



Westhill & Elrick
Community Council

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 14TH JANUARY 2016 IN THE HOLIDAY INN, WESTHILL

Community Council		
Name	Position	Present
(vacant)	Chairperson	X
Audrey Findlay	Deputy Chairperson	✓
<i>(Refer to new appt in mins)</i>	Secretary	X
David Ritchie	Treasurer	✓
Becky Ferguson	Minutes Secretary	✓
Mervyn Barr	Member	✓
Alan Eastell	Member	✓
David Ewen	Member	✓
Stuart Kane	Member	X
Bill Loudon	Member	✓
Rosemary Murray	Member	✓
Kieran Rorie	Member	✓
Ken Seward	Member	✓
Raymond Swaffield	Member	✓
Kate Lumsden	Member	✓
Cllr David Aitchison	Ward 13 Councillor	X
Cllr Amanda Allan	Ward 13 Councillor	✓
Cllr Ron McKail	Ward 13 Councillor	✓
Cllr Iris Walker	Ward 13 Councillor	✓

Members of Public/Invited Guests		
Aileen Swaffield	Bob McCracken	Suz Strachan
Alexander Burnett	Susan Kay	John Glover
Patricia Saluja	Gurudeo Saluja	Shona Collins
Wayne Francis PC 1205	Rob Graham PC 1466	Elaine Lawson

	<u>Item</u>	<u>Action/ Attention</u>
1	<p><u>Chairperson's welcome and opening remarks</u> Audrey Findlay opened the meeting, welcoming everyone after an extremely difficult start to 2016 for many due to the terrible flooding. We have a number of guests this evening, and are looking forward to their presentations. Audrey then nominated Becky Ferguson as the new Secretary of WECC. This was unanimously approved by the meeting.</p>	
2	<p><u>Apologies</u> Cllr David Aitchison, John Imrie</p>	
3	<p><u>Review and Approval of the Draft Minutes of Meeting 10/12/2015</u> Proposed: Kieran Rorie Seconded: Rosemary Murray The minutes were approved by the meeting.</p>	
4	<p><u>Matters Arising</u> <u>Update on Shopping Centre:</u> An email was sent by John Imrie to MJ Mapp (Marc Mills and Ian McCormick) to try and establish who is responsible for what at the shopping centre. Clarification is as follows: St James Place Wealth Management - the company who owns the main Shopping Centre. Orchard Street Investment Management - the company who invests and manages St James Place funds. They also appointed MJ Mapp as the facilities management company for the site. MJ Mapp - the company who manages the site for Orchard Street.</p>	

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	<p>Marc Mills - He is the MJ Mapp Associate Director responsible for overseeing the site particularly the new development. Replaced Patricia Beegan.</p> <p>Ian McCormick - He is the MJ Mapp facilities manager responsible for the operational day-to-day activities of the site and its tenants.</p> <p>Unknown company (used to be Aparidion) - Provides the 2 janitor/caretakers who are the 'eyes and ears' for MJ Mapp at the site. According to MJ Mapp, they are supposed to report defects, problems, etc, as well as looking after the site, cleaning, etc.</p> <p>There are a number of outstanding issues which require attention, and hopefully a meeting can be held with MJ Mapp.</p> <p><u>Pedestrian Barrier at Shopping Centre on Westhill Drive</u>: see item 10.</p> <p><u>New Street Lights and Trees</u>: A meeting with Doug Milne will be held on 27th January to discuss a number of issues including this item.</p> <p><u>Closure of Footpath between Eastside Drive and Hillside Road</u>: as above. Tony Thomasson will be invited to the meeting with Doug Milne. No update has been received from Cllr Aitchison regarding NESTRANS information.</p> <p><u>Art Feature at 'Gateway to Westhill'</u> - see item 8</p> <p><u>WECC Events - Christmas Event</u>:</p> <p><u>WECC office bearers and member situation</u> – see item 9</p> <p><u>Greenspace Scotland</u>: Follow up with Bibby regarding the 'quiet area' at the SE corner of A944 Tesco roundabout has not taken place as WECC must ensure that Aberdeenshire Council are in agreement.</p>	
5	<p><u>Police Report</u></p> <p>The report was presented by officers who attended the meeting. Once again, residents are reminded to keep their doors of homes and cars locked, along with keeping a note of their serial numbers etc. of items as then they can be identified if stolen and sold on. Following on from the theft of decorations from the shopping centre for our Christmas Event, Mervyn questioned whether the Shopping Centre was completely covered by CCTV in case of these incidents. Rosemary Murray received a card through her door in follow up from the incident, however there were no contact details left. The officers present will pass this on and ask Mark Hammond to call back Rosemary tomorrow. We can always ask MJ Mapp to ensure that the CCTV cameras are in place and fully operational. Ken Seward questioned whether if money was a problem in upgrading the system if each shopkeeper could be asked to contribute as a last resort. While we feel that each shopkeeper does pay high enough rates and this should contribute to maintenance, this could be a last resort if necessary.</p> <p>The report will be circulated when received, then attached as PDF.</p>	
6	<p><u>Time slot for resident's questions and comments</u></p> <p>Nothing was raised under this item.</p>	
7	<p><u>Presentation by SensationALL</u></p> <p>Bob McCracken is chairman of SensationALL, who introduced himself and explained the history of their location at the Lawsonsdales Pavilion changing rooms. Currently, they are working towards an asset transfer of the Old School and Old Schoolhouse in order to create improved facilities for both themselves and other groups within the community. Previously, communication with the community has been difficult, however they are always pleased to engage with and interested in what they are doing and developing.</p> <p>Suz Strachan gave a presentation, looking at the history of SensationALL in their provision of pro-active support and advice to anyone with additional support needs and their families. Their main focuses are on Support, Education, Needs led and Sensory. The presentation continued with images and details of many services they have provided in their few years so far.</p> <p>So far, they have regular contact with at least 70 families, and are in contact with a huge number more around Scotland. Their current situation is in applying for a Community Asset Transfer (CAT) to acquire the Old School and Old Schoolhouse.</p>	



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	<p>This would enable SensationALL to create a permanent soft play room, multi-sensory relaxation room, social areas, group activity room, rooms for training/group meetings and a reception and office space. Currently they are renting office space within the Old School. Many of the facilities they wish to create could be used by community groups too, whether separate to the groups using the facilities or in mixed inclusive groups.</p> <p>Recently, a consultation has been conducted by SensationALL to investigate the perspective of local residents on their plans. Within 288 responses, 100% are in favour of retaining the Old School, with 94% in favour of SensationALL responsibility. This would also ensure retention of space for groups who already use and operate out of the building.</p> <p>Significant funds will be needed for this, along with the increased operating costs which would come as they expand what they do. Volunteers are always needed, and can contact SensationALL if they wish to get involved.</p> <p>The constitution of SensationALL has recently changed, from a single tier to two tier model, where individuals from the community can be involved along with the board of trustees in an inclusive manner of practise.</p> <p>Please visit www.sensationall.org.uk for more information.</p> <p>Amanda Allan asked if representatives from Aberdeen Football Community Trust had been to visit yet, as she had previously been at an event where this was mentioned. The answer to this was yes, they visited before Christmas and should be moving forward in their partnership.</p> <p>Raymond Swaffield asked about whether the building will provide adequate parking for what they aim to achieve. This was answered in explaining that there is difficulty in the footprint of the site, however they would be looking into taking some space from the playpark to increase the number of parking spaces. The remaining playpark equipment would then be upgraded.</p> <p>Audrey Findlay questioned whether the plans were referring to both the Old School and Old School House, as they are two separate properties. The answer to this was yes, and there would be plans to knock through these buildings to ensure maximum provision.</p> <p>Mervyn Barr commented about the impressive use of combining new architecture with the old building. However, he questioned whether they would rename the building as it is often confused due to it being two buildings on one site.</p> <p>Audrey noted how impressive the work that SensationALL have achieved from working from such a small space. WECC have always supported SensationALL, and would also be pleased to see space available for public hire and usage.</p> <p>In the future, perhaps a member from WECC could join the committee.</p> <p>Ron McKail questioned where the finances for their projects and development would come from. There are many grants which can be applied for, and businesses who may support the cause. In the future they will look to appoint a Manager to keep an eye on all issues including finances. Along with this, many companies are interested in getting involved in other ways, including provision of labour and building materials.</p> <p>Audrey Findlay thanked the representatives from SensationALL for their presentation, and wished them all the best in their CAT and future plans.</p>	
8	<p><u>Art Feature at new Gateway to Westhill</u></p> <p>John Glover presented about his experiences with installing a piece of public art. In the planning stages, many things have to be considered, including location, materials, the artist and the story of the piece. One of the most important parts is outlining what you want the sculpture to represent, and then creating an artist's brief. Artists often don't take the cost into consideration, and it must not be an issue to produce a smaller piece following a similar design. Budgets always play a part in Art Projects. In the case of John Glover and his team, it has taken them multiple ideas to come up with their final design, within the budget that they have. Westhill & Elrick Community Council will be able to apply for different grants and</p>	



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	<p>funding opportunities in comparison to companies. We also have a previous track record of delivering public art within Westhill. There must also be care taken in what is promised to the public, as we must be careful not to promise something too big and not be able to deliver. A sub-group must be established, who can communicate with local authorities to identify areas of funding. John Glover noted Entrust (Landfill Communities Fund), education grants, perhaps lottery funding etc. There will be many hidden costs such as transport of the sculpture, perhaps lighting or a launch event. Therefore we must be careful to ensure we spend carefully and only where necessary.</p> <p>Audrey Findlay thanked John Glover for outlining the steps that we need to take in order to produce a piece of public art. While this is a great opportunity, it is something that we cannot do alone. We must engage with other community groups and individuals in order to make this happen. Following creating a sub-group, we must find out how much money we could raise and communicate with artists in order to create a brief.</p> <p>John Glover will meet with Mervyn Barr and hopefully John Imrie if he still wishes to be involved, to discuss how to move forward.</p> <p>Audrey Findlay thanked John for all his help with our project, and wished him all the best with both their public art and development as a whole.</p>	<p>Mervyn Barr & John Imrie</p>
<p>9</p>	<p><u>WECC office bearers and member situation</u></p> <p>Following the resignation of John Imrie, Becky Ferguson has taken over as Secretary of WECC. As Becky has been taking the minutes for almost six years, it is time for this to be passed on. Shona Collins was introduced to everyone else in the meeting, who has recently been in communication with Councillors regarding an issue and expressed interest in joining WECC. She is willing to take over the minutes secretary position, and will do so as of the February meeting.</p>	
<p>10</p>	<p><u>Ward 13 Councillors' Reports/Updates</u></p> <p><i>Cllr David Aitchison</i> No update received</p> <p><i>Cllr Amanda Allan</i> No update received</p> <p><i>Cllr Ron McKail</i> <u>Flooding issues</u></p> <p>There have been two separate incidents reported to me namely at the Mill of Brodiach and at Carpenters Croft in Kirkton of Skene.</p> <p>The Mill of Brodiach property is adjacent to a tributary of the Brodiach burn. Reported the concerns to the officers dealing with flooding who they responded quickly and took appropriate action. However the heavy rainfall on this past weekend resulted in a second more serious flooding where water entered the property. This second incident has been reported to Council officers.</p> <p>The Carpenters Croft flooding concerns with water flowing from the fields affecting several properties. Council officers notified and also a report forwarded to the Echt and Skene Community Council.</p> <p><u>Westhill Shopping Centre</u></p> <p><u>Parking</u></p> <p>The centre owners are progressing with the ANPR system. Expect this to be in operation later this month or so is the information I've received. In the centre notice board there is information that the ANPR is due to be installed with parking limited to three hours.</p> <p><u>Directional Road Signage</u></p> <p>Users of the shopping centre in their contact with me have indicated that they wish arrows to be painted on the road surface to direct vehicles in one direction. I'm awaiting confirmation from Orchard Street if this is going to happen.</p> <p>Have also mentioned the tight cornering when exiting from the east side of the car</p>	



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	<p>parking area.</p> <p>Vets Parking Area. Spoke with the staff at the vets surgery. Reference was made to the parking area adjacent to their surgery as being designated for their use. I was not aware of this and have contacted Orchard Street for confirmation. If this is the case then signage is required.</p> <p>Staff Parking. Speedier action is required to provide designated car parking for staff at the rear of the shopping centre.</p> <p><i>In addition to the report above,</i> Ron McKail has been in contact with Marc Mills, who does not seem to understand our concerns regarding the directional issues. The issue of a barrier before the crossing between the shopping centre and Holiday Inn also does also not seem to be of great concern due to other areas not having barriers. There is an issue over public/private ownership of the site we are discussing, however we will continue to follow this up as the response is unsatisfactory. The response regarding people parking there all day is to put in an ANPR system, however members of the public are aware that they do not have to pay these fines in Scotland. There are many issues regarding the shopping centre, and we will continue to press on all these to look for progress.</p> <p><i>Cllr Iris Walker</i> <u>School Rezoning</u> This week the Garioch Committee have agreed to move forward with the proposal to rezone the catchment areas within Westhill. They are aiming to keep Skene Primary School as a rural school, with all children in Broadshade going to Crombie Primary.</p> <p><u>Green Dog Walking Campaign</u> All the local schools are involved with a poster campaign, as the problem of Dog Fouling within Westhill is still prevalent. There will be a group meeting next week to look at how this is moving forward.</p> <p><u>Sports Hub</u> The Sports Hub group met recently, and are going ahead with the 10K run planned in May. They will also be organising a mental health event in conjunction with mental health week.</p>	
11	<p><u>Website Report</u> Nothing to report. David Ewen is currently looking at how to set up a poll on the website, which we could use to gain information on the communities view on things such as the Art Project. The website is a great advertising tool, when used within conjunction with Facebook and the local Media could help us greatly. We must build a good relationship with the local media, in a two way manner. If we are to engage with the local media, there must be protocol for anyone to comment on anything that happens. There will be a meeting to discuss the website and communications anyway, and this will be discussed there.</p>	Office bearers & others
12	<p><u>Treasurer's Report and Bulletin Updates</u> Cheque signatories- now that Becky has taken over as secretary I will arrange for Becky and Audrey to replace Mervyn and John as cheque signatories (in addition to myself). - David Ritchie Deadline date for Spring 2016 Bulletin is Friday 29th January. Delivery by printer should be on Friday 19th February. There has been the normal good response to the annual invitation to the regular advertisers to block-book their advert for all 4 issues in 2016 and save 15% on the cost of 4 single adverts. Five of the 2015 block-bookers are not continuing, but there has already been 10 requests from new advertisers for spring issue. - David Ritchie</p>	
13	<p><u>Sub-group Reports</u></p>	



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Litter – The Litter Group have not held an organised Litter Pick in December or January. We did tidy the litter after the Christmas Event but there was little litter left. There does appear to be considerable litter dropped in the Park during the previous two months. We have drawn up dates for Litter Picks in 2016 and e-mailed all known volunteers, requesting feedback to create a rota for each event.

Proposed Litter Pick Dates

Saturday 20th February

Saturday 19th March

Saturday 16th April

Saturday 14th May

Saturday 18th June

Saturday 20th August

Saturday 17th September

Saturday 15th October

Saturday 19th November

- Aileen & Raymond Swaffield - 01224 740669 - swaffies@talktalk.net

Bulbs & Baskets – Following on from a meeting in November with the Inverurie Environmental Improvement Group (IEIG) headed up by John Glover, I have put together a number of improvement ideas that they have suggested.

IEIG have a large number of hanging baskets (approx 150 or so) that are larger than the ones that we have. These require more substantial brackets to support them. They get a large number of their hanging baskets sponsored by the shops in the centre of the town, which brings in income to assist with the cost of compost, planting and watering. The Pitscurry Project at Pitcaple do all the inspection and maintenance of the baskets during the winter, and then the filling and planting of them in late May. The IEIG group do all the watering with a transit pickup equipped with 2 large tanks and pumping equipment. They water the baskets twice a week regardless of the weather conditions. They also have a number of planters and troughs that they look after as well. They also get their supply of plants free of charge from Aberdeenshire Council, although they collect them from the Landscape Services depot in May.

The improvements that WECC should consider are as follows:

1. Ensure that all baskets and supporting chains are cleaned, inspected and maintained every year. Replace chains and clips, absorbent mats and wicking material as required.
2. Ensure that all brackets are inspected and maintained every year, ensuring that they have not rusted or corroded, and are fit for purpose.
3. Use a particular type of compost that is recommended by the gardening experts in IEIG, Evergreen Irish Multi-Purpose Compost which they have found to have excellent properties.
4. Use bone meal to fertilise the compost and also add it to the water used for watering.
5. Plant out the baskets in a more formal and organised format.
6. Water twice a week.

These improvements will mean some additional cost and also additional manpower. All the items for maintaining the baskets are available from the basket manufacturers Amberol, or from online suppliers. The compost will be available from some local nurseries or garden centres. IEIG buy from Parkhill Nurseries who stock the specific compost. A stock of these items should be held for yearly use.

WECC has to decide if they want to support these improvements and also if they want to increase the numbers of hanging baskets in future years. The tubs and their supports that are used in Elrick could be replaced with hanging baskets as they are not very well held in place, and are rather awkward to install requiring 2 people on ladders to install them.

I am prepared to carry out the maintenance of the baskets and brackets and to



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	<p>organise and coordinate the whole process of the planting and hanging. We really could do with some support from people with expertise in gardening etc, but I do not have the contacts and am not prepared to find them. There are members of WECC who could do this.</p> <p>I also 'inherited' some gardening trophies from Bill Loudon that used to be awarded to owners of gardens in Westhill. Perhaps WECC should ask Westhill gardening club to take on organising the competitions for these trophies as I am not prepared to take these on.</p> <p><i>John Imrie</i></p> <p>Bill Loudon commented about the sponsorship of baskets, and how this may be difficult in Westhill. John will have to look into this. Also, the current brackets are looking worse for wear, and may need to be replaced. The competition of Garden of the Year may need a team to take on, as it would be good to revive.</p> <p><u>Art Project</u> – No report received.</p> <p><u>Christmas Lights</u> – The street lights were taken down over 3 sessions from 7th to 9th January. Most have been put back into storage at Broomfold. 4 lights will be going back to Blachere for repairs as parts of them have stopped working, plus 2 which failed the PAT testing checks work done in November. The 120 metres of lights on Christmas tree at Shopping Centre survived the stormy weather ok and were all still working prior to the tree being taken down on 4th January. One 5 metre string was damaged during the dismantling. Many thanks to the Mens Shed for all their help with the PAT testing, the barriers for the tree and the manual help with the tree and lights. A proposal was made to give the Mens Shed a donation of £150 in thanks for all their hard work. Mervyn is also working on Health & Safety protocol, and has been in communication with others and will be circulating what they come up with. - <i>David Ritchie</i></p>	
<p>14</p>	<p><u>Correspondence</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member Resignation – Andy Duggan has resigned from WECC due to a new job in Trinidad. We wish him all the best in his new adventure. • Freda Imrie – An email was received from Freda concerning her previous letters regarding the retention of the trees outside the old Vets Surgery. Cllr Walker has been in communication with Freda, and her concerns have been recorded. • Proposed Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan Examination – circulated to members • Event First Aid Cover – circulated to members • Review of Scheme of Establishment for Community Councils – Note of Role & Function of Working Groups – circulated to members • Scottish Flood Forum brochure – circulated to members • Annie Grant AVA – Community Health in Partnership – circulated to members 	
<p>15</p>	<p><u>AOCB</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact of cutting road gritting budget – In a recent article it was reported that Aberdeenshire Council were cutting the winter budget by £1million, approx. 20%, and this will be carried out by a cut to treatment of 'non-primary' routes. What does this mean in reality? – At the Area Committee on Tuesday Councillors were asked to comment on this. Major issues raised were the gritting of footpaths not beginning until 8am, compared to previous times of 5.30am. 8am is very late and will miss a lot of the pedestrians. This is to be looked at again as this could be dangerous. There are also concerns over the expectation of residents to do more local gritting, however more grit bins must be installed if this is to be expected. 	



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	<p>The same presentation will go to all other local area committees and comments will be received and investigated.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Caretakers at the Ashdale Hall have changed, with increased landscaping and cleaning up seeming to be happening around the site, which is encouraging.• A team will need to be created to look back at the Christmas Event and how to progress with next year's event. Following the event, the Holiday Inn put on a lovely spread for us to enjoy, for which we will make a contribution.• Shona Collins raised the concern over the lack of pupils attending from the Pupil Council, as it is really important to get young people involved in their community. We must contact the school again. Related to this, Shona's son is involved in a Youth Club, which has not restarted following the Christmas break. Elaine Lawson clarified this, explaining that the club would be restarting on the 21st January and running fortnightly until the end of March. Hopefully this will now be resolved, however it would have been nice for the parents to know.	
17	<p><u>Date of next meeting</u> Thursday February 11th 2016, 7pm, Holiday Inn, Westhill Drive</p>	

Becky Ferguson
Minutes Secretary

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TREASURER'S REPORT FOR W&ECC MEETING 14/01/16					
	GENERAL FUNDS	ADVERTISING PRE-PAID FOR 2016 ISSUES	MAKING IT REAL FUND	LITTER CAMPAIGN FUND	TOTAL
FUNDS IN BANK AT 10/12/15	18606.38	0.00	3972.62	781.17	23360.17
Receipts in period 11/12/15 to 14/01/16					
Bulletin advertisers- 2016 prepayments		3475.00			3475.00
Bulletin advertisers-winter issue	2054.00				2054.00
Bank interest	1.24				1.24
Payments in period 11/12/15 to 14/01/16					
Westhill Men's Shed- Xmas lights Pat Testing & making tree barriers	-150.00				-150.00
FUNDS IN BANK AT 14/01/16	20511.62	3475.00	3972.62	781.17	28740.41
Funds in bank include £18,196.53 in Santander Business bond at 0.9% interest					