



Westhill & Elrick
Community Council

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 11TH JUNE 2015 IN THE HOLIDAY INN, WESTHILL

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

Members of Public/Invited Guests		
Peter Davidson	Norman Smith	Gary Scott (MoD Police)
Aileen Swaffield	Heather Cook	

	<u>Item</u>	Action/ Attention
1	<p><u>Chairperson's welcome and opening remarks</u> Due to Audrey Findlay's absence and the expected late arrival of Mervyn Barr, John Imrie opened the meeting and asked the members to confirm that he was acceptable as Chairperson until Mervyn arrived. Members confirmed that John was acceptable. Members, residents and guests were welcomed.</p>	
2	<p><u>Apologies</u> Alan Eastell, Dave Fisher, Audrey Findlay, Cllr Ron McKail</p>	
3	<p><u>Review and Approval of the Draft Minutes of Meeting 14/05/2015</u> Proposed: Bill Loudon Seconded: Ken Seward The minutes were approved by the meeting.</p>	
4	<p><u>Matters Arising</u> Storage container and location – Andy had located two smaller containers, 6 x 8 x 7 feet, but these will need to be delivered at WECC cost. John Imrie advised that WECC can store WECC property (baskets, tubs, Xmas lights, etc) at Broomfold where the hanging baskets were filled. This is the farm of Grant Williamson of Westhill Rotary Club. John Imrie and David Ritchie will confirm that Broomfold is suitable, and the containers are not required. <u>Meeting with MJ Mapp re Shopping Centre</u> – Patricia Beegan had advised that she would send an update on 22nd May following the previous meeting with her, but</p>	John Imrie, David Ritchie

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	<p>there so far has been no response. She did advise that the toilets are leased to Aberdeenshire Council, and it is their responsibility to maintain them. John Imrie will contact the Council to pass on our concern. As far as new notice boards are concerned, the Secretary has written to Westhill Mens Shed, and they have advised that they are happy to help. Confirmation regarding the proposed art feature is still to come.</p> <p><u>Zebra Crossings</u> - The 2 crossings on Westhill Drive were repainted in the last year. The crossing on Old Skene Road between the Shopping Centre and the Denman Park has been lengthened on the Denman Park side with a new traffic island installed in the middle. The side adjacent to the park has been repainted.</p> <p><u>Garioch Bus Forum</u> - Communication with Stagecoach - Cllr Walker has been in discussion with Stagecoach and a meeting is to be arranged which will include representatives from WECC.</p> <p><u>Website and Facebook Protocol update</u> – Under item 13</p> <p><u>Succession Planning/Update on the A/R session</u> – Office bearers to meet and discuss – still to take place.</p> <p><u>Use of the Holiday Inn for meetings</u> - The Secretary has advised Bill Burnett that WECC will make a monetary contribution for the use of the meeting room for our monthly meetings. Details to be finalised but expected to be £20 per meeting. The payment for 2015 up to the AGM for the meetings in April, May, June, and August, will be paid at the same time as the fee for the AGM in September.</p>	<p>John Imrie</p> <p>Office bearers</p>
5	<p><u>Police Report</u></p> <p>The report was circulated prior to the meeting, and taken as read. Gary Scott (MoD Police) asked about the manning of the police station, and if there was anyone there on a regular basis. As far as WECC are aware, there are some police officers based at the Westhill police station but these are not the Garioch Area team who are normally based at Inverurie. However, they do use the Westhill police station as their base when they are in the area. Once again, there was a reminder to keep all doors, garages and cars locked at all times, as opportunist theft is a continuing problem.</p>	
6	<p><u>Time slot for residents questions and comments</u></p> <p>There were no questions or comments.</p>	
7	<p><u>Presentation by WDCSLH</u></p> <p>Grant Coull gave a presentation regarding the Westhill & District Community Sports and Leisure Hub. Sports Hubs are a Scottish Government initiative, started after the Commonwealth Games. The idea is for every community to set up a Hub and promote sports within their areas. The Hub consists of a number of parents, and representatives from many groups, facilities, clubs and teams around the area along with local councillors and Aberdeenshire Council. Tim Baillie is the ambassador for the Westhill Hub.</p> <p>The Hub has been established for around a year, and has now obtained Sports Scotland Hub status. An action plan has been written, a bank account set up and a Facebook page created. The Gala was an unofficial launch within the community, where many engaged with their stall and events. The next meeting will be held on June 16th, 7pm in the Westhill Academy staff room.</p> <p>David Ewen asked if there were any plans for holding a 5 or 10k run around Westhill. Grant replied that this is something which they would like to hold, and they are investigating how to facilitate this.</p> <p>John Imrie thanked Grant for his presentation, and congratulated the Hub for the excellent work that they have done so far.</p> <p>It was also proposed that we contact Grant and offer the group a post on our website. David Ewen will do this.</p>	<p>David Ewen</p>
8	<p><u>Ward 13 Councillors' Reports/Updates</u></p> <p>Cllr Iris Walker reminded us of the Westhill Wheelers AGM on Wednesday 17th June at 7pm in the Westhill Community Centre.</p>	

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	<p>A number of individuals also made contact to complain about the fence on the south side of the lane running behind the Academy to the Ashdale Hall near the Mens Shed as it has been damaged for a long period of time. This is a safety issue for children running off the path into the adjacent parking area. There are also sections of the fence leaning into the lane with nails sticking out of some of the posts. The secretary will ask AC to resolve the issue.</p> <p>Becky asked the Councillors about the speed limit around the area of the new Westhill Community Church building, as the entrance opens out onto a national speed limit road (60mph). The 30mph limit starts just before the Broadshade roundabout. Cllr Iris Walker will follow this up.</p> <p>There were no reports from the other councillors.</p>	<p>John Imrie</p> <p>Cllr Iris Walker</p>
9	<p><u>Website Strategy Group Report</u></p> <p>The new website is up and running, and gaining momentum along with Facebook. We are going to continue advertising, aiming to spread the word about WECC, and provide helpful information for local residents.</p>	
10	<p><u>Treasurer's Report & Bulletin Update (matters arising from)</u></p> <p><u>Treasurer's Report:</u></p> <p>The financial year-end for WECC is 30th June. If members have any expenses to claim could they please send them to the Treasurer as soon as possible.</p> <p><i>David Ritchie</i></p> <p><u>Bulletin Report:</u></p> <p>The summer issue was delivered by printer one day earlier than expected which helped to ensure that the majority of residents got their copy by Sunday 24th May. Deadline for the Autumn issue is 27th July.</p> <p>Re the issue reported a few months ago of copies being left in lobbies of flats instead of put through doors, the person who does the Mackie Way flats assured me he does put them through doors and is annoyed that the church magazines are not being put through doors there. Re the Broadshade Road flats, I am aware they were not put through doors at Spring. I haven't spoken to the deliverer about it yet as she was away for the summer issue, but I did the deliveries there this time</p> <p><i>David Ritchie</i></p>	
11	<p><u>Sub-group Reports (matters arising from)</u></p> <p><u>Litter Report:</u></p> <p>The Litter Pick on 16th May was managed by Rosemary Murray in our absence. She reported a small turnout but a productive pick.</p> <p>Abercrombie Eco Club, 1st Westhill Rainbows, Denman Playgroup and 1st Westhill Guides all borrowed our kit to carry out Litter Picks as they have done one with us previously. We also organised the Westhill Kier Scouts on a litter Pick, all with great success.</p> <p>Next Organised Litter Pick is on Saturday June 20th.</p> <p>The box of sweets offered at the end of picks has proved very popular and we propose to replace it as it is nearly empty.</p> <p>Discussion followed this report – surrounding the problems that we have in the area and comparing to others. It was concluded that we do have a litter problem, but probably no worse than in other areas. Dog fouling is also a problem in the area, as expressed by many individuals at the Westhill Gala.</p> <p><i>Aileen & Raymond Swaffield - 01224 740669 - swaffies@talktalk.net</i></p> <p><u>Bulbs and Baskets:</u></p> <p>All baskets and tubs were cleaned, and about 20 of the hanging baskets and all 16 of the tubs had the old and damaged matting and wicking materials removed, and new matting and wicks fitted. This was carried out by myself and required about 12 hours work. The remainder of the baskets will need to have the matting and wicks replaced in the next year.</p> <p>The plants were delayed this year due to the May weather and were collected on Monday 8th June, and the baskets and tubs were planted up on the 9th June.</p>	

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	<p>They should be hung up over the weekend of 13th/14th June, or early the following week.</p> <p><i>John Imrie</i></p> <p><u>Art Project:</u></p> <p>Despite the poor weather on Sunday 31st May, the Scarecrow Trail with 50 entries was a great success. Planning is underway for Gala 2016.</p> <p>Gala Day - a big surprise - The WECC Scarecrows were chosen as BEST STALL IN GALA.</p> <p>Would the WECC consider producing a calendar for 2016? We could use scarecrow images - a reminder of this year - an inducement to participate in the next drive for Public Art - maintain the WECC profile. Every household needs at least one calendar. The WAP group will undertake to seek quotes for graphic design / print setting / printing / costing. Distribution would start in October - coincide with the notice in the Autumn bulletin. Please decide today, 11th June 2015, since this is time limited and we need to move on it. Discussion followed this proposal, in favour of the idea. Perhaps not just solely scarecrows, but a theme which can be marketed. This is a great opportunity to raise awareness of WECC, to raise some money for the Art Project and to remind the public of what has already been done in the area.</p> <p><i>Rosemary Murray (WAP team leader)</i></p>	Rosemary Murray WAP Group
12	<p><u>WECC Events</u></p> <p>Christmas Event – the question was raised whether we wish to repeat the event that we held last year. There was unanimous agreement from the members. Discussion followed regarding the format of the event, and the different components which make up the whole event.</p> <p>The proposed date is Saturday 13th December, 4.30 to 5pm.</p> <p>There is room for improvement, and we should contact Westhill Community Church regarding their contribution.</p> <p>There will be numerous roles to fulfil, and Rosemary will write out descriptions to circulate to all members. Roles will be delegated at the August meeting.</p>	
13	<p><u>Approval: 'Protocol – Use & Maintenance of WECC Website & Facebook page'</u></p> <p>The proposed changes will be made, and the document circulated to all members.</p>	Kieran Rorie
14	<p><u>Gala – Review</u></p> <p>Despite the weather problems and the damage to one of the gazebo supports, the day was very successful in advertising who we are, our website, the Art Project and the Green Dog Walking Campaign. Many people came past the stall to speak, admired the scarecrows, enjoyed a free Lindt chocolate thanks to Costco and left with free Green Doggy bags.</p> <p>One comment raised from the floor was regarding the primary school football tournaments, and the length of time it took for the preliminary rounds to be completed. This will be passed onto the Round Table / Rotary, as WECC do not organise the Gala.</p>	John Imrie
15	<p><u>Update on Art Feature</u></p> <p>This refers to the site at the 'Gateway to Westhill'. Mervyn, Rosemary, Audrey and John attended a meeting on May 25th to discuss the feature. A number of items need to be discussed before this can be taken forward. This includes potential sites in Westhill where it would be located and what we would like the art feature to represent. One location is the north east corner of Westhill Drive and the A944, which is also close to the entrance and could be classed as the 'Gateway'. It is also a site which is accessible by foot, cycle, wheelchair, etc . Suggestions regarding the format and style of the Art Feature include an item that combines the rural aspect of the area and Oil and Gas business which is present within the area. We must come up with ideas before we commission an artist. Ideas are to be brought back to the August meeting. Following that, we could advertise the project looking for ideas from the community.</p>	John Imrie, Rosemary Murray



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Date raised	Action	Who?	Completed?
May '15	Editing of 'Protocol – Use & Maintenance of WECC Website & Facebook page'	Kieran Rorie	Ongoing
May '15	Article regarding joining WECC on the website	David Ewen	
May '15	Discussion regarding last A/R session plus review of honorariums	Office Bearers	
June '15	Contact Aberdeenshire Council regarding the toilets at the Westhill Shopping Centre	John Imrie	Ongoing
June '15	Succession planning	Office bearers	
June '15	Contact Grant Coull to offer posting on our website	David Ewen	
June '15	Contact Aberdeenshire Council regarding speed limit around the Westhill Community Church entrance	Cllr Iris Walker	
June '15	Pass on comments surrounding Gala football preliminary rounds	John Imrie	
June '15	Contact Aberdeenshire Council regarding the concerns of the functionality of school speed restriction signs, damaged and closed footpath, and new streetlights.	John Imrie	
June '15	Look at ideas for Art Feature once discussed	John, Rosemary	
June '15	Post survey regarding Community and Disability onto website	Becky/Kieran	

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TREASURER'S REPORT FOR W&ECC MEETING 12/6/15					
	GENERAL FUNDS	ADVERTISING PRE-PAID FOR REMAINDER OF 2015	MAKING IT REAL FUND	LITTER CAMPAIGN FUND	TOTAL
FUNDS IN BANK AT 14/05/15	17954.46	13890.00	3972.62	1167.08	36984.16
Receipts in period 15/05/15 to 12/06/15					
Transfer of Summer pre-paid adverts to General Funds	4630.00	-4630.00			0.00
Bulletin advertisers-summer issue	933.00				933.00
Payments in period 15/05/15 to 12/06/15					
XIC- Bulletin Summer issue printing	-6140.00				-6140.00
Members mileage & other expenses	-36.10				-36.10
Bulletin advert-refund for cancelled prepaid advert	-135.00				-135.00
Compost for hanging baskets	-57.48				-57.48
FUNDS IN BANK AT 12/06/15	17148.88	9260.00	3972.62	1167.08	31548.58

Funds in bank include £18,000 in Santander Business Bond at 1.1% interest