	705
Christmas event	206.84	343
Gala Day Sundries	105.77	375
Litter Pick equipment & sundries	21.59	628
<b>Total Expenditure in year</b>	<u>35,336.82</u>	<u>34,440</u>
Surplus in year	23.62	2,062
Funds in Bank Accounts at the end of the year	33,227.22	33,204

**Analysis of Funds in Bank**

Bulletin Advertising Income Received in advance for Autumn & Winter 2016 issues (50% of Prepaid adverts)	9147.5	9385
Litter Campaign Fund	781.17	803
Grant & Donation for Community Resource Centre study	2390.24	2390
Making it Real Fund	1582.38	1582
General Funds	19325.93	19043
	<u>33,227.22</u>	<u>33,203</u>

David Ritchie, Treasurer

Prepared from records of the Westhill & Elrick Community Council  
and certified to be in accordance therewith

Colin Currie, CA  
September 2016