

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 10TH MARCH 2016 IN THE HOLIDAY INN, WESTHILL

Name	Position	Present
(vacant)	Chairperson	X
Audrey Findlay	Deputy Chairperson	✓
Becky Ferguson	Secretary	X
David Ritchie	Treasurer	X
Shona Collins	Minutes Secretary	✓
Mervyn Barr	Member	X
Alan Eastell	Member	✓
David Ewen	Member	✓
Bill Loudon	Member	X
Rosemary Murray	Member	✓
Kieran Rorie	Member	✓
Ken Seward	Member	X
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		
Luke McLeod	Nara Morrison	Heather Cook
John Glover		

	Item	Action/Attention
1	Chairperson's welcome and opening remarks Kieran Rorie who previously had asked for the opportunity to chair a meeting, opened the meeting, welcoming those who were in attendance.	
2	Apologies Becky Ferguson, David Ritchie, Ken Seward, Bill Loudon, Mervyn Barr, Angela Allan, Cllr D Aitchison,	
3	Review and Approval of the Draft Minutes of Meeting 11/02/16 The minutes were approved by the meeting. Proposed: Raymond Swaffield Seconded: Alan Eastell Three corrections to the minutes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Page 2 Art Feature: Delete 'behind the raised bed/Christmas tree' and replace with <i>the piece of land immediately on your right as you turn into Westhill Drive from the Tesco roundabout</i>. There were no objections to the change. Typing mistake: No 8 in the 16th line following Audrey add the word had. No objections to the change. Item 15 under AOCB: Resignation of Stuart Kane, delete the line this was not communicated within WECC however – insert new sentence after weekends etc in line 5 - '<i>Stuart sent another email apologising for not being entirely clear in his email of Nov 2015</i>'. No objections to the change. 	Becky Ferguson

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4	<p>Matters Arising:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Update on Shopping Centre</u> – Audrey had received an email from Marc Mills, in which he said that he hoped that they would have the sculpture in place later next week. • Mervyn's Flyers may be put out provided the timing ties in with the Citizen delivery next week. David Ewen asked if an image of the sculpture could be obtained to be put on to the website and he also requested that nothing is to be put on social media until the installation is done. • <u>Gardening Competition</u> – Alan Eastell reported back that there has not been a meeting of the Gardening Club, however there does not seem to be any interest at the moment. There is to be a meeting next week and Alan will bring this up again to try and generate some interest. Audrey commented that it would be good to revive the Gardening Competition which would generate a good community spirit. There was discussion about whether another group within the community would be willing to take this on and who would look after the trophies which at present are with John Imrie. • <u>Lack of response to emails</u> - This was on the Agenda owing to the length of time that the WECC are waiting to get responses or even an acknowledgement from Aberdeenshire Council Officers. • Audrey also enquired about the lack of response from the meeting held on 27 Jan 2016 with Doug Milne, where we raised our concerns about lack of responses from Officers way back from a meeting in May 2015. Doug promised that he would also follow this up. Further future action was discussed. • <u>Gateway Art Feature</u> - Doug Milne has again verbally stated that he sees no problem with the site for the Gateway Art Feature. However, Audrey has asked that we get written confirmation of this. Doug Milne did report that Landscape Services has asked that any plinth for the sculpture does not involve the need for strimming around it. He has not yet spoken to the Arts Development Officer or Area Project Manager about their involvement. 	<p>Alan Eastell and Audrey Findlay</p>
5	<p><u>Police Report</u> Report not received and no attendance.</p>	
6	<p><u>Time slot for resident's questions and comments</u></p> <p>The condition of Straik Road where the new hotel is being built was raised by Alan Eastell, The tarmac is in a bad state and potholes all over. Further discussion later in the meeting regarding other potholes.</p>	
7	<p><u>Planning Watch</u></p> <p>An email has been received from Malcolm White in response to our query regarding any change to the Golf Club application of last year. This gave clarification that there has been no new application to make any change for the provision of two affordable houses as part of the permission already granted for a total of seven houses on the various sites around the golf course. Previously there were some concerns that there had been an alteration. If anything changes WECC will be notified and it would go back to the Area Committee for decision.</p>	

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8	<p><u>Update on Art Feature – Report from Mervyn Barr</u></p> <p>Members received a report from Mervyn Barr from a meeting held on Monday 7 March 2016 with Rosemary and Kate. They are to meet again next Tuesday 15 March to pull together an Artist’s Brief. The question of how much budget needed was discussed and Rosemary reminded us that there should be £12,000 for public art in Westhill available for us. There was discussion on what this project may cost. John Glover spoke about his continued interest and offered his ongoing support to help with the project. He also spoke about financial help that is available and he can assist with this. He spoke about helping to set up a database of all the businesses and this is an ideal opportunity to engage with them and the wider community.</p> <p>David Ewen asked how prescriptive is the brief? Kate explained that it will go out to artists and then one will be chosen to go forward. The community need to feel that they have some ownership as well.</p> <p>The brief going out to artists was discussed at length, no decisions were made, but lots of questions were asked and these points will be discussed further at the next Art Project meeting on Tuesday. John Glover said that in his view the community council still need to maintain ownership. The sub group of Mervyn, Rosemary and Kate will bring their combined views of the artist brief to our next meeting on 14 April.</p>	<p>Mervyn Barr Rosemary Murray and Kate Lumsden</p>
9	<p><u>Dog Fouling Campaign</u></p> <p>Cllr Iris Walker reported that the three primary schools in Westhill are ready with their posters and the winners will be presented next week in the school assemblies. The Library has agreed to display these posters and so has Tesco. The metal signs will be put up at each school. An email from David Ritchie said that £400 for the signs and a prize for each school was possible and this was agreed. The members appreciated that the pupils from the three schools had been very involved and took the campaign seriously. Cllr Walker and Mervyn will be coordinating the signs and prizes for the schools in time for next week.</p>	
10	<p><u>Ward 13 Councillors’ Reports/Updates</u></p> <p>Cllr David Aitchison No update received.</p> <p>Cllr Amanda Allan No update received.</p> <p>Cllr Ron McKail Selfish and dangerous driving in Westhill at zebra crossings. Followed up on a complaint regarding vehicles failing to stop when a pedestrian was on the zebra crossing on Old Skene road (adjacent to Brimmond Drive). Local police informed.</p> <p>Westhill and Elrick Bus Network. Received a letter of concern regarding the unreliable hydrogen buses breaking down; not keeping to timetable; town service no 16 being pointless; could better serve the elderly people in Blackhills and Westdyke; better connection to Health Centre; etc. Reported these concerns to the Council’s Principal Officer Transportation.</p>	

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<p>Potholes. Reported several potholes on Skene Road to Council; and including the pothole at entry road to the Shopping Centre to MJ Mapp. Cllrs can report them, but sometime better for residents to call the call centre and report them.</p> <p>Arnhall Moss Pools. Along with Cllr Walker joined council staff and local residents at Arnhall Moss to view the excellent work done by the teams who have dredged the pools; cut back the vegetation; removed the litter; also tested out the viewing platform. Worth a visit.</p> <p>Cllr McKail asked if anyone else had received an email reference notice on golf course from a resident. He had got confirmation from the council legal team saying that the sign will be challenged as it is illegal.</p> <p>He also showed a document which is a form that can be displayed where your tax disc was with emergency medical information. This is being piloted through the community safety, but not officially launched yet. Comments to Ron.</p> <p>Cllr Iris Walker Roads All local councillors are invited to meet with Area Manager and Roads/Landscape officers tomorrow (Tuesday 8th) to clear up/get update on various outstanding issues. Items on my agenda include paths and lighting, additional pedestrian crossing on Old Skene Road, speed surveys and a timescale for getting the many potholes repaired – I have listed some of the ones I have reported with their reference numbers and status for your information and would encourage everyone to report faults online as you see them. We can provide a verbal update on Thursday night of our discussions.</p> <p>Resurfacing A944 roundabout at Broadstraik Road - 340706 - in hand to investigate.</p> <p>Pot holes Old Skene Road between Hays Way/Dawson Drive - 340708 - in hand to investigate</p> <p>Pothole - Wellgrove Road opposite recycling centre - 340713 - in hand to investigate</p> <p>Pothole at Westhill shopping centre car park junction - 340714 - review/progress by 08/03/16</p> <p>Potholes on B979 Elrick to Carnie crossroads - 340715 - review/progress by 08/03/16</p> <p>Meeting with Roads Dept and Doug Milne re outstanding paths and roads issues. The John Imrie email with reports has been sent onto them. Residents are also waiting for outcomes. The main message from roads dept is to keep reporting to the council by phone or email.</p> <p>Arnhall Moss As previously reported, work on the ponds at Arnhall Moss has been carried out following a successful funding award from "Froglife". The area is looking much better with the viewing deck now in place. A life buoy, safety signs and picture boards will follow.</p> <p>Carnie AWP facility Follow up meeting tomorrow night (Tuesday 8th) 7pm, Holiday Inn for interested parties. Controls are now in place for floodlights and the council are looking at the drains.</p> <p>Town Centre Health Check The Town Centre Health Check is coming to the Garioch Area Committee on Tuesday 15 March. The report looks at towns all across Aberdeenshire as regards retail, community etc and for the first time Westhill has been added this year. Cllr Walker asked people to submit any comments to her for any of the above.</p>	
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11	<p><u>Website Report/Communications Group</u></p> <p>Kieran had received a message from a person who had contacted police about vandalism to his house. The police had not responded to him. Lots of allegations of vandalism in the weeks prior to the meeting. Cllr Walker also had complaints reference vandalism which has been reported to the police this was from Westdyke to Crombie areas, reports of gangs of youths knocking over wheelie bins and general vandalism</p> <p>Kieran reported that he had received further correspondence reference the potholes from email, Facebook etc. These had already been fed to the councillors and the WECC. Harvest Hill has been reported with bad pot holes, the Old Skene Road and the entrance to the shopping centre and several other places. All this has also been reported to Aberdeenshire Council.</p> <p>David Ewen raised the issue of multiple people on internal emails.</p>	
12	<p><u>Treasurer's Report and Bulletin Updates</u></p> <p><u>Treasurer's Report:</u> If you looked at the Treasurer report attached to the Feb minutes you may have noticed that the WECC funds had increased to over £40,000. This is because they included £15k of Bulletin prepaid advertising for 2016 (that has now risen to £18k). A quarter of the prepaid advertising total is transferred to the General Funds column in the same 4 months each year that the printer's bills are paid.</p> <p><u>Bulletin Report:</u> The Spring 2016 Bulletin was slightly later than normal in being finalised and I was a bit concerned that printer would not be able to deliver it on the planned date of 19th February. In fact he delivered it a day early so must have printed it in record time. The manager I deal with advised they are seeing a large reduction in business due to the Aberdeen recession. He told me this in January when delivering an annual Burns gift of haggis and whisky!</p> <p><i>David Ritchie</i></p> <p>Ron asked if we could open a separate account for the art project and we will ask David on his return.</p>	David Ritchie
13	<p><u>Sub-group Reports</u></p> <p><u>Litter Report.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complaints consistently about the litter around Aldi. There has been several litter picks in the last month. An email from Norman Wright said that the matter is in hand and the store Janitor has been out to clear up the litter, his good work was acknowledged. He will visit again on Monday and speak to the store manager again. The good work of litter pickers in the area was also acknowledged and Shona Collins mentioned that people living near the Moss and Denman Park regularly pick up litter and particularly broken glass beside and around the Bowling Green and Tennis Courts. Other litter picks have been arranged. • The bottle and can deposit scheme where a refund will be given for bottles and cans returned to shops was discussed. • Fines for littering, there has been no fines issued. Aberdeen City Litter and Leadership is being looked into by Cllr Walker. Westhill Academy has been contacted many times on the littering issue and have never 	

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	<p>responded. <i>Signs for the roads to say “Not picking up your litter, puts litter pickers at risk” had been suggested.</i></p> <p>It was questioned whether “Police begin to fine people for dropping litter?”</p> <p>Bulbs and Baskets: Audrey reported that John had indicated he wanted to stay involved with the hanging baskets. However, this needs to be clarified. Last year the baskets were filled at Broomfold and with a lot of help from the Westhill Rotary Club members. Audrey asked if she could approach the Rotary Club to ask if they would like to take on the hanging baskets this year. This was agreed.</p> <p>Art Project: Rosemary reported that the Art Group will be meeting on Monday to agree what will happen with the Easter project this year. Nothing else to report at this time as she has been busy since Christmas with the Gateway Art Feature.</p> <p>Christmas Event There was nothing to report, but we need to set up a sub group now so that we can be organised for the Christmas 2016 Event. People were invited to put their names forward if they are interested to join that group.</p> <p>The vandalism at the shopping centre was very disappointing, Rosemary said that she had a reply from the police reference of the report of the theft of the decorations, however, the police had viewed the CCTV footage stating that nobody could be identified. She also spoke of all the time that people had taken to make and string up the decorations and it was sad that these had been broken.</p> <p>It was suggested that we have a can for donations towards cost of replacing the decorations, at our next Event in 2016.</p>	
<p>14</p>	<p><u>Correspondence</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Garioch Partnership sent an email about a national initiative to increase walking in Scotland. Should we be encouraging people to walk the pathways within Westhill? It was suggested that we invite Anne Simpson to attend our next meeting on Thu 14th April to speak on funding of projects including Gateway Art Feature. • Colin Gray should be invited to come to our May meeting to speak about Community Resilience. • The Westhill Community Learning Partnership meeting was cancelled owing to Angela Allan’s unfortunate accident. • Garioch Area Community Council Forum meeting was cancelled owing to snow. 	<p>Audrey Findlay Audrey Findlay</p>
<p>15</p>	<p><u>AOCB</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minute Secretary, Shona Collins will use weccminutes@gmail.com to deal with all business relating to the Westhill Community Council. Could the Westhill Bulletin, Website, Facebook and any other form of social media that Westhill Community Council use please be updated to reflect the change of email address for the Minute Secretary. • Rosemary noted that Jan, Feb and March – no agenda had been posted in the community noticeboard beside the shops. There is a problem with the key and this is being sorted. • Westhill and Elrick Gardening Competition. Cllr Walker asked if the Aberdeenshire Housing Partnership are keen to get involved with 	

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	<p>something in the community that they may want to consider helping with the gardening competition. Cllr Walker to make enquiries. Bibby still to be contacted about the Pocket Garden at the Tesco roundabout that we discussed before.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feedback reference the setting out of the room for the WECC meeting was discussed and will be changed for the next meeting to the horseshoe style, a table for the office bearers will also be set up. • The Communication Group are going to discuss how members are using email communication. This hopefully will be resolved shortly • David Ritchie has received confirmation that WECC does have a stall at the Wellbeing Event and members invited to participate on 22 May at Holiday Inn, Westhill. • People were reminded that the Bus Forum will meet in Westhill Academy staffroom on Monday evening at 7.30pm and if people wish to attend they will be very welcome. • Nara Morrison who expressed interest in joining WECC as a member attended the meeting and Audrey suggested that she be co-opted. This was agreed and Nara was welcomed by Kieran. • The Communications Group plan to meet early next week. • Meeting Closed at 9.30pm. 	Audrey Findlay
17	<p><u>Date of next meeting</u></p> <p>Thursday April 14th 2016, 7pm, Holiday Inn, Westhill Drive.</p>	

Shona Collins
Minutes Secretary

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Email received from Cllr McKail after the WECC Meeting.

Followed up on the Westhill Bussing concerns and received a response from Council Officer passed to him from Graeme Leslie Operations Director Stagecoach North Scotland 07825 969435

“The X17 is being revamped due to come into effect mid April to take into account reliability issues, additional running time and stance time at Aberdeen will be built in. We have through the use of AVL identified where we need the time to go in.

Arnhall Business Park will get extra buses through earlier in the afternoon in response to requests we've received from workers at offices such as Subsea 7 and Bibby Offshore.

The H2s have generally been a lot better over latter half of 2015 and early 2016 after a difficult introduction. Like with most of the Aberdeenshire fleet the poor weather over January had an adverse effect on reliability of these vehicles too. Whilst the X17 route for the most part not directly affected by the floods (barring Carnie Crescent which did flood and was inaccessible for a period) the constant rainfall we experienced for a large part of January 2016 had a detrimental effect on their reliability.

We will note the comments ref the 16 and also the request to serve Broadshade. Regarding the latter it was our feeling when we revamped the Westhill services last August that the Broadshade area would not yet be commercially viable to serve. The area is still relatively in its infancy and the housing on site suggests a high level of car ownership. I am conscious of the much larger new build housing estate at Inverurie Uryside where we tried the 10 and the demand wasn't there. The demographics of the 2 areas to me are similar.

Graeme Leslie Operations Director Stagecoach North Scotland.

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TREASURER'S REPORT FOR W&ECC MEETING 10/03/16					
	GENERAL FUNDS	ADVERTISING PRE-PAID FOR 2016 ISSUES	MAKING IT REAL FUND	LITTER CAMPAIGN FUND	TOTAL
FUNDS IN BANK AT 11/02/16	20172.05	15445.00	3972.62	781.17	40370.84
Receipts in period 12/02/16 to 10/03/16					
Bulletin advertisers- 2016 prepayments		1810.00			1810.00
Transfer of spring pre-paid adverts to General Funds	4600.00	-4600.00			
Bulletin advertisers-spring issue	594.00				594.00
Payments in period 12/02/16 to 10/03/16					
XIC- Bulletin Spring issue printing	-6118.26				-6118.26
Members mileage & other meetings expenses	-22.50				-22.50
WordPress - annual premium for WECC website	-85.00				-85.00
M. Barr- reimburse Dog Poo flyers & distribution via Citizen	-258.54				-258.54
Community Minibus- transporting Christmas lights etc. Nov 2015 to Jan 2016	-100.00				-100.00
FUNDS IN BANK AT 10/03/16	18781.75	12655.00	3972.62	781.17	36190.54
Funds in bank include £18,196.53 in Santander Business bond at 0.9% interest					