

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

Name	Position	Present
(vacant)	Chairperson	X
Audrey Findlay	Deputy Chairperson	✓
Becky Ferguson	Secretary	✓
David Ritchie	Treasurer	✓
Shona Collins	Minutes Secretary	X
Mervyn Barr	Member	✓
Alan Eastell	Member	✓
David Ewen	Member	✓
Bill Loudon	Member	✓
Rosemary Murray	Member	✓
Kieran Rorie	Member	✓
Ken Seward	Member	X
Raymond Swaffield	Member	✓
Kate Lumsden	Member	✓
Nara Morrison	Member	X
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		
Anne Simpson	Luke Mcleod	John Imrie
Gurudeo Saluja	Patricia Gail Saluja	Jenny
Christian Allard MSP	Sheila Pirie (Tesco)	

	Item	Action/ Attention
1	<u>Chairperson's welcome and opening remarks</u> Audrey Findlay opened the meeting, welcoming our guests.	
2	<u>Apologies</u> Angela Allan, Ken Seward, Shona Collins	
3	<u>Review and Approval of the Draft Minutes of Meeting 10/03/16</u> The minutes were approved by the meeting. Proposed: Kieran Rorie Seconded: Raymond Swaffield	
4	<u>Matters Arising:-</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Gardening Competition</u> – Alan Eastell has asked the Gardening Club whether they would be willing to take on the running of the competition. There has not been anybody willing to take this on. Cllr Walker has been in touch with Glenn Adcook from Aberdeenshire Housing Partnership, who is very keen to be involved with a community project. This would involve their tenants and others within the community, but will take some time to organise. Iris will keep in touch with them and work towards a solution. Anne Simpson noted that in Mintlaw, they simply nominate gardens, with nomination forms available in local places. The judging panel then consists of someone with gardening knowledge, say a garden centre employee, along with someone from the Community Council. A volunteer was sought to co-ordinate this however nobody was willing to take it on. Therefore it looks like this may not go ahead this year. • <u>Lack of response to emails</u> – Following the meeting held with Councillors 	Cllr Walker

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	<p>in May 2015, there has been a significant lack of response, or even acknowledgement to correspondence sent. In January 2016 we also held a meeting with our Area Manager, to which there has also not been a suitable response. This is greatly disappointing, and we would really like to see a resolution here both to our issues over responses and the issues raised at the meeting. It was questioned how we could resolve this issue. Using the media was raised as an option, as is it unclear who else we could go to about this issue. Cllr Walker expressed her frustrations with communication within the Council also, as she has also had problems. It was questioned whether all four local Councillors should write to the Chief Executive to express these issues, expressing our opinions too. A meeting with the Chief Executive was also suggested. It was concluded that Audrey will write to the Chief executive, and copy in all the local Councillors.</p>	Audrey Findlay
5	<p><u>Police Report</u> No report was received. Cllr McKail raised the issue of MoD Police being seen with carrying weapons in the area, and questioned whether this was an issue. It was concluded that many are aware of MoD presence in the area. A resident asked about the numbers of crimes in the area, curious about the rumours which have been circulating, especially those regarding opportunist theft due to unlocked doors of houses and vehicles. It was expressed that this is something which has been communicated to us as a Community Council for many months, and has been publicised through our bulletin and website. Luke Mcleod raised issues of young people hanging around at the shopping centre and causing problems, especially in the last week or two due to the school holidays.</p>	
6	<p><u>Time slot for resident's questions and comments</u> Nothing further was raised.</p>	
7	<p><u>Planning Watch</u> One planning application received in the last fortnight was that of new signage for the empty unit, which is now confirmed as the Card Factory. Another application received (APP/2016/0814), was for Change of Use of Public Open Space to Garden Ground, Alterations to Dwellinghouse and Erection of Double Garage/Store adjacent to the property of 17 Hilltop Gardens. There could be a problem if this leads to others also applying to take over public land next to their properties. Mervyn Barr proposed that we object to this application on that principle, as there are many other areas within Westhill which may see the same issues arise. WECC will therefore object to this application.</p>	Audrey Findlay
8	<p><u>Presentation from Anne Simpson (The Garioch Partnership)</u> Anne Simpson introduced herself, representing The Garioch Partnership. Audrey gave an overview of the Gateway Art Project and of what the aims of the project are. As it is not clear how much this project will cost, we will probably be looking for funding from many different sources. We must have a brief together before we can apply for funding. Funders may be businesses, grants, the Council, and also national opportunities. Anne will send the list of funding opportunities to the secretary to circulate out to all WECC members. The Garioch Partnership can help us with the applications, as they have experience in doing this. Other opportunities to raise money includes crowd-funding, local fundraising, and even through local businesses. We may have to look at the governance of the Gateway Art Project group, as there are options in how we manage the money etc. This could be through the Community Council, or as a separate Trust/SCIO/Limited Company. We must also look at the practicalities of bank accounts etc. Luke Mcleod questioned LEADER funding, however Anne explained that LEADER will give up to 50% of a projects funding, however the other 50% must already be</p>	Becky Ferguson

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	<p>established. LEADER must therefore be a last resort instead of a first resort, as you can only apply once.</p> <p>We must ensure that the whole community is included in this journey, and must consult with as many individuals and organisations within the community as possible. The Gala is a great opportunity to do so.</p> <p>Cllr McKail questioned whether funders will question who else we are applying to. This could be the case, as they may wish to know where we are getting the rest of the funding from. Mervyn noted that we must also make it clear that money raised is not from a pot which can be used for other opportunities in Westhill, but has been raised specifically for the project. Westhill also has a history of development contributed to because of the Oil and Gas Industry, and that can be used to our advantage in approaching companies for small funding opportunities.</p> <p>Christian Allard raised the point of having representation from groups such as the Skene Heritage Society, as they can also input information which others can't.</p> <p>Mervyn asked if it would be possible to invite Anne to a meeting with the Gateway Art Project group, where Doug Milne and Sheila Waterhouse should also be present. This will be arranged.</p>	
9	<p><u>Update on Gateway Art Feature</u></p> <p>The aforementioned meeting with Doug Milne, Sheila Waterhouse and Anne Simpson is the next thing planned, which is required before progression.</p>	
10	<p><u>Dog Fouling Campaign</u></p> <p>Each school in Westhill has been involved in the creation of posters about the issue. Photos have been taken of the children involved, where we could also utilise the media to publicise what we have done and the schools involvement. The specifics about how we publicise the photos is to be decided. Tesco & the Library have also offered to display some posters, which will need to be arranged with the representatives from the schools.</p> <p><u>Wellbeing in Westhill Event</u> – The Dog Fouling Campaign is one thing which can be displayed as part of what we do and have done at our stall at the Wellbeing in Westhill Event. While we can publicise the fact about who we are and how joining can encourage membership and community involvement, we can also use the dog fouling campaign as something we have done as a health issue in the area. We will use the display from the Library on the day.</p>	Mervyn/Iris
11	<p><u>Ward 13 Councillors' Reports/Updates</u></p> <p><u>Cllr McKail</u> – There was some flooding in the Brodiach area, and as a result the Council will be working to redirect the runoff water from the fields away from the house.</p> <p>Westhill Golf Club signs – The signage which was up regarding not walking on the Golf Course was non-compliant, and action is now being taken to resolve.</p> <p>Potholes – The e-mail from Charlie Brown regarding the potholes at the Tennis Courts/Bowling Green access road was copied to Ron, however these potholes are believed to have now been repaired.</p> <p>Waste Collection at the Shopping Centre – There has been a change to waste collection at the Shopping Centre where each unit now has to organise their own refuse collection. There was also a damaged tree which has now been removed.</p> <p><u>Cllr Walker</u> – Councillors Walker & McKail met with Doug Milne to discuss many items, including potholes & closure of paths. However, the next week it was noted that the path was to be closed without consultation, despite our previously voiced concerns.</p> <p>New Street Cleansing Operatives – One has started, with one to start in a number of weeks. These individuals will aim to keep every area of Westhill clean and tidy.</p> <p>Garioch Area Committee – The agenda has been set for the next Garioch Area Committee meeting, with a number of items related to Westhill. There are items which raise our concern, especially the closure of pathways and money being spent on other areas. The report of where money is being spent can be accessed</p>	

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	online.	
12	<p><u>Website Report & Communications Group</u></p> <p><u>Website</u> - Requests to post links to other groups and organisations are slowly growing, which increases activity to our website. We still choose not to allow comments, as this could lead to all sorts of comments which we cannot control. In relation to the website, Kieran Rorie will be moving to Germany for his third year studies and therefore resigning from WECC and his duties related to the website and Facebook communications. Audrey thanked Kieran for his input during his time in the Community Council over several years. Kate Lumsden, Shona Collins and David Ewen will therefore continue the running of the Facebook.</p> <p><u>Communications Group</u> – The Communications Group met and discussed a number of items, including the back up of documents and data, storage of laptops when a holder is away, protocol for communicating with the press and also utilising our website and Facebook in the best way possible.</p>	
13	<p><u>Treasurer's Report and Bulletin Updates</u></p> <p><u>Treasurer's Report:</u> I wasn't at March meeting. In minutes I saw that Ron suggested a separate bank account be opened for the Gateway Art Project. I can't see any benefits in doing that. A new column for it can be added to the financial report in minutes so that funds are ring fenced. If a separate organisation is set up then it will have its own bank account anyway. The suggestion of using posters created as part of the Dog Fouling campaign as the summer Bulletin front cover was also raised.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">- <i>David Ritchie</i></p> <p><u>Bulletin Report:</u> I should have put in March report an apology for the wrong year showing on Spring issue cover. Our printer does all the changes for the cover but had forgotten to update the year. I should have picked up the error when checking proofs. Deadline for summer issue is Friday 29th April, with printer delivery scheduled for Friday 20th May. As normal, this issue will include the Gala week programme so I will be requesting the distributors to do their deliveries quickly.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">- <i>David Ritchie</i></p>	
14	<p><u>Sub-group Reports</u></p> <p>Litter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crombie Eco Group borrowed our Kit and did their second litter pick this year on 21st March. They covered an area further from the school this time and reported collecting a large quantity of litter • Our monthly litter pick went ahead as normal. Several of our regular volunteers had to drop out but this was more than compensated by the turn out of two new volunteers who had responded to our Bulletin request and a large group of Tesco Staff who joined with us. • We paid tribute to the Tesco Staff and the other volunteers in a photograph and write up on the Web Site. • We collected a record amount of litter but the general impression of the volunteers is that the situation is getting worse. • It seems that there is minimal anti-litter dropping enforcement action in Aberdeenshire. Only 5 fines with a value of £280 have been levied in the last 5 years. This compares with over 3000 fines levied by Aberdeen city' • Our next regular Litter Pick will take place on 16th April. 	

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	<p style="text-align: center;">- <i>Aileen & Raymond Swaffield</i></p> <p>Bulbs & Baskets: Westhill Rotary Club have confirmed that they are very willing to help out as they did last year. The baskets require to be inspected and repairs carried out as necessary. It is particularly important that the supporting chains and safety catches are checked and replaced if damaged or corroded. Wicking material may need to be replaced as well. There will also be a requirement to purchase multi-purpose compost and bone meal. I will submit a report with costs to WECC after inspection is carried out later this week. - <i>John Imrie</i></p> <p>Art Project: The eggstravaganza occurred over the Easter weekend, with decorations put up round the Shopping Centre. The next event planned is the Scarecrow Trail for Gala week. – <i>Rosemary Murray</i></p> <p>Christmas Event: A sub-group is needed to look at the Christmas Event and how it can be improved each year. The Art Group will contribute. When asked who would like to be involved, David Ritchie, Becky Ferguson, Audrey Findlay, Rosemary Murray & Mervyn Barr responded. Things to be organised include the tree, decorations, food and hot chocolate and music arrangements.</p>	
15	<p><u>Correspondence</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letter from Kate Bond – This was circulated and discussed earlier throughout the meeting. • Potholes – Tennis Courts/Bowling Green access road – Addressed under item 11 (Ward 13 Councillors Reports) – Now resolved. 	
16	<p><u>AOCB</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • David Ewen raised concerns over the procedure of old bikes being thrown in the bin, without any parts being offered for reuse. This goes against all green policy, and seems to be Aberdeenshire policy. Other towns have Magpie and other procedures, where items can be kept to be reused or sold on etc. Cllr McKail noted that there are plans for a container to be available to the Mens Shed where items could be kept to be reused or recycled. Cllr McKail will raise this with the Waste Management committee. • What Westhill Means to Me event – David Ritchie attended the event, which was unfortunately poorly attended, possibly due to the timing being in the school holidays. 	Cllr McKail
17	<p><u>Date of next meeting</u></p> <p>Thursday May 12th 2016, 7pm, Holiday Inn, Westhill Drive.</p>	

Shona Collins
Minutes Secretary

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TREASURER'S REPORT FOR W&ECC MEETING 14/04/16					
	GENERAL FUNDS	ADVERTISING PRE-PAID FOR 2016 ISSUES	MAKING IT REAL FUND	LITTER CAMPAIGN FUND	TOTAL
FUNDS IN BANK AT 10/03/16	18781.75	12655.00	3972.62	781.17	36190.54
<u>Receipts in period 11/03/16 to 14/04/16</u>					
Bulletin advertisers- 2016 prepayments		940.00			940.00
Bulletin advertisers-spring issue	2216.00				2216.00
Bank interest	1.93				1.93
<u>Payments in period 11/03/16 to 14/04/16</u>					
Donations to 3 primary schools re Dog Fouling posters	-150.00				-150.00
Sundry cash Expenses	-40.84				-40.84
Bulletin sundries & postages	-38.30				-38.30
Members mileage & other meetings expenses	-112.00				-112.00
Honorarium to website manager for Q1 2016	-225.00				-225.00
Honorarium to secretary for Q1 2016	-300.00				-300.00
FUNDS IN BANK AT 14/04/16	20133.54	13595.00	3972.62	781.17	38482.33
Funds in bank include £18,196.53 in Santander Business bond at 0.9% interest					