

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 8TH JUNE 2017 IN THE HOLIDAY INN, WESTHILL

Community Council		
Name	Position	Present
Audrey Findlay	Chairperson (Acting)	✓
(vacant)	Deputy Chairperson	X
Becky Ferguson	Secretary	✓
David Ritchie	Treasurer	✓
(vacant)	Minutes Secretary	X
Mervyn Barr	Member	✓
Alan Eastell	Member	✓
David Ewen	Member	✓
Bill Loudon	Member	✓
Raymond Swaffield	Member	✓
Kate Lumsden	Member	✓
Nara Morrison	Member	✓
Heather Brock	Member	X
John Long	Member	✓
Dawn Anderson	Member	✓
Heather Coull	Member	X
Cllr David Aitchison	Ward 13 Councillor	X
Cllr Iris Walker	Ward 13 Councillor	✓
Cllr Ron McKail	Ward 13 Councillor	X
Cllr Alistair McKelvie	Ward 13 Councillor	X

Members of Public/Invited Guests		
Heather Cook	John Thain	Barbara Thain
Allan Thain	PC Steve Middleton	Aileen Swaffield

	<u>Item</u>	<u>Action/ Attention</u>
1	<p><u>Chairperson's welcome and opening remarks</u> Audrey Findlay opened the meeting, welcoming everyone, including those visiting the meeting this evening.</p>	
2	<p><u>Apologies</u> Cllr Aitchison, Cllr McKelvie, Cllr McKail, Heather B & Heather C</p>	
3	<p><u>Review and Approval of the Draft Minutes of Meeting 11/05/17</u> Proposed: Raymond Swaffield Seconded: Nara Morrison The minutes were approved by the meeting.</p>	
4	<p><u>Matters Arising</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Consultation on the Draft Scheme of Establishment of CCs</u> This originally went before full Aberdeenshire Council in April, however was delayed due to issues being raised having to be relooked at. Following the GACCF meeting last night, it was explained that the document is to be a reference document. One issue which was raised at the Forum meeting was that of a National Election Date, which then felt very political, when CCs are apolitical bodies. This however is a national issue and will be fed back to the relevant government bodies. Other issues included setting a standard AGM date, the process of dissolution and increasing the minimum numbers of membership. 	

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	<p>locus sent back an update, just over 7 ½ minutes had passed. A further update was received just over 3 minutes after that to say that the ambulance had arrived at the scene. Thus, all in all, from the time the call was received by Police to the unit updating that the ambulance had arrived, 10 minutes, 52 seconds had passed. It has also been confirmed that the initial officer in attendance was in plain clothes so many onlookers may have not realised police were actually there promptly.</p> <p>In relation to the layout and safety of the car park, this is a matter that the investigating team would have considered as part of their enquiry. Nothing of specific concern was found. From the Inspector's knowledge of the layout, "it is believed that the car park is very well engineered and especially when busy, polices itself by effectively 'forcing' motorists to slow down."</p> <p>I have forwarded this update to Marc Mills for his information as this issue had been discussed when Audrey, Becky and I met with Marc recently.</p> <p>Finally and thankfully, the Inspector can advise that the injured party continues to make steady progress with his recovery.</p> <p><u>Cllr Alistair Mckelvie:</u></p> <p>It's been a few weeks now since I was elected to serve our Community of Westhill & District. In joining the ranks of Aberdeenshire Cllrs, I have quickly discovered, this is no part time career move, particularly as I have been encouraged to accept the Vice Chair of the Audit Committee.</p> <p>Following the recent activities of Cllr Walker, Cllr McKail & myself with regards to the RBS closure, I have made further contact with Marc Mills of MJ Mapp, in relation to his need to replace tenants of the current empty units in the town centre. He advises that he has appointed two letting agents to find new interested parties. I have made initial contact with both of the agents & await return calls imminently. In view of the outcry among our town & wider communities, on the RBS decision, we will be encouraging approaches to Financial Institutes to replace our Banking Facility. This might prove to be difficult, but it is important that we try to influence the Landlords approach.</p> <p>The Westhill Gala day on the 3rd June was a resounding success, if the attendance was anything to go by, so we should congratulate the organisers, the volunteers, suppliers, bands, etc & of course the WECC stall which was the second best stall on the day.</p>	
12	<p><u>Website Report & Communications Group</u></p> <p>Our international reach... We've had visitors from 58 countries visit the website this year. Of the 16,839 views this year, 404 were from the USA, 139 Canada, 73 Spain, 41 Germany, France 36, India 22 and Australia 21. Our website is high in Google's ranking. If you search for "Westhill Elrick" it is the top return, above Westhill (Wikipedia) and the ASPC (property website). Events is proving one of our more popular pages, and visitors (a small number) are looking at the Minutes page. – <i>David Ewen</i></p> <p>At this point, Audrey explained that David will be moving from Westhill back into the City Centre within the next two weeks. This means he will no longer be a Westhill resident, however can be an associate member due to his specific skills and interests in Westhill. We hope to keep David involved as an associate member. This does create another position to be filled on our CC. We will be advertising in the next Bulletin and online for these spaces. Audrey thanked David for his hard work over the years, which was echoed by Mervyn.</p> <p>Our communications group also need to meet again soon. This is to be arranged.</p>	
13	<p><u>Treasurer's Report and Bulletin Updates</u></p> <p><u>Treasurer's Report:</u></p> <p>The financial year-end is 30th June, so if anyone has expenses or reimbursements to claim please get them to me soon. If you get a cheque from me this month please bank it by 27th June.</p>	

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	<p>Christmas Lights Repairs - 5 lights were repaired recently by Blachere Illumination. The repairs cost £1,375. This was higher than normal because 2 of the large Tesco roundabout lights needed their light strings completely replaced. – <i>David Ritchie</i></p> <p>Bulletin Report: Printer delivered Summer Bulletin one day earlier than scheduled so that helped to ensure most residents got their copies around 2 weeks before Gala day. This issue includes details and nomination form for Westhill in Bloom competition. Deadline for Autumn issue articles is Friday 28th July. – <i>David Ritchie</i></p>	
<p>14</p>	<p>Sub-group Reports</p> <p>Litter: Our May Litter Pick took place despite dreadful weather. In two minds, as to whether to cancel, we were glad that we didn't, as several eager volunteers turned up. Our next Litter Pick will take place on 17th June. In the last two weeks, Two Brownie Packs and a Rainbow Pack have borrowed our kit to do evening litter picks. The 1st Brownies did their pick at Carnie Woods and Peregrine Road and collected a shameful 14 bags of rubbish, indicating the extent to which litter is still being dropped. Related to Litter Picking, Emma Williams, Environment Planner (south) Aberdeenshire Council, who organises the Arnhall Moss Advisory Group has arranged a meeting on Friday 16th June to meet at the tennis court car park at 11.30am. She says that David Carmichael from SEPA has kindly said he will aim to come and join us. I would propose to discuss the water quality issues first and then move on to our usual walk around to have a look at any other issues and allow those just interested in the water quality to leave early. Anyone interested can attend. - <i>Aileen & Raymond Swaffield</i></p> <p>Bulbs & Baskets: There has been an email circulated to Rotary to organise the planting of the baskets and tubs to be installed in the next couple of weeks. <i>Following the meeting, John Imrie added that the baskets had been completed. He noted special thanks to Westhill Rotary Club, in particular to John Fraser for transport facilities and to Grant and Dot Williamson for storing the baskets, and allowing their polytunnel to be used to plant the 62 baskets. Another large thankyou to Jonathon Hammond who also helped planting the baskets.</i></p> <p>Art Project: The Scarecrow Trail was very successful, with 23 scarecrows and at least 200 people doing the trail. These were displayed at the Gala, as were the portraits of Westhill. There will be events organised throughout the summer, including the chalk drawing on the pavements at the Shopping Centre. – <i>Kate Lumsden</i></p>	
<p>15</p>	<p>Correspondence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rerouting of A96 – 'Save Bennachie' group – We received an email through the website from the Save Bennachie group, where the proposed rerouting of the A96 will be a lot closer to Bennachie. The group are looking to build an 'alliance' of community and interest groups to raise awareness of the potential impact. Due to our agenda for July being filled, followed by a break in August, we do not have a time slot available, however we will respond that we would appreciate some more information digitally that we can then circulate and publicise online. • Event for the year of Young People 2018 – This is a funding opportunity circulated to us through Leslie Murison, highlighting the option for grants available to run an event. 	<p style="text-align: center;">Becky Ferguson</p>

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	GENERAL FUNDS	ADVERTISING PRE-PAID FOR REMAINING 2017 ISSUES	MAKING IT REAL FUND	LITTER CAMPAIGN FUND	TOTAL
FUNDS IN BANK AT 11/5/17	21264.85	15869.00	3972.62	763.21	41869.68
<u>Receipts in period 12/5/17 to 8/6/17</u>					
Bulletin advertisers-Summer issue	495.00				495.00
Transfer of summer pre-paid adverts to General Funds	5453.00	-5453.00			
<u>Payments in period 12/5/17 to 8/6/17</u>					
Donations to Community Groups (see list in May minutes)	-1900.00				-1900.00
M. Barr - items for Gala day 2016	-40.38				-40.38
Sundry admin Expenses	-32.85				-32.85
XIC- Bulletin summer issue printing	-6077.50				-6077.50
Summer Bulletin honorariums	-400.00				-400.00
Bulletin sundries & postages	-101.93				-101.93
Blachere Illumination - Xmas lights repairs	-1374.51				-1374.51
Aberdeenshire Council -Old School House hires for Art Project	-11.17				-11.17
Meetings room hires Feb to June	-160.00				-160.00
Payment to Fara West for photographing our events and making up new banner	-100.00				-100.00
Ray Swaffield- reimburse refuse bags for litter-picks				-11.97	-11.97
Hanging baskets sundries	-146.74				-146.74
Eyecandy Graphics- re-skinning pull-up banner	-66.00				-66.00
FUNDS IN BANK AT 8/6/17	16801.77	10416.00	3972.62	751.24	31941.63
Funds in bank include £18,361.35 in Santander Business bond at 0.75% interest					