

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 12TH MAY 2016 IN THE HOLIDAY INN, WESTHILL

Community Council		
Name	Position	Present
(vacant)	Chairperson	X
Audrey Findlay	Deputy Chairperson	✓
Becky Ferguson	Secretary	✓
David Ritchie	Treasurer	✓
Shona Collins	Minutes Secretary	✓
Mervyn Barr	Member	✓
Alan Eastell	Member	✓
David Ewen	Member	X
Bill Loudon	Member	X
Rosemary Murray	Member	X
Ken Seward	Member	X
Raymond Swaffield	Member	X
Kate Lumsden	Member	X
Nara Morrison	Member	✓
Cllr David Aitchison	Ward 13 Councillor	X
Cllr Amanda Allan	Ward 13 Councillor	✓
Cllr Ron McKail	Ward 13 Councillor	X
Cllr Iris Walker	Ward 13 Councillor	✓

Members of Public/Invited Guests		
Sheila Pirie, Tesco	John Imrie	Gary Scott (MOD Police)
	Patricia Gail Saluja	Gurudeo S Saluja

	<u>Item</u>	Action/ Attention
1	<u>Chairperson's welcome and opening remarks</u> Audrey Findlay opened the meeting, welcoming those who were in attendance.	
2	<u>Apologies</u> Ken Seward, Cllr David Aitchison, Cllr Ron McKail, Bill Loudon, Kate Lumsden, David Ewen, Rosemary Murray	
3	<u>Review and Approval of the Draft Minutes of Meeting 14/05/16</u> Proposed: David Ritchie Seconded: Alan Eastell The minutes were approved by the meeting.	
4	<u>Matters Arising</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letter to Chief Executive – Reference lack of responses to emails from WECC members to various departments within Aberdeenshire Council going back to 2015 of unanswered questions. Not yet sent but will be actioned before our next meeting. • Objection to Planning Application – Hilltop Gardens, the email which was sent is to be circulated. • List of funding opportunities for Gateway Project – Nothing has been received from Anne Simpson yet. 	Audrey Findlay
5	<u>Police Report</u> No report received. Secretary will chase up.	

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6	<p><u>Time slot for resident's questions and comments</u></p> <p>Aberdeen Football club proposed stadium. It has been noted that it is difficult when looking at the plan in a newspaper where exactly the stadium will be. No planning application has been received. Iris Walker said there will be a twelve week notice and public consultation. The Aberdeenshire Planners will be involved. Robert Gray Head of Planning, in Aberdeenshire Council, confirmed that he has heard nothing until it appeared in the press. The site does lie within the Aberdeen City Council boundary.</p>	All Members
7	<p><u>Planning Watch</u></p> <p>Most planning applications were garage extensions. Nothing terribly outlandish. The previous comments sent regarding Hilltop Gardens. This street is a cul-de-sac and is a high density development and any extension would make it look even more so.</p>	
8	<p><u>Gardening Competition</u></p> <p>Iris Walker and Ron McKail are trying to kick start the Gardening Competition. Iris has contacted Aberdeenshire Housing Partnership who are willing to sponsor the competition. The nomination form is in Bulletin and the front cover has details advertising the competition. There should be enough information in the bulletin for everyone. There will be forms at the Men's Shed. The categories are different and the trophies will have to be viewed to check the details and if they need to be replaced. New cups were discussed as one is tarnished. The schools in Westhill area may also get involved with the competition.</p> <p>It was noted that the Bulletin front cover is a good opportunity to advertise events.</p> <p>Sheila Pirie confirmed that Tesco would also advertise the competition.</p>	Cllr Iris Walker and Cllr Ron McKail plus All Members
9	<p><u>Update on Gateway Art Feature</u></p> <p>Audrey informed everyone that on Monday Audrey, Mervyn and Rosemary met with Doug Milne at Gordon House. Doug reiterated that there was no problem with the site, but there has not been any written confirmation. Doug said that the pocket of money from Public Art Funding is around £13,000 and also there is £14,000, which has now been confirmed at £16,000 in Landscape Services, which was to be put into Phase 4 of the Arnhall development. Audrey's understanding was that the money was going to be spent on an avenue of trees, alongside the Phase 4 development, leading up to Westhill. John Imrie confirmed for the record that Knights Property Group were going to start planting on October 2015 and this has not happened.</p> <p>Iris mentioned her understanding was that Landscape Services were going to plant trees on the way into Westhill on the A944. Audrey queried the money and Iris said that the report confirmed it was Landscape Services spend. This caused confusion with Audrey and John Imrie as they had been told it was going to be Knight Property Group who organised and paid for the planting of the trees. Amanda said that if Knight Property Group have paid the money to Landscape Services they may have taken on the work.</p> <p>Doug Milne had said at the CC would have to be consulted on the landscape project.</p> <p>Audrey suggested as the Gala was coming up this would be a good opportunity to ask the Westhill public for their views and comments. The Gateway Art Feature should be a celebration of Westhill, a specific identity of past, present and future. Sheila Waterhouse had mentioned that the Central belt had used renewables and</p>	Mervyn Barr, Rosemary Murray, Kate Lumsden, Audrey Findlay plus others.

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	<p>meeting and he had given a Police Report. This confirmed that there will be a lot less Police available to come to meetings and less reports available because of lack of manpower in the future said that there was a review underway and that we should react to it. Audrey is concerned that Police Scotland may sell off the Westhill building, Iris confirmed that although staff use the office space within the station, local officers seem to work between the Westhill and Inverurie Stations. Although two new community officers have been assigned to look after Westhill, reports of vandalism has increased.</p> <p>Cllr Ron McKail No report received.</p> <p>Cllr Iris Walker <u>Elrick Primary School</u> – I was invited back to Elrick Primary to meet with P6. In class they are involved in a project on the local community. I was questioned for some time on a whole range of issues including my role as a local councillor, how projects progress through the planning system and what projects are in the pipeline. They were particularly interested in the new hotel plans at Elrick. They were very clued up on local issues and asked some really fantastic questions! We spoke about the gateway art project and pupils were keen to be involved as this progresses.</p> <p><u>Westhill in Bloom 2016</u> – Aberdeenshire Housing Partnership has offered their support for the competition. At this time, no further details are available but it is hoped that all parties can meet to discuss further. The nomination form will be included in the Bulletin and I will print copies to be available for both the Wellbeing Event and the Gala. Ron had kindly agreed to hold a stock of forms in the Men’s Shed. A Facebook page “Westhill in Bloom 2016” has been made. This is an anonymous page with no individual having admin rights. It is envisaged that all individuals and groups involved with the organising of the competition will have equal access to it. An email address has also been set up for forms to be returned. Ron has been enquiring at garden centres for prizes.</p> <p><u>Dog Poo Campaign</u> – The display of a selection of posters in Westhill Library has finally been agreed for next week – w/c 16th May. Library staff have agreed that WECC can borrow the display on the Sunday for the Wellbeing event along with the “Doggy Doo” game! The library staff will be at the event themselves so handover of the items should straightforward.</p> <p>I have emailed all three head teachers asking them to let me know where they propose putting the metal sign at their school and once they come back with an idea of the fixings etc. required, I can order them.</p> <p><u>AFC Proposed Stadium at Kingsford</u> – After this news hit the papers this morning, I received many emails from residents and community groups. I contacted the planners at Aberdeen City who will be dealing with the application. As Ward 13 members will have no decision-making input in this one, I asked for reassurance that both Westhill and Elrick and Echt & Skene CCs would be statutory consultees in any future consultation. They advised that no pre-application notice has yet been received but once it was lodged there would be a 12 week consultation due to it being a major development. I also received reassurance from Aberdeenshire Council’s Head of Planning that they will work with their city colleagues to ensure that all those affected are appropriately engaged.</p>	<p>Cllr Amanda Allan and Cllr Ron McKail</p>
12	Website Report/Communications Group	

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	<p>David Ewen Website Report - Some statistics from what is roughly the first year of the website. We've had more than 8,000 visits and nearly 21,000 page views. The highest number of daily views occurred on March 24 this year – 761 – in response to "New sculpture for Westhill". These figures are actually tiny in terms of typical web traffic on a news site. I'll also give you a brief verbal update on an online survey tool associated with WordPress, which runs our website.</p> <p>Audrey confirmed that the Facebook page is being looked after by Shona Collins and Kate Lumsden, David Ewen looks after the website. The communications group needs to have another meeting. We need to press ahead as David is very conscious of the press connections. Shona needs to sign up to receiving emails when anything added to the website by filling in the 'follow' box on website. This will help to get items added to Facebook at the same time.</p>	<p>David Ewen Kate Lumsden and Shona Collins</p>
<p>13</p>	<p><u>Treasurer's Report and Bulletin Updates</u></p> <p>David Ritchie Treasurer's Report - Rosemary and I met recently to review the requests for donations received since last November. Attached is list of proposed donations, which total £1450. The requests are mostly from groups who have also received donations in previous years. The £1450 takes total donations in current financial year to £2750. This should be around one-third of the surplus generated by Bulletin.</p> <p>Audrey asked if the £1,000 reduction in donations in this financial year compared to previous year could be allocated to start the Gateway Art Project and David confirmed that they were going to treat the project separately. David confirmed that they do publicise local groups that receive money from WECC in the bulletin and this should also be put on Facebook</p> <p>David Ritchie Bulletin Report - I am hoping that printer will be able to deliver summer Bulletin on Thursday 19th May, so that most of the house deliveries should be done by the Saturday. That will help to remind folk about the Wellbeing event on the Sunday. This issue has the 4-page Gala programme insert.</p> <p>The bulletin needs to be put out quickly as it has the programme for the Westhill Gala included. Ken Seward has not been here because he is looking after an ill member of his family. He had spoken about resigning, but Audrey said to not to at this time. He delivers Bulletins in Crombie area and David confirmed that someone else has been delivering Bulletins on Ken's behalf since he had a hip operation in 2015.</p>	<p>David Ritchie</p>
<p>14</p>	<p><u>Sub-group Reports</u></p> <p>Litter Report - from Raymond Swaffield Our April litter pick went ahead successfully. Again a group of Tesco Staff joined with us. Two new volunteers joined in the pick. Our next regular Litter Pick will take place on 14th May. Aileen and I will be on holiday on the date but Rosemary Murray has kindly agreed to take the helm for the pick.</p> <p>Bulbs and Baskets:</p>	

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Bulbs and Baskets Report by John Imrie - Following on from further conversations with Inverurie Environmental Improvement Group (IEIG) and recommendations from John Glover and Sandy, we are making some major changes to the hanging baskets this year. We will be using an Irish peat based compost with a particular layout of plants for each basket and tub, weekly watering and not related to rainfall, and hopefully introducing fortnightly feeding to provide a better display.

This will make the planting of the baskets more formalised, and it is likely that there will be additional costs for the watering and feeding. It is possible that the plant feeding may be undertaken by IEIG but this has to be agreed within IEIG first of all, and then we will have to agree some recompense for their services.

Costs to date are as follows:

Replacement chain fixings (karabiners, rings and locking quick links) £184.44
14 bags of Evergreen Irish Multipurpose Compost £83.87 and Bone meal £8.99.

John added a verbal report at the meeting

John will arrange for the baskets to be watered weekly and fed fortnightly. John suggested that a payment to cover the mileage be made to anyone coming from Inverurie to feed the baskets, if this is arranged.

The Rotary Club are going to help hang the baskets and there is going to be a plan of action agreed between everyone involved. The baskets will be planted up at Grant Williamson's place at Broomfold. He also has a watering system that will help the baskets get off to a good start. John has organised to replace the chains, links and fixings. They are also buying Irish compost because peat is the best. Audrey asked if they needed any further help and John confirmed that it had already been organised by himself and the Rotary Club. A Cherry Picker will be used to hang the baskets as this is much safer than ladders. John also confirmed that an order for plants goes to Landscape Services and the plants are usually ready around the beginning of June. Audrey thanked John for his help.

Art Project:

Art Project Report by Rosemary Murray - The Westhill Art Project group are planning the 3rd Annual Scarecrow Trail as part of the Gala week events. This is one of the Community Art Projects, and not to be confused with the wider Public Art Project, the Gateway to Westhill vision. The public art project is more than a small group of volunteers (currently 5 members) can be expected to deal with. This must be a whole community project.

David mentioned that Rosemary is concerned about the lack of Scarecrows coming in as she only has seven. Friday 13 May is closing date.

Westhill Community Café Report by Rosemary Murray - This was set up in June 2013 by the CLD worker at the Community Centre. In November 2015, it became an independent organisation supported by CLD. The regular users stepped up to keep it running. It is self-financing. The users use Facebook to advertise the dates of Cafe mornings. In addition, the local TESCO store is a dedicated supporter of the Community Cafe, giving staff input and supplies of comestibles as part of their commitment to Community activities. This is a

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	<p><i>SUCCESS.</i></p> <p>Audrey thanked Sheila from Tesco for the donations of tea, coffee and other comestibles, given to the Community Cafe on behalf of the WECC.</p> <p>Christmas Event: Meeting to discuss this will be tagged onto the Communications Group meeting.</p>	
15	<p><u>Correspondence</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>CC Forum and AGM</u> - WECC should have people attend the meeting, in Inverurie Academy on Wednesday 1st June at 7pm. • <u>SensationALL Membership</u> - Audrey suggested that WECC could join as an Organisation Member. A formal agreement from the attendees was taken and agreed. Becky to action. • <u>Recycle Point</u> – A senior Waste Officer had confirmed to Iris that the glass recycle site be moved. Iris asked if it could be situated at the back of the shopping centre, where it use to be. John confirmed that when we got our blue bins for recycling, there would be a glass recycle site in the centre of Westhill. Options were discussed. WECC suggested at the back of Ashdale Hall and Audrey stated that they would need to consult with the hall committee. • <u>Westhill 10k</u> – Around 50 volunteers are still required for the race on Sunday 12 June. Unfortunately the Race for Life along the beach is on the same day. • <u>Community Space</u> - Aberdeenshire Council are having a Community Space event at St Fergus hall, St Fergus. This was discussed, but as it is a long way away and WECC are already committed, we will ask for the any relevant information to be passed on to us after the event. We will pass this onto the sports hub as well. • <u>Vandalism, Saturday 30 April and Sunday 1 May</u> – Audrey expressed her disappointment at the amount of vandalism reports during this time. Damage was reported at Hilltop Gardens. This was the same weekend that Westhill Academy also had broken windows and other incidents were reported across Westhill. • <u>Letter from Ed Pirie reference Golf Course Signs</u> – The signs on Westhill golf course are supposed to be illegal but they are still displayed. The golf club, we assume have been contacted by Aberdeenshire Council, but we don't know for sure. Iris and Amanda will check if a letter has been issued to Westhill Golf Club. Ron was also sent an email from Becky to check if he has heard anything. John asked if Mr Pirie wanted to walk across the golf course and confirmed that there is no law in Scotland to stop trespassing. 	<p>Becky Ferguson</p> <p>Cllr Iris Walker</p> <p>Audrey Findlay and Becky Ferguson</p>
16	<p><u>AOCB</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Plan Change of Affordable Housing</u> – There were concerns raised again regarding the 7 houses granted planning permission for sites owned by Westhill Golf Club. Councillors were asked to make sure the planners are checking as there are discrepancies in what the builders are advertising. Audrey will send email to the Planner dealing with the application, Bruce Strachan, directing him to the builder's website. • Steps and pathway at Hillside leading to Eastside, still waiting for WECC to be consulted, as agreed by the Garioch Area Committee. Iris reported that officers are trying to get a budget to replace the steps. A report was 	<p>Audrey Findlay</p> <p>Cllr Iris Walker</p>

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	<p>going to ISC today, no news yet available to say if committee has agreed £50,000 from the sustainable travel fund. Iris to report back</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Audrey was hoping that Mr Thomasson, from Eastside Green had been here tonight and was disappointed that nothing has been heard. This will be included in the letter which Audrey will send to the Chief Executive of Aberdeenshire Council. • It was confirmed that there will be no meeting in July, but there will be a meeting on Thursday 11th August 2016. • Meeting closed 9.20pm. 	
17	<p><u>Date of next meeting</u> Thursday 9th June 2016, 7pm, Holiday Inn, Westhill Drive.</p>	

Shona Collins
Minutes Secretary

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MAY 2016 DONATION REQUESTS

Group	Purpose of Donation	Donation Proposed	Previous Donations
1 Duke of Ed Award Group	First Aid Training for Gold DoE students	£250	£300 in 2012, £200 in 2013, £250 in 2014, £300 in 2015
2 Denman Playgroup	fundraising in order to stay open long-term	£300	£400 in 2012, £250 in 2013, £300 in 2014
3 Ashdale Hall	Contribution to £1100 cost of replacing tables	£300	£500 in 2013 to purchase chairs
4 Crombie School	to purchase litter-pick equipment suitable for children	£200	£400 in 2014
Garioch & North Mar			
5 Community Safety Group	WECC to sponsor Emergency Contact Discs for cars	£250	none
	total	£1,300	
	November 2015 donations	£1,450	
	total for 2015/16 financial year	£2,750	

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TREASURER'S REPORT FOR W&ECC MEETING 12/05/16					
	GENERAL FUNDS	ADVERTISING PRE-PAID FOR 2016 ISSUES	MAKING IT REAL FUND	LITTER CAMPAIGN FUND	TOTAL
FUNDS IN BANK AT 14/04/16	20133.54	13595.00	3972.62	781.17	38482.33
<u>Receipts in period 15/04/16 to 12/05/16</u>					
Bulletin advertisers- 2016 prepayments		200.00			200.00
Bulletin advertisers-spring issue	808.00				808.00
Scaffold tower hire	30.00				30.00
<u>Payments in period 15/04/16 to 12/05/16</u>					
Donations to Community Groups (5 donations, see list in minutes)	-1300.00				-1300.00
Summer Bulletin honorariums	-400.00				-400.00
M. Barr- reimburse shopping centre sculpture flyers distribution via Citizen	-51.64				-51.64
John Imrie- reimburse hanging baskets parts and compost	-276.79				-276.79
Information Commission -annual renewal	-35.00				-35.00
FUNDS IN BANK AT 12/05/16	18908.11	13795.00	3972.62	781.17	37456.90
Funds in bank include £18,196.53 in Santander Business bond at 0.9% interest					