

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 10TH SEPTEMBER 2015 IN THE HOLIDAY INN, WESTHILL

Community Council		
Name	Position	Present
(vacant)	Chairperson	X
Audrey Findlay	Deputy Chairperson	✓
John Imrie	Secretary	✓
David Ritchie	Treasurer	✓
Becky Ferguson	Minutes Secretary	✓
Mervyn Barr	Member	✓
Andy Duggan	Member	✓
Alan Eastell	Member	✓
David Ewen	Member	✓
Dave Fisher	Member	✓
Stuart Kane	Member	X
Bill Loudon	Member	✓
Rosemary Murray	Member	✓
Kieran Rorie	Member	✓
Ken Seward	Member	✓
Raymond Swaffield	Member	✓
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	✓

Members of Public/Invited Guests		
Aileen Swaffield	Angela Allan	Peter Davidson
PC Andy Barron	PC Karen McArthur	Gurudeo Saluja
Patricia Gail Saluja		

	<u>Item</u>	Action/ Attention
1	<u>Chairperson's welcome and opening remarks</u> Audrey Findlay opened the monthly meeting following the AGM.	
2	<u>Apologies</u> Cllr Amanda Allan	
3	<u>Review and Approval of the Draft Minutes of Meeting 13/08/2015</u> Proposed: Rosemary Murray Seconded: Andy Duggan The minutes were approved by the meeting.	
4	<u>Matters Arising</u> <u>Storage location</u> (John Imrie / David Ritchie): - The storage facilities at Broomfold owned by Grant Williamson (Rotary Club) are suitable for the Christmas lights and associated items. These will be moved sometime in late October from MPH at Birchmoss. <u>Shopping Centre</u> : Patricia Beegan has left MJ Mapp. Marc Mills has replaced her and was in Westhill on 9th Sept. John Imrie met with him, and discussed a number of items including disabled parking bay signs, new notice boards, ANPR parking system, slippery paving slabs, landscaping / weeding, unsightly services distribution unit, additional rubbish bins, and cleaning of the external walls of the buildings. Other issues included the road surface at the entrance to the service yard at the rear of the site on Westhill Drive. This needs to be resurfaced as it is in very poor condition and presents some health and safety issues for pedestrians, mobility scooters, pushchairs and similar.	

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	<p>A number of these issues were previously discussed with Patricia Beegan, but they have not been followed through.</p> <p>Cllr Ron McKail noted that the emails he receives about the shopping centre are generally about the lack of weeding, and the issues with landscaping. This was agreed by all WECC members to be a problem. One factor is that the contractor Ashlea is based in Glasgow. Marc Mills had advised that there were issues with the contractor carrying out the landscaping work which they were expecting to be resolved soon.</p> <p><u>Fencing in lane at rear of the Mens Shed (Cllr Walker):</u> under item 6</p> <p><u>30mph Limit west of the Broadshade roundabout (Cllr Walker):</u> - under item 6</p> <p><u>School Safety Signs (Westhill Primary School), and Trees and Street Lights in Kinmundy Drive (John Imrie):</u> Awaiting updates from Roads and Landscape Services. New school safety signs have been installed on Kinmundy Drive and Kinmundy Avenue. It is unknown if the existing signs on Westhill Drive are now working effectively.</p> <p><u>Arnhall Moss:</u> A number of residents and WECC members (5) met with Alison, the Garioch Countryside Ranger on Friday 21st August, and removed litter (mainly bottles and cans) from the stream and one of the 'dens' on the east side of the moss adjacent to Westhill Drive.</p> <p><u>Closure of Footpath between Eastside Drive and Hillside Road:</u> The secretary emailed the 4 elected councillors after the office bearers visited the site. The email was copied to all members. We have offered a possible solution regarding this particular pathway, but we do not want any part of our path network in Westhill to be closed.</p>	
5	<p><u>Police Report</u> <i>Attached as PDF.</i></p> <p>Members asked the Police Officers present a number of questions. Cllr McKail reported an incident where a resident contacted 101 and did not receive a reference number. Kieran Rorie also raised concerns over charges to the 101 number when calling from mobile phones. These issues were discussed and will be taken back by the Officers present to those appropriate.</p>	
6	<p><u>Ward 13 Councillors' Reports/Updates</u> Cllr Iris Walker</p> <p>New bus service – seems to be running smoothly. There were a few complaints the first week about lack of notification etc. which were passed on and dealt with by Stagecoach.</p> <p>Refugees – local authorities across Scotland are looking at how much capacity they have to help Syrian refugees. More information is awaited on government funding to support councils.</p> <p>Fence – The Council has tidied up the loose bits of wood and are willing to remove the last section standing. Since then, the Housing association have since claimed ownership and do not want the Council to remove it. Communication is ongoing.</p> <p>30mph limit at Broadshade – will not be resolved in short term. Needs to be looked at once development is complete and criteria for extending speed limit applied at that time. However, vegetation at the Kirkton of Skene area is overgrown, and should be cut back soon.</p> <p>Dog poo – a few complaints again about fouling near schools. I know when Mervyn was Chairperson, he was keen to promote the Green Dog Walking scheme. I am very happy to work with the CC if they want to get some campaigns going to target school grounds in the first instance. An action plan will be written and brought back to the October meeting.</p> <p><u>Cllr Ron McKail</u> X17 Bus Service.</p> <p>Received complaint from parent concerning his child travelling to/from Aberdeen with buses not keeping to its timetable. Issues being bus arriving 10mins late; Bus</p>	

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	<p>being full and having to wait for the next one. Contacted the Bus Company on the parents behalf and they forwarded an email response to the parent.</p> <p>Sunnybank Flooding.</p> <p>Mr Gordon who has previously explained his flooding predicament to WECC still has the same issues with his property. SEPA has not been of much help he reports. Council's Flood Prevention team are being supportive by suggesting points of contact which Mr Gordon is following up. His frustration at resolving this situation is understandable</p> <p>Traffic Issues (1)</p> <p>Concern by local resident that when he reported a 'dangerous overtake' on the A944 to Police Scotland Call Centre (101) he felt the operator was simply going through the motions and not taking his report seriously. I followed this up with our local Police Inspector and he resolved the concern by contacting the complainant but he also followed this up with the call centre.</p> <p>Traffic Issues (2)</p> <p>The Speed Monitoring Equipment (SME) has been positioned on Westhill Road for a week or so. Local resident complained and I followed this up with the local Police Inspector who authorised the location.</p> <p>Eastside Drive Paths.</p> <p>As requested by WECC I followed up on this item through the ISC. Cllr Aitchison suggested I raise this with Head of Transportation. Response received: At the last ISC meeting the issue was raised during the discussion on the report on the Smarter Travel Action Plan and comments were requested on the proposals. Bob Gray has explained in detail that the current steps are beyond repair, need a full reconstruct rather than remedial work and most importantly an alternative that is compliant with the Disability Discrimination Act cannot be provided within the constraints of the site.</p> <p>The potential impact that the closing of the path and the upgrading of the alternative paths falls into 2 categories. These are road safety and impact on path users. On road safety, the alternatives proposed are all existing facilitates that already link to Eastside Drive and/or Hillside Road.</p> <p>Both of these roads and both proposed alternative routes (coloured blue/green/orange on the plan you have been provided with) are lit with good forward visibility. I can see no road safety concerns raised by the proposals.</p> <p>With regards the path users, the paths that are proposed for upgrade are already part of an extensive network of paths in the area. They all serve the Academy, Primary School, swimming pool, shopping centre, bus connections etc. By changing their routes slightly it will be a minimal diversion for most people's journey and should not put people off walking and cycling. Those who are disadvantaged the most are those who use the current link as part of the route from Kinmundy Drive to Eastside Drive to Hillside Road. The first part is unaffected but for the second part (the section is proposed to be removed) pedestrians will need to decide to go left or right depending on their final destination. At worst this is 300 metres detour i.e. if they are diverted round from each end of the current footpath where it fronts onto Eastside Drive and Hillside Road. This is not a very likely journey as this section of the path is part of a longer journey so the detriment to all users will be significantly less and reasonable given the footpath network that is in place in the surrounding area. I can see no significant disadvantage to pedestrians and cyclists from the proposals.</p> <p>Discussion regarding the steps at Eastside Drive followed, including regarding the response from the ISC. WECC want to see these steps being reinstated, and will work to try achieve this, working with the local Councillors to come up with a plan of action. In the meantime, there is the important issue of people still using the steps while they are unsafe.</p> <p>Cllr David Aitchison – nothing else to add.</p>	
7	Website Strategy Group Report Nothing to report	

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8	<p>Treasurer's Report & Bulletin Update (matters arising from)</p> <p>Printer delivered Autumn issue to me on planned date of Friday 21st August, despite preparation of it being delayed by a few days due to the printer lady who collates it for us being away on holiday.</p> <p>Deadline for winter issue is 26th October.</p> <p>I need the newer WECC members to agree to go on the list of relief distributors to help do a round occasionally if the normal person is away!</p> <p><i>David Ritchie</i></p>	
9	<p>Sub-group Reports (matters arising from)</p> <p>Litter Report:</p> <p>The Litter Pick on 15th August took place in heavy rain and so, as expected, only a few stalwarts turned up but we did still collect a substantial amount of litter.</p> <p>On 21st August John Imrie, Raymond Swaffield, and Mr & Mrs Crane met with Alison Sutherland, the Ranger and a representative of Aberdeenshire Council to investigate complaints about severe littering in an area of Arnhall Moss. The area was indeed heavily littered with cans, bottles and much broken glass, despite Mr Crane having previously attempted to clear it. We cleared as much as possible but the Ranger suggested that she may return with a spade to cover some of the small shards of glass widely scattered. She was going to attempt to get the Academy to take a more pro-active approach to educating pupils on littering.</p> <p>Mr & Mrs Crane have since been carrying out regular litter picks on the paths used by pupils and have been so unhappy at the amount of litter, that they contacted the Academy about the problem. They have had some re-assuring responses from the new Deputy Head. The School is also getting more litter bins installed</p> <p>Next Organised Litter Pick is on Saturday September 19th</p> <p><i>Aileen & Raymond Swaffield - 01224 740669 - swaffies@talktalk.net</i></p> <p>Bulbs and Baskets:</p> <p>The order for next year's plants has to be sent to Landscape Services by the end of September. We had an excess of plants this year and therefore I intend to reduce the number of plants for next year by about 25% but ensuring that we have sufficient number of hanging basket plants.</p> <p>The baskets will be removed, emptied and stored during September when the Rotary members are available.</p> <p><i>John Imrie</i></p> <p>Art Project:</p> <p>Nothing to report, will be meeting next week.</p> <p><i>Rosemary Murray (WAP team leader)</i></p>	
10	<p>WECC Events</p> <p>Christmas Event – At last month's meeting, a number of members volunteered to look after the 5 parts of the event as per Augusts MOM. John Fraser has agreed to be MC for the event. Both Westhill Community Church and Skene Church of Scotland have also agreed to be involved. No response yet from the Catholic Church. We expect to meet with the churches this month to discuss their involvement particularly with the music and Christmas songs / carols. Rosemary and John are compiling a list of actions that will be required to ensure that we have a well organised and successful event.</p>	<p>Rosemary Murray & John Imrie</p>
11	<p>Art Feature at the 'Gateway to Westhill' update</p> <p>This refers to the proposed Art Feature at the 'Gateway to Westhill'. The next steps will be to communicate with groups and organisations in the community and also with the business community via Westhill Business Network to gather feedback from them regarding the Art Feature. At the monthly market at the Ashdale Hall on October 3rd, WECC will be manning the charity stall to gather feedback from residents - volunteers required.</p> <p>We need to follow up on support from Aberdeenshire Council through the Area Manager office regarding possible financial support by the Area Committee, and to</p>	<p>John Imrie Rosemary Murray & others</p>

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	confirm that potential sites owned by Aberdeenshire Council would be available in principle.	
12	<p><u>Proposal to co-opt Kate Lumsden as a WECC member</u> Kate is not in attendance as she is on holiday but has agreed to become a member of the Community Council. She needs to be formally proposed and seconded at the meeting. Kate has been a resident of Westhill for many years and her interests include art and design. Rosemary Murray proposed that Kate be co-opted onto WECC, which was seconded by Kieran Rorie and unanimously agreed by those present. John will write to Kate to let her know.</p>	John Imrie
13	<p><u>Correspondence</u> No further items</p>	
14	<p><u>AOCB</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Garioch Bus Forum – The next Forum is to be held on Thursday 1st October, 7.30 – 9.pm at the Village Hall in Kemnay. Kieran asked how subsidies for bus services are allocated, as he saw in the notes that the X18 bus service is subsidised. This question should be asked at the Bus Forum meeting. • Last night, six WECC members attended a training session for Community Council members on Working Together Effectively. This was a worthwhile session and it was helpful to meet with other CC members and share knowledge. • Cllr McKail advised that Westhill Academy (WA) has a lack of funding for extra-curricular events & registration for groups. He also asked whether WECC could organise a Dragon's Den competitive event and award a financial prize to the winning student contributors. A discussion followed including the relationship between WECC and WA. There were concerns regarding WECC providing financial contributions for activities that parents should fund or the pupils could fundraise for. WA has not approached WECC for financial support. 	
15	<p><u>Date of next meeting</u> Thursday October 8th 2015, 7pm, Holiday Inn, Westhill Drive</p>	

Becky Ferguson
Minutes Secretary

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TREASURER'S REPORT FOR W&ECC MEETING 10/9/15					
	GENERAL FUNDS	ADVERTISING PRE-PAID FOR Autumn & Winter issues	MAKING IT REAL FUND	LITTER CAMPAIGN FUND	TOTAL
FUNDS IN BANK AT 13/8/15	19568.30	9385.00	3972.62	789.35	33715.27
Receipts in period 14/8/15 to 10/9/15					
Transfer of Autumn pre-paid adverts to General Funds	4692.00	-4692.00			0.00
Bulletin advertisers-autumn issue	663.00				663.00
Payments in period 14/8/15 to 10/9/15					
Purchase of mono laser for high volume printing	-129.90				-129.90
XIC- Bulletin Autumn issue printing	-6140.00				-6140.00
Bulletin sundries & postages	-20.16				-20.16
Honorariums to secretary and website manager for year to Sept 2015	-1650.00				-1650.00
Bulletin advert-refund for cancelled prepaid advert	-140.00				-140.00
Ray Swaffield- reimburse purchase of sweets for litter-picks				-8.18	-8.18
Holiday Inn -AGM room hire	-120.00				-120.00
FUNDS IN BANK AT 10/9/15	16723.24	4693.00	3972.62	781.17	26170.03
Funds in bank include £18,196.53 in Santander Business bond at 0.9% interest					