

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 13TH OCTOBER 2016 IN THE HOLIDAY INN, WESTHILL

| Community Council | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|---------|
| Name | Position | Present |
| Shona Collins | Chairperson | X |
| Audrey Findlay | Deputy Chairperson | ✓ |
| Becky Ferguson | Secretary | ✓ |
| David Ritchie | Treasurer | ✓ |
| (vacant) | Minutes Secretary | X |
| Mervyn Barr | Member | ✓ |
| Alan Eastell | Member | ✓ |
| David Ewen | Member | X |
| Bill Loudon | Member | X |
| Raymond Swaffield | Member | X |
| Kate Lumsden | Member | ✓ |
| Nara Morrison | Member | X |
| Tim Yeomans | Member | ✓ |
| Gurudeo Saluja | Member | X |
| Diane Reid | Member | X |
| Heather Brock | Member | ✓ |
| John Long | Member | ✓ |
| Cllr David Aitchison | Ward 13 Councillor | X |
| Cllr Amanda Allan | Ward 13 Councillor | X |
| Cllr Ron McKail | Ward 13 Councillor | X |
| Cllr Iris Walker | Ward 13 Councillor | X |

| Members of Public/Invited Guests | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Graeme Burnett | Dawn Anderson | Heather Cook |
| John Imrie | Alistair McKelvie | Diane Priestley |
| Joe McAdie | | |
| | | |

| | <u>Item</u> | Action/ Attention |
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| 1 | <u>Chairperson's welcome and opening remarks</u> Audrey Findlay opened the meeting, welcoming many new faces to the meeting. A number of our members have given apologies due to the school holidays. | |
| 2 | <u>Apologies</u> Cllr Ron McKail, David Ewen, Shona Collins, Nara Morrison, Gurudeo Saluja, Cllr Iris Walker, Cllr David Aitchison, Diane Reid, Raymond Swaffield, Bill Loudon | |
| 3 | <u>Review and Approval of the Draft Minutes of Meeting 08/09/16</u> Proposed: Alan Eastell Seconded: Mervyn Barr The minutes were approved by the meeting. | |
| 4 | <u>Matters Arising</u> <u>APP/2016/2468</u> - Erection of Dwellinghouse and Double Garage (Amended Design) – Land Rear of 5 Cairnie View – Comment has been submitted. <u>Shopping Centre issues</u> – We have been in communication with MJ Mapp over recent months regarding the numerous issues which are still outstanding. We are extremely disappointed with the response that we have had, especially since these issues were raised in a meeting with him back in February. A particular problem is the slippery ramp which will become even more dangerous as winter approaches. We will write again to Marc Mills and request to meet as soon as possible, and if | |

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| | we do not receive a suitable response then we will have to go to the press to publicise the issues. It was questioned whether the Council had any responsibility over this, however due to the fact that it is all privately owned this is unfortunately not the case. | Becky Ferguson |
| 5 | <p><u>Police Report</u></p> <p>A report was received, which was read out at the meeting. It was noted that we have not had a police officer present at a meeting for a number of months. It is believed that there has been a number of issues in the last few days and weeks regarding young people in the area. It was questioned whether we should write to the Chief Constable to express our concerns. Becky will do this.</p> | Becky Ferguson |
| 6 | <p><u>Kingsford Stadium Development</u></p> <p>Becky reported on the Transport Consultation meeting held on October 3rd at Pittodrie. In attendance were Ian Cox of Kingswells CC plus representatives from First Bus, a private coach company, Aberdeen City and Shire Councils, the Dons Supporters Together group, a cycle forum, Fairhurst and was chaired by George Yule of AFC. This meeting was informative, working on projected figures depending on the type of match. No conclusions were made, as it is still early in the planning process and there is no application submitted yet.</p> <p>It was questioned why this meeting had been called, as there seemed to be lots of little meetings happening around the place. It was explained that we were invited to this meeting and went along to represent the views made known to us from the community. Becky took some notes but the meeting was not minuted. One item discussed was that of parking, as AFC are trying to expand the number of parking spaces they are allowed in accordance with planning regulations.</p> <p><u>Public Meeting</u> – Back in August it was requested that WECC would hold a Public Meeting. In the months following this, it has been extremely difficult to secure a date, chairperson and venue for a number of reasons. This will be held on November 1st, in the Balmoral Suite, Holiday Inn Westhill. We have been in communication with AFC requesting their attendance at this meeting, however they have confirmed that they will not be able to attend. However, they have offered us a preview to the feedback from the Consultation on the evening prior to the day where it is open to the public on November 24th at Pittodrie.</p> <p>The Public Meeting will be chaired by Doug Milne, Garioch Area Manager, as an individual external to the Community Council. In addition to this there will also be a Police presence.</p> <p>What we really want for this public meeting is to have as much factual information as possible, to create a platform for any residents to share any questions or concerns that they may have.</p> <p>Unfortunately, due to the location of the site being within the boundary of Aberdeen City, we do not have the same influence that we may have if it was within Aberdeenshire. We will be consulted on a discretionary basis and will do our best in submitting comments, aiming to include as many comments from residents as we possibly can.</p> <p>It was noted that if this stadium is built, that the green belt will be gone and there will be potential for Westhill to be taken in as part of the City boundary. In addition to the stadium development, there is an application for the extension to Prime Four to be retail rather than the office development as previously agreed. It was questioned whether this would be in line with the City Centre Masterplan, as they are really focusing on developing the City Centre.</p> | |

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| | <p>It is believed that the planning application will not be submitted until early December, with a result not expected until July 2017.</p> <p>It was asked if the No to Kingsford campaign would be able to have a slot to present their views. It was explained that everybody will have an opportunity to speak and express their opinions through the chairperson. Rules for the meeting were also discussed, as we must ensure it does not get out of hand. It was explained that as Doug Milne will be the one to organise the meeting, he will set out the rules at the beginning. Another question asked whether the event would be ticketed to control entry or whether it would be first come, first served. It was explained that it has to be first come, first served, and that once the seats are full that will unfortunately be it. We are a voluntary group and do not have the manpower to organise tickets etc. The Police present will control any unwanted behaviour. Pre-submitted questions were also suggested. This will be up to Doug Milne to choose how to organise the meeting.</p> <p>The September meeting was also discussed, in terms of the misplaced anger which was presented on the night. We were reminded that there is a planning process that must be followed, and individuals can express their comments through that system once the application is submitted.</p> | |
| 7 | <p><u>Planning Watch</u></p> <p>It was noted that there has been movement on the Arnhall Phase 3 site, with another building under construction. The development site at the old Blockworks on the A944 is also taking place, with the hotel now under construction.</p> | |
| 8 | <p><u>Update on Gateway Art Feature</u></p> <p>Audrey explained the background of the Gateway Art Feature for those who did not know the history of the project. As we are approaching the 50th anniversary of the beginning of Westhill, we are looking to produce an art feature which tells the story of the journey of Westhill over this time, and expresses our identity as a town of our own, rather than a suburb of Aberdeen. We have been working with Aberdeenshire Council to discuss the best way to do this.</p> <p>Recently, we have been producing a white Question Mark to put on the site to indicate our intention to place an Art Feature. A senior officer from Landscape Services will be coming to the site to look at the ideal placement for the Question Mark, as it must be in a safe and secure location. We will be looking for external funding related to Art projects in order to fund this, in addition to some of the money we have built up through Bulletin profits. It was noted that we must ensure that the Question Mark is weather proof and secured appropriately as the bad weather approaches.</p> <p>It was questioned where the 'Gateway' term came from. Mervyn explained that this was a word that simply came up in conversation, particularly relating to the development of the entrance to Westhill being warehouse type buildings which would not be particularly pleasant.</p> <p>Mervyn will arrange to meet up with this member of staff and will also request written permission regarding the site.</p> | |
| 9 | <p><u>Events</u></p> <p>Christmas Event – For the last two years we have held a turning on of the Christmas Lights, lighting the tree in the shopping centre. On December 10th we will be doing this again. We will be serving hot chocolate, mince pies, sweets and other items all thanks to donations from local businesses and retailers. There will be musical items from the local churches and also the Academy music department. The Christmas Window display competition will be organised by the Art Project. We will need to find somebody to turn the lights on the day.</p> | |

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| 10 | <p><u>Ward 13 Councillors' Reports/Updates</u> <u>Cllr Ron McKail</u></p> <p>A brief summary of the items I've been involved in since the last WECC meeting</p> <p>1) Public Land Ownership Meadowlands Meadowlands householders contacted ward councillors regarding their concern that a FOR SALE sign had been erected on the large field at the far end of this estate. On the advice of the Planning Officer I passed on the message to each house in Meadowlands that it was most unlikely that the Planners would be recommending for approval any application for this land to be used for house building. However this weekend just gone I was contacted by two householders that the trees forming the boundary were being cut down. Contacted the Area manager for his advice and his action plan. (The land was initially owned by Greenbelt who I believe has now sold the public areas to Rubislaw Estates. What I did not appreciate was that when the first owners bought their new house they each paid a premium of £15000 for the public areas to be maintained. Can fully understand their annoyance as to the happenings of the past month). - <i>One resident of Westhill present lives in the Meadowlands area. She explained that she believed the current land owner has been trying to sell the land to the residents adjacent to the plot.</i> - <i>WECC will write to Doug Milne, Garioch Area Manager to ask for clarification of the current situation.</i></p> <p>2) Varapunya Mediation Centre. East Mains of Kinmundy. Was visiting residents in the Kinmundy estate (off the Brodiach Road) and had a pleasant meeting with the Monk. He conducts sessions on meditation. Recently moved into Westhill a few months ago. Perhaps due to my lack of knowledge I was surprised to hear from him that on a five acre grass field site adjacent to his property which he plans to turn into a garden for his congregation to stroll through help them relax etc. (bulb/flowers/shrubs/trees planting) that he needed planning permission with the cost being some £2500 approximately for change of use. I felt that for a religious group helping people who maybe stressed etc; this is a church; that charging them £2500 was a bit over the top. Will follow this up. Be interested to know if WECC hold similar view to me. - <i>It was commented that it was not WECCs place to say whether someone should have a fee waived in an instance such as this. There is a planning process which all have to go through, whether religious or not. If someone has a fee waived then it simply opens a door for others to expect the same.</i></p> <p>3) Speeding Issue Dawson Drive Received request for help with a speeding concern from Dawson resident. I've contacted the police inspector and he is arranging for the speed monitoring device to be sited at some time in the near future.</p> <p>4) Footway Westhill Heights Received a request to help with repairing the footway at the bottom of Westhill Heights. Followed this up and the footway is now on the reserve list for the Road Maintenance programme for this financial year.</p> <p>5) Zebra Crossing on Westhill Drive Prominent item in my mailbox this month has been concerns regarding `near miss` incidents on the zebra crossings on Westhill Drive. Did contact the Roads Engineers. Advised firstly that the zebra complies with regulations (which we are aware of) and secondly there is no evidence of accidents. Third piece of advice is the car registration number should be reported police (101. Not easy to do when you've just avoided being in a collision with a car. Will continue to collect hard data and inform the Roads Officers is that whilst the zebra crossing complies with regulations there is still a serious road safety issue and in my view action to make the crossing safer is required.</p> | |
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| | <p>6) Denman Park Pond</p> <p>In regard to the issues concerned with the Denman Park Pond there is a continuing problem. We thought long term issue had been solved, apparently not. Shopping Centre management team have been contacted and they are sending letters to all food outlets reminding them to follow good practice. In addition SEPA are continuing to push the Centre's management for a formal maintenance programme and details of the actions that will be taken to prevent any further pollution to the ponds; it is still a work in progress at the moment. WECC should continue to monitor this issue. Water Quality in the ponds as you will have noticed is still a serious issue – SEPA are now moving to taking enforcement action against the Shopping Centre. Council's Environmental Health officers are of the view this has taken far longer than it should have done to sort out.</p> <p><u>Cllr Iris Walker</u></p> <p>My apologies for this week's meeting as I am away on council business. Congratulations to the new team formed after September's AGM and I wish you all well for the year ahead.</p> <p>Winter Maintenance</p> <p>As you know, area committees made comment back in August on the Winter Maintenance Review proposed. The review covered grit bin provision, snow patrols and treatment of footways and for Westhill this meant that although a larger area of footways would be covered after 8am, no footways were deemed to be a priority i.e. treated before 8am. Your concerns about footways falling down the priority list for not only winter maintenance but general maintenance, safe routes to school and the criteria used to classify footways were passed on via the Garioch Area Committee (GAC). Local members reiterated to their colleagues on Infrastructure Services Committee (ISC) these concerns and it was agreed that Westhill will be looked at again. We felt that because our shopping centre is privately-owned and therefore not adopted by the council, this has created an anomaly in the priority-setting process. A report is expected back before GAC in due course.</p> <p>Arnhall Moss</p> <p>Just when we thought that the ponds were clearing, it seems that there has been a turn for the worse with fungi seen and a smell of sewage at the ponds. It is disappointing to note that the shopping centre owners may not have been as proactive in seeking solutions as we first thought. SEPA are continuing to push for resolutions and I have arranged a meeting on site with SEPA over the coming weeks.</p> <p>A944 landscaping</p> <p>The design plan for the planting of trees as agreed with the community council and Aberdeenshire Council has been requested on multiple occasions. Today I was advised that this will be available once the member of staff involved returns from annual leave. You will recall that this landscaping was part of the planning consent for one of the Arnhall phases.</p> <p>Parking at schools</p> <p>I have met with parents and staff of both Elrick Primary and Skene Primary recently regarding concerns over unsafe parking at school. Discussions have been ongoing with Roads service to look at refreshing markings around the schools and Police Scotland are also aware of ongoing issues. Parents are being encouraged to report any incidents on 101.</p> <p>Steps at Hillside</p> <p>Work has started to bring back in to use this well-used set of steps. The work has stopped this week due to annual leave, but staff will be back on 17th October and are expected to have the job completed by the end of that week.</p> <p>The rusting railings nearby have been logged again as an issue and we await an update on those.</p> | |
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| | <p><i>It was noted that the repair of these steps has been as a result of WECC working with local people and our Councillors, along with an extremely comprehensive report from our previous secretary John Imrie regarding pathways in the area. It is vital that these steps remain and we are delighted the repair has begun.</i></p> <p>1st Westhill Scout Group I attended the group's AGM last Friday evening to hear about their very busy year just past with new members joining and new parents getting involved as well. The Scouts, Beavers and Cubs themselves gave some super presentations about the activities they have enjoyed. Thanks were passed on to Westhill & Elrick Community Council for your support with funding. This was much appreciated by them.</p> | |
| 11 | <p><u>Website Report/Communications Group</u> No report received.</p> | |
| 12 | <p><u>Treasurer's Report and Bulletin Updates</u> <i>Treasurer's Report:</i> <u>Hanging Baskets</u> - at September meeting we approved John Imrie's proposal to replace the tubs on Straik Rd. columns with same type of hanging baskets as we have on Westhill Drive & Old Skene Rd. They haven't been purchased yet as we are trying to establish if we can put baskets on the few new aluminium columns that have been installed on Straik Rd beside where the new hotel is being built. If we can't use these columns we won't need to buy the number of baskets originally planned. <u>Admin Grant</u> - I submit the application to Aberdeenshire Council for our annual Admin Grant after each AGM, as I have to send them our audited accounts. We have just received this year's grant, value is £1536, a small increase on last year's grant. - <i>David Ritchie</i> <i>Bulletin Report:</i> Cutting Edge Tree Care and Landscaping- I advised in September report that this new advertiser had done some very poor work for a resident and so I wouldn't be allowing them to have a third advert in winter issue. When I was chasing them for payment of £105 for their autumn issue advert they advised me by text that they had gone bust, so that is a second bad debt for us this year. - <i>David Ritchie</i> - <i>In addition to this report, a request from the No to Kingsford Stadium for a page in the Bulletin was discussed. WECC will be putting in a number of pages surrounding the stadium development, and the information that we currently have. As there is no planning application currently submitted it is extremely difficult to know what to publish at this stage. It was commented that an article from the No to Kingsford campaign could be submitted to the Bulletin, however it would have to be stated that any views expressed were not those of Westhill & Elrick Community Council. Anyone in favour of the stadium could also submit an article if they so wished. We would give the opportunity for the Yes group to write a piece following the Public meeting on November 1st.</i></p> | |
| 13 | <p><u>Sub-group Reports</u> <i>Litter:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our September Litter pick went ahead in good weather. A big turnout of volunteers resulted in a filled bin of litter collected at the end. • After our problem with our bin being filled by "another user" last month, I checked on our bin the afternoon before this pick to confirm it was empty. Again, it was half filled. The council was contacted and I was grateful that they kindly offered to get it emptied in the morning, prior to our pick. • We will be away on holiday during our next scheduled pick on 15th October and Mrs Barbara Crane has kindly agreed to run the event for us. We have placed an advance order with the council to provide the bin for the event. | |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We were able to alert Emma Williams, Environment Planner of a continued new pollution in the pond at Denman. This will be investigated by SEPA. - <i>Raymond & Aileen Swaffield</i> <p>Bulbs and Baskets: The Hanging Baskets were removed by Westhill Rotary Club members in the last week of September. I was incapacitated and was not involved. All the baskets and tubs were emptied and are currently in storage at Broomfold. They will all be inspected in the coming weeks to see if any replacement wicking material, mats, or other items are required. I have been in discussion with David Ritchie regarding the replacement of the tubs in Elrick and the proposed additional baskets. It looks as if we may not be able to fit hanging baskets to some of the new lighting columns as they are aluminium. We are trying to find out from Aberdeenshire Council why we this is not possible. The bedding plants that were planted in various locations in Westhill will be removed in the coming weeks - <i>John Imrie</i></p> <p>Art Project: The Art Project held two Saturdays of pavement art at the Shopping Centre which were very successful. The next project will be a portrait project, in which every Westhill resident will be asked to produce an A5 portrait of themselves, which will then be displayed in many community locations around the area. – <i>Kate Lumsden</i></p> | |
| 14 | <p><u>Correspondence</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The next meeting of Westhill and District Community Sports Hub will be on Wednesday November 16th, 7pm in the Holiday Inn, Westhill. Education Governance Review – Circulated to members. Community Justice – Circulated to members. Raymond attended the Garioch Bus Forum on September 22nd in Kemnay, and circulated the report around members. The report was read at the meeting. | |
| 15 | <p><u>AOCB</u> Community Council training – October 1st – John Long attended this meeting. The first presentation was from SEPA, which was informative and interesting. There is a wide variety of extremes in Aberdeenshire as to proximity to rivers etc. The second workshop was on Roads, and consisted of information on street lighting and other aspects of the department. Westhill Gardening Competition – We are still to receive a bill for the payment of the trophies from Osprey Housing. We will ask Cllr Iris Walker to chase this up and ensure this is paid. In addition to this, we would like to gather some photographs of the gardens or winners for the next Bulletin, however we must get permission to do this. We also need to gather information of our new members to print in the next edition of the Bulletin.</p> | |
| | <p><u>Date of next meeting</u> Thursday 10th November 2016, 7pm, Holiday Inn, Westhill Drive.</p> | |

Becky Ferguson
Secretary

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| | GENERAL FUNDS | ADVERTISING PRE-PAID FOR Winter 2016 ISSUE | MAKING IT REAL FUND | LITTER CAMPAIGN FUND | TOTAL |
|---|-----------------|--|---------------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| FUNDS IN BANK AT 8/9/16 | 18136.70 | 4574.00 | 3972.62 | 763.21 | 27446.53 |
| <u>Receipts in period 9/9/16 to 13/10/16</u> | | | | | |
| Bulletin advertisers-autumn issue | 3137.00 | | | | 3137.00 |
| Admin Grant from Aberdeenshire Council | 1536.00 | | | | 1536.00 |
| Bank interest | 1.89 | | | | 1.89 |
| <u>Payments in period 9/9/16 to 13/10/16</u> | | | | | |
| Honorarium to website manager for Q3 2016 | -225.00 | | | | -225.00 |
| Honorarium to secretary for Q3 2016 | -300.00 | | | | -300.00 |
| FUNDS IN BANK AT 13/10/16 | 22286.59 | 4574.00 | 3972.62 | 763.21 | 31596.42 |
| Funds in bank include £18,361.35 in Santander Business bond at 0.75% interest | | | | | |



WESTHILL AND ELRICK

**COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MEETING ON**

6 October 2016

1. LOCAL INTEREST INFORMATION

17 crimes and or offences have been reported to Police since the last meeting on 8 September 2016:

There have been 6 Assaults reported, of which 4 have been detected.

There has been 2 Vandalisms reported and both are meantime undetected.

There has been 5 Thefts reported, of which 2 have been detected. There are positive lines of enquiry ongoing to detect the other Thefts.

The other incidents reported relate to Road Traffic matters, Drugs offences and Frauds.

2. FEEDBACK ON POLICE ACTIONS IN RESPONSE TO MATTERS RAISED AT THE PREVIOUS MEETING

N/A

3. DETAILS OF ACTIONS IN RESPONSE TO MATTERS RAISED AT THE PREVIOUS MEETING

N/a

4. ONGOING LOCAL / FORCE-WIDE ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

Static Speed checks and high visibility patrols have been carried out at identified areas and also at local schools in an effort to deal with parking issues and anti -social driving.

As always, all local residents are reminded to secure all vehicles parked in driveways and

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

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garages, maintain their house security and keep all keys in a safe place in an effort to prevent house and vehicle owners becoming a target of thieves.

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

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