



Westhill & Elrick
Community Council

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 9TH APRIL 2015 IN THE HOLIDAY INN, WESTHILL

Community Council		
Name	Position	Present
Mervyn Barr	Chairperson	✓
Audrey Findlay	Deputy Chairperson	✓
John Imrie	Secretary	✓
David Ritchie	Treasurer	✓
Becky Ferguson	Minutes Secretary	✓
Rosemary Murray	Member	✓
Bill Loudon	Member	✓
Raymond Swaffield	Member	X
Ken Seward	Member	✓
Dave Fisher	Member	✓
David Ewen	Member	✓
Alan Eastell	Member	✓
Andy Duggan	Member	X
Steven Strachan	Member	X
Kieran Rorie	Member	✓
Stuart Kane	Member	X
Bill King	Member	X
Cllr David Aitchison	Ward 13 Councillor	X
Cllr Amanda Allan	Ward 13 Councillor	X
Cllr Ron McKail	Ward 13 Councillor	✓
Cllr Iris Walker	Ward 13 Councillor	✓

Members of Public/Invited Guests		
Eddy Loudon	Christian Allard MSP	

	<u>Item</u>	Action/ Attention
1	<u>Chairperson's welcome and opening remarks</u> Mervyn Barr opened the meeting, welcoming everyone to the meeting.	
2	<u>Apologies</u> Raymond Swaffield, Stuart Kane, Steve Strachan, Cllr Aitchison & Cllr Allan	
3	<u>Review and Approval of the Draft Minutes of Meeting 12/03/2015</u> Proposed: Kieran Rorie Seconded: Ken Seward The minutes were approved by the meeting.	
4	<u>Matters Arising</u> Location of 6 mile turnpike stone – The agreed new location is on the south side of the A944/B9119 junction proposed by Bert McIntosh and agreed by Aberdeen City Council Storage container and location – Still ongoing. AC customer satisfaction 'survey of services' – Updated as per March meeting and sent to Aberdeenshire Council. Dealing with Urban Gulls – Councillor Iris Walker is arranging to provide copies of the leaflets (Living with Urban Gulls) to circulate around the areas that have previously had problems with gulls. Ongoing. Westhill Gala date and booking – under item 13. Meeting with MJ Mapp – postponed until next week.	Cllr Walker

	Green Dog Walker strategy/flyer – under item 15. Westhill Service Point relocation to library – This has been delayed. It will remain at the Police Station until further notice.	
5	<p>Police Report</p> <p>The Police Report was read out as no Police Scotland representatives were present. It will be attached as a PDF to the MOM.</p> <p>A number of concerns were raised from members that there seems to be an increase in the number of crimes, although these are due to individuals coming into Westhill from other areas. The issue of unlocked cars or house doors is also a continuing issue and must be highlighted regularly.</p> <p>Councillors have been consulted on the Local Policing Plan. Cllr Walker stated that it was felt that there was a lack of police presence within the area and WECC agree. The Local Policing Plan will be circulated when it is finalised.</p>	
6	<p>Time slot for residents questions and comments</p> <p>Eddy Loudon, a local resident, raised concerns over the signage used in the disabled parking bays within the shopping centre. When the signs are painted on the ground, they are often ignored. They need to be at eye height and very visible, so that all users of the car park are aware of the spaces which are designated for vehicles driven by or carrying disabled people. Mrs Loudon requested that WECC and the local Councillors join together to help resolve the issue with the signage. As the shopping centre is privately owned, the issue of the signage has to be taken up with the owners. It is their responsibility to ensure that these parking spaces are suitably signed. The Secretary will email the owners and their representatives about this and inform them of these concerns, requesting further appropriate signage.</p>	<p>WECC/ Councillors</p> <p>John Imrie</p>
7	<p>Planning updates</p> <p>APP/2015/0552 & APP/2015/0556 – These 2 applications are for the proposed offices and hotel at the old block works in Elrick. Members were provided with an update from the Secretary on 16th March and a number of the members have responded positively. There are public comments from 2 people for both applications regarding traffic management and pedestrian safety. One of the sets of comments runs to 16 pages for both applications and has not been read in detail by WECC. It is proposed that WECC send a comment that we have no objection to the development, but would like to ensure that the expected increased traffic flow through Elrick and pedestrian safety crossing Straik road is considered,. We can also add that the redevelopment gets rid of the eyesore that was the old block works.</p> <p>WECC are pleased that the consultation process that the developers have undertaken with both WECC and the local residents has been good with detailed explanation of their proposals and drawings.</p> <p>Alan Eastell commented that currently it is dangerous for the traffic exiting the petrol station and turning right and this is going to be added to with another opening. The suggestion of having a 'turn left only' rule and drivers being forced to go up to the roundabout to turn around was raised. Councillor Ron McKail also suggested that a Pelican crossing could be installed on Straik Road adjacent to the petrol station.</p> <p>APP/2015/0759 – This is the 2nd application for a new dwelling house on ground behind 3 & 5 Cairnie View. Members were provided with information from the Secretary on 18th March. A previous application for this house was refused on a number of issues, including drainage, being partially located out-with the town boundary, and breaking the skyline. WECC will object to this application on the same grounds as before as the only change has been related to the drainage issue.</p> <p>APP/2014/1065 (landscaping only) – Previous discussions resulted in four main points to be addressed. These are the softening of the outline of the four buildings that will be built adjacent to the A944, the prospect of the continuation of landscaping from the Rotary Stone to the B9119 / A944 junction, the need to determine what is to be built on west side of Brodiach burn, and the possibility of a piece of Artwork. This led to discussions with both Knight Property Group and Bert McIntosh, with the conclusion that landscaping will definitely be used to soften the impact. However the continuation of landscaping is uncertain as there are</p>	

	<p>services under the first 2 to 5 metres of the southern verge of the A944 which may restrict tree and shrubbery planting. Both parties have offered some funding towards a piece of Artwork which is yet to be decided.</p> <p>Sections of the Arnhall Ph3 site are being developed at different times and by different developers, and this does mean that the continuation of landscaping along the A944 border of the whole site may be difficult.</p> <p>Bill Loudon raised his concern that many of the bulbs which were previously planted in this area have either been uplifted or covered. Many people and groups were involved in this planting, which was also quite costly. The developers may not be aware of this. However we must raise it formally with them, to ensure that they are going to reinstate it to how it was originally. If there are issues with planting trees over the services, then we could ask for multi season plants and flowers to be planted.</p> <p>This could be a good story to publicise, as many individuals have questioned what is going on with the planting.</p> <p>The Secretary will write to Knights and Bert McIntosh to express these views, and request the reinstatement of the plants.</p>	John Imrie
8	<p><u>Presentation – Westhill Business Network survey results</u></p> <p>John Imrie presented the results of this survey, which was conducted to find out the views of both business employees and residents have regarding Westhill. About 250 residents and 500 employees within the business park completed the survey. A number of figures were very interesting, with views on community engagement, housing, restaurant facilities, roads/infrastructure and public transport, amongst others.</p> <p>The presentation will be circulated to all WECC members once it is released in the next couple of weeks.</p>	John Imrie
9	<p><u>Ward 13 Councillors Reports/Updates</u></p> <p>Councillor Iris Walker – Old School & Old Schoolhouse (OSH) – the asbestos report has been received from the council so SensationALL can begin work on their business plan. There has been some difficulty in engaging other OSH user groups, therefore an open meeting will be held sometime in early May (date to be confirmed) for anyone interested to hear about their plans and perhaps be part of a steering group.</p> <p>The Westhill Wheelers are now struggling with numbers, and are trying to get new members. Last year, a walk around Westhill with Doug Milne occurred, with the preferred site for a wheelers facility being at the top of Denman Park. Cllr Walker will request the group to provide a documented proposal for the community council to provide a view on the proposed location.</p> <p>They will also be hosting their AGM soon, at which it would be great for a WECC member to attend. I have asked the group to add the WECC chairperson and secretary to the invitation list once a date for the AGM is set.</p>	
10	<p><u>Website Strategy Group Report</u></p> <p>Unfortunately, since the last meeting Bill King has tendered his resignation from the webmaster role. We are very grateful for all that he has done for WECC over the past years, especially in the development of the website into what it is today. This also means we will also lose the Facebook page, and will have to start afresh. A new website is being developed, and will go live after our next A/R session. David Ewen and Kieran Rorie were thanked for all the hard work that they have put into the new website / Facebook page in such a short space of time. Mervyn Barr will write to Bill to thank him for his contribution to WECC.</p>	
11	<p><u>Treasurer's Report & Bulletin Update</u></p> <p><u>Treasurer</u> The next bi-annual round of donation requests will be reviewed early May. There have only been a few requests received since November 2014. The main one is from Westhill and District Community Sports Hub.</p> <p><u>Bulletin</u> Deadline for Summer issue is Monday 27th April. It will be ready for distribution on Friday 22nd May. It will include the Gala week programme. A page of main planning applications could also be a good addition to the Bulletin. Discussion followed, where it was concluded that as the bulletin was quarterly, this would be difficult to keep up to date. Instead, we could link people to the website to find the</p>	

	<p>up to date details. Kieran also raised the suggestion of displaying planning applications at the Service Point/Library. Mervyn will be visiting them this week so will ask when there. David also visited the flats at Broadshade, where he found a pile of undelivered Bulletins. He will contact the individual who delivers in that area to resolve the issue. Flats in Mackie Place were also visited, and although there were no undelivered Bulletins, he will still contact the individual who delivers them here.</p>	Mervyn Barr
12	<p><u>Sub-group Reports</u> <u>Litter</u> – Our Litter Pick on 21st March was very well attended and we collected a record amount of Litter. Our request to Aberdeenshire Council for a second skip to be left adjacent to the Shepherds Rest was carried out after a hastening by Alison Cumming. It was well worthwhile, as we filled the skip and will make a similar request for the next pick, as there are still considerable amounts of litter around the A944 area. Next Organised Litter Pick is Saturday April 18th at 10:00 am. <i>Aileen & Raymond Swaffield - 01224 740669 - swaffies@talktalk.net</i> <u>Bulbs & Baskets</u> – I sent Russell Gray of the Rotary Club an email providing all the information regarding the hanging baskets. I will be meeting with Rotary members in the next couple of weeks or so to find out their response. - <i>John Imrie</i> <u>Art Project</u> - The Westhill Art Project group of volunteers are pleased with the community support for the Easter egg decorations at the shopping centre. More than 600 decorations were made. A Scarecrow Trail has been accepted by the Gala committee as part of the Gala programme since it was so successful in 2014. Different format - one day only - Sunday 31st May 2015. Workshop being held on 9th May in the Old School - free and open to all. Publicity in hand. Route being planned and route map will be prepared. Some photocopying required from WECC but otherwise little expense involved. However, we need some more bunting for Gala week. For 2014, the community made one mile of cloth bunting (2,000 pennants). It is stored in my loft. Some of it is spoiled. Can the WECC afford to purchase 100 metres of commercial style bunting to supplement our supply? I cannot ask people to make bunting again this year - too soon after Christmas decorations and Easter egg shapes. We can get a good deal through personal contact with the local company Sign Designs / BusyBees. Please advise. - <i>Rosemary Murray (WAP team leader)</i></p>	Agreed
13	<p><u>WECC Events</u> <u>Westhill Gala</u> – The secretary has applied for a stall at the Gala for WECC and the Art Project. We have requested a stall in a more prominent location to ensure that we can be more visible. Rosemary will contact David & Kieran to advertise workshops, etc, in the run up to Gala week.</p>	
14	<p><u>Approval of Political Neutrality & Website/Facebook protocol</u> Kieran expressed his opinion that the Content section of the Protocol for Website/Facebook does not cover everything that we do and want to do. David Ritchie also agreed with this, stating that the aim should probably be to express what we don't want to do rather than what we do. Kieran will contact the Secretary with the added content, and it will be updated at the meeting on May 14th. The Political Neutrality protocol document was approved without any amendments.</p>	Kieran Rorie
15	<p><u>Green Dog Walking update</u> Staff in the Service Point (which will be located in the Library) will be trained in the Green Dog Walking scheme, where materials will be available on request. These will have to be stocked up either by ourselves or by Aberdeenshire Council. A flyer will be produced, explaining the dangers of dog mess. This can then be circulated with the Citizen, and inform people where they can get their materials. The possibility of involving local schools in creating posters for this was also suggested. Councillor Iris Walker also suggested contacting the local Town and County veterinary practice, to ask them if they will be a contact point for the scheme. Mervyn Barr will do this.</p>	Mervyn Barr Mervyn Barr

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR WECC MEETING 9/4/15					
	GENERAL FUNDS	ADVERTISING PRE-PAID FOR REMAINDER OF 2015	MAKING IT REAL FUND	LITTER CAMPAIGN FUND	TOTAL
FUNDS IN BANK AT 12/3/15	18051.36	13890.00	3972.62	1180.49	37094.47
Receipts in period 13/3/15 to 9/4/15					
Bulletin advertisers-spring issue	2390.00				2390.00
Bank Interest	1.23				1.23
Payments in period 13/3/15 to 9/4/15					
David Ewen- reimburse WordPress web site cost	-85.00				-85.00
Rosemary Murray- reimburse meeting refreshments & Easter Art project	-40.44				-40.44
FUNDS IN BANK AT 9/4/15	20317.15	13890.00	3972.62	1180.49	39360.26
Funds in bank include £18,000 in Santander Business bond at 1.1% interest					

The logo for Police Scotland, featuring the word "POLICE" in large, bold, white capital letters above the word "SCOTLAND" in a smaller, light blue, sans-serif font. The text is set against a dark blue rectangular background.

POLICE
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WESTHILL & ELRICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MEETING ON**

9TH APRIL 2015

1. LOCAL INTEREST INFORMATION

The following are reported crimes in the Westhill area from 9th of March 2015 until the 6th of April 2015.

There were three reports of vandalism in the Westhill area within the last month, 2 of the incidents included broken padlocks one on private property and the other at a Local Leisure Centre, both incidents did not result in further damage or theft. The other incident involved damage to private housing fence. All enquires are currently ongoing to detect any suspects.

The evening of 22nd March 2015 a male was charged with possession of a class B drug, this report has been passed to the Procurator Fiscal.

On 17 March there was an incident reported for careless driving on the B9119, which involved a car passing a cyclist at a dangerously close distance. This incident currently under investigation.

There are currently 4 investigations involving sexual offences that have occurred between the 18th - 28 March.

One person has been charged and report put to the Procurator Fiscal, whilst the other three cases are still being investigated.

There are currently two incidents with ongoing enquiries of theft within the Westhill area from 17th - 25th March. One of housebreaking on existing new builds currently under construction and the other a shoplifting at Tesco.

A sequence of events which occurred on the night of 18th March involved the theft of a motor vehicle and subsequently theft of belongings within another vehicle in the Cairnie area of Elrick. This enquiry is still ongoing.

In relation to operation Ruby, two persons have been charged in relation to car thefts in the area. These incidents happened on the 25th and 27th March.

Police were alerted to a group of youths trying car doors in Kinmundy Drive, Westhill. On their arrival, the youths were caught and reported to the Procurator Fiscal. Three outstanding stolen vehicles were recovered from this location.

It appears to be the same old story of the youths entering houses through unlocked front doors during the evening and stealing car keys within.

In relation to the speed sign, we now have this piece of equipment available and will be arranging initiatives for its use.

The results of which will be provided at a future date.

2. FEEDBACK ON POLICE ACTIONS IN RESPONSE TO MATTERS RAISED AT THE PREVIOUS MEETING

N/A

3. DETAILS OF ACTIONS IN RESPONSE TO MATTERS RAISED AT THE PREVIOUS MEETING

N/A

4. ONGOING LOCAL / FORCE-WIDE ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

It has been highlighted above the importance to keep property and motor vehicles secure to reduce the likelihood of theft in the Westhill area.

It is also important to keep the police informed in any information you believe to be relevant in accordance to any criminal activity or behaviours you feel are suspicious.

With compliments

Lindsay Edwards

Sergeant 9319

Police Scotland

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