

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 13TH JULY 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	X
Alan Eastell	Member	X
Bill Loudon	Member	X
Raymond Swaffield	Member	✓
Kate Lumsden	Member	✓
Nara Morrison	Member	X
Heather Brock	Member	X
John Long	Member	✓
Dawn Anderson	Member	X
Heather Coull	Member	X
David Ewen	Associate Member	✓
Cllr David Aitchison	Ward 13 Councillor	X
Cllr Iris Walker	Ward 13 Councillor	✓
Cllr Ron McKail	Ward 13 Councillor	✓
Cllr Alistair McKelvie	Ward 13 Councillor	✓

Members of Public/Invited Guests		
Diane Priestley	Jenny McHugh	Freda Imrie
Aileen Swaffield		

	<u>Item</u>	<u>Action/ Attention</u>
1	<u>Chairperson's welcome and opening remarks</u> Audrey Findlay opened the meeting, welcoming everyone to tonight's meeting.	
2	<u>Apologies</u> Cllr David Aitchison, Heather Brock, Dawn Anderson, Mervyn Barr, Bill Loudon, Nara Morrison	
3	<u>Review and Approval of the Draft Minutes of Meeting 08/06/17</u> Proposed: Raymond Swaffield Seconded: John Long The minutes were approved by the meeting.	
4	<u>Matters Arising</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prospect Road burger van – Cllr Walker reported that the license holder had been unwell, and the family are making arrangements for it to be removed as it is not operational. Anyone wanting to report similar things can be done online – we will publicise this availability. • Water hydrant on Westhill Drive – Scottish Water have confirmed that the AWPR joint venture has a license to draw water until March 3rd 2018. Further investigations will continue to investigate if there is any connection to the other water concerns in the area. We could invite a representative from the AWPR team to our AGM to raise any concerns, such as the safety issues with vehicles that have been publicised recently. • Wellgrove Crescent speed limit – Roads have responded that the design of the street should naturally produce speed calming measures. The 	

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	<p>shrubs will be cut back, however they do not propose any further action. Any speed issues or misuse of parking would be a police issue, and people should be encouraged to report it. Cllr McKail will investigate if the potential of a 20mph limit, or signage such as 'children playing' could be implemented.</p>	
5	<p><u>Police Report</u> No police report has been received. However, Becky did receive a phone call this afternoon from a Police Sergeant in Inverurie with regards to the Echt Show and reports in the press. He wanted to reassure us, and anyone concerned that the event was very well organised and unfortunately it was the behaviour of a small number of individuals which ruined this at the end of the evening.</p>	
6	<p><u>Update on Gateway Art Project</u> Audrey & Kate compiled the Artists Brief & sent this on to Sheila Waterhouse. Sheila did not have the opportunity to look at this before her holiday, however has now passed it on to Marie Archer, the Arts Development Officer from Stonehaven, who has offered to meet and discuss. Unfortunately Becky will be away next week so will be unable to join the meeting, and it is unknown if Mervyn will be available. Kate & Audrey will therefore plan to meet with Marie, and hopefully take her to the site. Some monies have now been secured, however there may be other options to apply for in the next financial year. Further help is needed in the group, which will be advertised in the next bulletin.</p>	
7	<p><u>Update on Kingsford Stadium Proposal</u> We submitted our response to the additional information requested by Aberdeen City Council on July 6th. There has been no date publicly fixed for the pre-determination hearing. September 7th has been rumoured. This is an opportunity for anyone who has submitted representations to present their information again, where councillors have the chance to ask questions. Planners, and others with expertise will also be present. It is believed that the proposal will go to full council on October 11th. If the pre-determination hearing is September 7th, Audrey asked the members present if they would be happy for herself and Becky to attend on behalf of WECC. This was agreed by those present. John Long raised concerns over the fact that Audrey & Becky will be standing down later this year, and therefore different faces may be present in October. Continuity is important. It was proposed that it be agreed that Audrey & Becky be co-opted on again until the full council meeting in October. Cllr McKelvie also added that whoever is presenting must also be able to field the questions presented to them also. Therefore it is important that whoever presents has the knowledge of this process. Potentially we will hold a short evening meeting in late August/early September to discuss what to present at the pre-determination hearing.</p>	
8	<p><u>Planning Watch</u> John Long circulated his document outlining his notes on one application which he had noted concern with. This is APP/2017/11594 – Pitcairn Lodge, Skene. This application comes under the boundary of Echt & Skene CC however we would also be able to comment as an individual if we so wished. John's concerns were noted by our councillors and will be followed up. John asked what the rules regarding planning permission for temporary signs such as the 'To Let' sign which has appeared at the entrance to Westhill. The councillors confirmed that planning permissions should have been sought, however sometimes they do apply for retrospective permission.</p>	

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	<p>Although Cllr McKail is investigating this issue separately, an option residents may want to consider to replace the street signs which Aberdeenshire Council took away are wheelie bin speed-reduction stickers. Link below to website – http://www.mywheeliebin.com/speed-kills-please-slow-down-speed-reduction-wheelie-bin-stickers.html</p> <p>It was suggested that some of these stickers be bought for residents of Wellgrove Crescent as a trial run, in an attempt to make a difference to concerns raised by residents.</p> <p>Landscaping at Westhill Shopping Centre After further complaints about dying/dead shrubs/trees at the shopping centre and the owners not being willing to increase the landscape budget, this has now been resolved after a reminder that a condition attached to the planning permission for the extension in February 2013 stated that any damaged, dead or diseased plants within five years to be replaced with same or similar. Marc Mills has now confirmed an increased budget for this remedial work.</p> <p>Participatory Budgeting (PB) Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care partnership secured funding to support the roll-out of PB across all six of Aberdeenshire's Areas. The Garioch Area had been allocated £25,000 for supporting activities to improve health and mental wellbeing, to be distributed through a PB process. Groups were encouraged to apply for grants to support their activities and this was promoted through the summer fairs and galas in a number of Garioch communities, including Westhill Gala. The final allocation of funds was done through a vote with all those who applied involved, along with a range of individuals from Garioch communities. The successful groups were presented with their awards at an event at The Fly Cup in Inverurie a few weeks ago. SensationALL and the Westhill Men Shed were successful in being awarded funding.</p> <p>Places, people and planning Scottish Government have now issued a Position Statement following the last round of consultation on review of the planning system which closed in April 2017. This statement describes the key changes that Scottish Ministers are now considering taking forward through the forthcoming Planning Bill. Further responses on this Position Statement is open until 11th August 2017. Papers can be accessed here: http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2017/06/1061/0</p> <p>Head Teachers New Head Teachers have now been appointed to Westhill Academy, Westhill Primary and Elrick Primary.</p> <p>Changes to mini-recycling points Changes will take effect from end July. The mini recycling points will now only be for glass and textiles. All other materials can already be accepted in blue lidded household bins, including cardboard which will no longer be accepted at the mini points. There has been a notable reduction in the amount of materials being taken to the mini recycling points since the current kerbside collections were introduced in 2015 and this change is expected to allow the council to reduce its fleet by seven vehicles with a saving of approximately £400,000.</p> <p><u>Cllr Alistair Mckelvie:</u> AWPR – I attended the recent update meeting held in the Townhouse, on 14th June, where Agents & Contractors gave an update on progress to date. Having previously intimated of lengthy delays due to the previous winter weather, the group were able to advise that much of the lost time has been recovered, due to this years mild winter, which afforded the movement of c2m tonnes of earth around the whole project.</p>	
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	<p>There is no intention to open sections separately, at this stage, but it is anticipated that the AWPR will open in winter 2017/18, & I assume that means Jan-Mar 18. I questioned the Core Cycle pathway access for pedestrians & cyclists, given that the North side has 4 exits or entries. Agents advised that only 2 of these will have traffic controls, I.E. local roads will have to be crossed with extreme care, particularly during peak traffic. I also queried the single lane access on to slip roads, from the A944. It appears that the original modal, used to calculate the traffic levels was not updated after approval, so additional traffic now expected as a result of major developments will now have to be assessed once the trunk road has been in use for a while (not quantified).</p> <p>Pitcairn Lodge (Kirkton Mews, off A944) – Accompanied by Cllr McKail, I attended the Lodge’s Open Day, on 16th June, where Manager Moira Taylor was able to demonstrate the standards of care, staff commitment, & Management of this facility. The owners & providers of this Dementia Care Centre, are Embrace Ltd, & they welcome visitors to call in & see its facilities. In February of this year, the Care Inspectorate, awarded the Lodge its top score, with no recommendations required for improvement. Confirmation indeed of the splendid work carried out on our behalf, to look after some of our most vulnerable residents.</p> <p>On 22nd June, Cllr McKail & I attended the official opening ceremony of the Hampton by Hilton Hotel. It was a busy affair, with attendees from local business, & commerce. We were entertained with barbecue food, pipe bands & speeches galore, which included developers & venture capital investors. Interesting that the Manager Mike Johnstone, host for the evening, is returning to his roots, a local man raised on the land at Maidencraig, Lang Stracht. I spoke with him & encouraged his comments on getting involved with the communities around him. He was aware of the developer agents (Robertson) being involvement over the Christmas period last year. The Hampton Brand is aimed at business, travellers, & tourist guests, with continental breakfast offered as well as pizza & burger lunch or evening meals.</p>	
12	<p><u>Website Report & Communications Group</u></p> <p>We’re still on course for most successful year in terms of traffic -- app 20,000+ views, 10,000+ viewers to date in 2017 (compared to 32,000 and 13,000 last year). As stadium plans discussed, and bypass moves towards opening, community will look to us for info, so scope for attracting new visitors. We now have 815 Facebook likes. – <i>David Ewen</i></p> <p>One of the topics which draws attention is that of Road Closures, however we have been receiving them quite late, and often half way through the closures. We will write to Roads and request getting these notices earlier.</p>	Becky Ferguson
13	<p><u>Treasurer’s Report and Bulletin Updates</u></p> <p><u>Treasurer’s Report:</u></p> <p>I will be preparing the annual accounts soon.</p> <p>At the AGM in September I would like to propose that two ring-fenced amounts we have been holding for many years be donated to SensationALL towards their Old School refurbishment project. The 2 amounts are £1582 that was remaining from the Making It Real Project over 10 years ago, and £2390 that was a grant and a donation to a Community Resource study which we never progressed. That makes a total of £3972 which we would round up to £4000. – <i>David Ritchie</i></p> <p><u>Bulletin Report:</u></p> <p>Deadline for autumn issue is Friday 28th July, but 1st August will be fine for Councillors and Office bearers reports.</p> <p>This issue will include a WECC membership nomination form as we are due to hold an ‘Election’ in October.</p> <p>Cllr McKail has requested that a Council leaflet be distributed with this issue to promote recycling of household waste, especially food waste. – <i>David Ritchie</i></p>	

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14	<p><u>Sub-group Reports</u></p> <p><u>Litter:</u> Our June Litter Pick took place as planned. A small group of volunteers covered a good area and collected the usual amount of litter. Our next Litter Pick will take place on 15th July. - <i>Aileen & Raymond Swaffield</i></p> <p><u>Bulbs & Baskets:</u> The baskets are looking great, with many thanks to John Imrie for his hard work co-ordinating them.</p> <p><u>Art Project:</u> Rosemary and Hazel have both retired, leaving the Art Project down to only two members, and needing more people to come on board. There is too much work for two people to co-ordinate.</p>	
15	<p><u>Correspondence</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As noted above under Cllr McKails report, we received an email regarding the A2B Service, and the changes which will be implemented. This has been circulated around members. • Audrey received a paper copy of the AGM report from the Scouts. We will send an email to thank them for this report. • There is a Community Council training day on September 30th at Woodhill House. This will cover sessions on Place Standard, Participatory Requests and also a session with the Chief Executive. 	Secretary
16	<p><u>AOCB</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John Long is interested in becoming our representative on the Garioch Partnership, and Audrey will pass on his details for further information • Mervyn raised a question regarding if there was any appetite to lobby the new Hampton by Hilton to change the exterior cladding, stating that it did not fit in with the local surroundings. This was discussed and concluded that the time to comment was throughout the planning process. • Audrey & Becky recently met with Anne Dewar & Keith Pope from RBS along with Fiona Bick from Echt & Skene CC. The notes from this meeting were circulated. There are still a number of unanswered questions, however we hope to stay in close communication throughout the process. • Kate raised concerns over the bus timings, and the journey taking 1 hour and 20 minutes to get to Union Street from Westhill. A number of other concerns have been raised recently. We hope to remain in communication with Graeme Leslie from Stagecoach, and will invite him back perhaps in the Autumn time. 	Audrey Findlay
	<p><u>Date of next meeting</u> Thursday 14th September 2017, following AGM, Holiday Inn, Westhill Drive.</p>	

Becky Ferguson
Secretary

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	GENERAL FUNDS	ADVERTISING PRE-PAID FOR AUTUMN & WINTER 2017 ISSUES	MAKING IT REAL FUND	LITTER CAMPAIGN FUND	TOTAL
FUNDS IN BANK AT 8/6/17	16801.77	10416.00	3972.62	751.24	31941.63
<u>Receipts in period 9/6/17 to 13/7/17</u>					
Bulletin advertisers-Summer issue	3091.00				3091.00
Bank interest	2.87				2.87
Scaffold tower hires	45.00				45.00
<u>Payments in period 9/6/17 to 13/7/17</u>					
Honorarium to website manager for 2Q 2017	-225.00				-225.00
Honorarium to secretary for 2Q 2017	-300.00				-300.00
FUNDS IN BANK AT 13/7/17	19415.64	10416.00	3972.62	751.24	34555.50
Funds in bank include £18,361.35 in Santander Business bond at 0.75% interest					