

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 8TH SEPTEMBER 2016 IN THE HOLIDAY INN, WESTHILL

| Community Council | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------|---------|
| Name | Position | Present |
| Shona Collins | Chairperson | ✓ |
| Audrey Findlay | Deputy Chairperson | ✓ |
| Becky Ferguson | Secretary | ✓ |
| David Ritchie | Treasurer | ✓ |
| (vacant) | Minutes Secretary | X |
| Mervyn Barr | Member | ✓ |
| Alan Eastell | Member | ✓ |
| David Ewen | Member | ✓ |
| Bill Loudon | Member | X |
| Ken Seward | Member | X |
| Raymond Swaffield | Member | ✓ |
| Kate Lumsden | Member | X |
| Nara Morrison | Member | ✓ |
| Tim Yeomans | Member | ✓ |
| Gurudeo Saluja | Member (co-opted tonight) | ✓ |
| Diane Reid | Member (co-opted tonight) | ✓ |
| Heather Brock | Member (co-opted tonight) | ✓ |
| John Long | Member (co-opted tonight) | ✓ |
| 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 | X |

| Members of Public/Invited Guests | | |
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| Aileen Swaffield | Gurudeo Saluja | Patricia Gail Saluja |
| Gordon Ballantyne | Maria Ballantyne | Heather Cook |
| Jim Gordon | Sheila Gordon | Nancy Manning |
| Graham Hunter | Jules Hunter | Freda L Dickson |
| Ian J Dickson | Dawn Anderson | Angela Allan |
| <p><i>There were further Members of the Public present, however the sign in sheet did not make it all the way around the room. Apologies if your name is not listed, please get in touch if you would like it to be.</i></p> | | |

| | <u>Item</u> | Action/ Attention |
|----------|---|------------------------------|
| 1 | <p><u>Chairperson's welcome and opening remarks</u> David Ritchie nominated Shona Collins for Chairperson This was seconded by Audrey Findlay Shona Collins nominated Audrey Findlay as Vice Chair, and seconded by Raymond Swaffield. Shona Collins then opened the meeting, welcoming everyone to the meeting.</p> | |
| 2 | <p><u>Apologies</u> Ken Seward, Bill Loudon, Cllr Iris Walker, Tim Yeomans, Kate Lumsden</p> | |
| 3 | <p><u>Review and Approval of the Draft Minutes of Meeting 11/08/16</u> Proposed: Raymond Swaffield Seconded: Alan Eastell The minutes were approved by the meeting.</p> | |
| 4 | <p><u>Matters Arising</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication from Garfield Prentice – please find under item 6. | |

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| 5 | <p><u>Police Report</u> No report was received.</p> | |
| 6 | <p><u>Kingsford Stadium Development</u> Becky read out the response from Garfield Prentice, which explained that our request to become statutory consultees is not something which can proceed, as this can only be done through legislation. WECC will however be consulted at a discretionary level. This was followed by discussion regarding the Stadium, and whether Westhill & Elrick Community Council would be representing the community. It was explained that the difficulty is that our community has mixed opinions regarding the stadium, and as a community council we must represent the whole community. Another comment was made regarding the website, and the “lack of information” on our own website. It was questioned whether the funds in our bank account could be used to pay someone to make us a new website. Currently, our website does signpost people to other sites which have more information. We have had a volunteer to help with the website, which will be investigated.</p> <p>Another resident raised the point that the next pre planning meeting would involve opportunity to give comment to AFC and Council Officers.</p> <p>One resident questioned how long it would take to become a statutory consultee, which unfortunately would take years through having change legislation.</p> <p>Another question asked whether there was precedent for the Community Council, Councillors and local politicians to look into if there is any way which we can look into the fact that it is almost a cross-boundary development. This is a route that could be pursued, and we will write to all our MSPs for the North East and the City.</p> <p>One resident questioned what our local Councillors are doing. Cllr Ron McKail answered this question that they will be consulted when the plans are brought to the table at the Garioch Area Committee. Cllr David Aitchison also noted that he has had informal discussions, and explained that if he came out tonight in favour of one way or another, he would be seen as having pre-judged the application and would then not be allowed to take part in the consultation.</p> <p>Mr Thornton stated that the application will be determined by Aberdeen City Council, which if refused could go to the Scottish Reporter in Edinburgh if appealed.</p> <p>Another resident said that there was a group of people who held up the AWPR, so it may be possible!</p> <p>It was also noted that there are two pipelines which run very near to the site, and these have the potential to cause serious problems if something goes wrong, however the development is planned to comply with health and safety policies.</p> <p>Conversation continued about the proposal, and how individuals can get involved in expressing their opinions to AFC and Aberdeen City Council. At this moment in time, any individuals can write to AFC/ACC to express their opinions, and once the planning application is in will be able to comment on that as well.</p> <p>At this point of the meeting things got out of hand and a number of inappropriate comments were made. A number of individuals left the meeting.</p> <p>Angela Allan suggested that an extraordinary general meeting could be held to give an opportunity for discussion amongst individuals with opinions both for and against within Westhill. Further suggestions on how to host this were noted, and will be discussed. This included pre-prepared questions, static microphones, and representatives from AFC.</p> <p>It was also noted that those for the proposal had not made themselves known at this meeting.</p> <p>Mervyn Barr encouraged everyone to not look at those who disagree as an enemy, but to remember that there is a system that we must work with. If any objections want to be made, individuals must submit their own comments.</p> | Becky Ferguson |

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| | AFC will be holding a Transport consultation meeting at Pittodrie on October 3 rd , Becky will attend as our representative on behalf of WECC. | |
| 7 | <p><u>Planning Watch</u> APP/2016/2468 – Erection of Dwellinghouse and Double Garage (Amended Design) – Land Rear of 5 Cairnie View The history of this application involves a refused planning application which went to appeal and was approved by the Scottish Reporter. This was for a bungalow, and the amended design is now for a two storey house. Any comments are to be sent to Becky, who will collate and submit.</p> | Becky Ferguson |
| 8 | <p><u>Update on Gateway Art Feature</u> Audrey and Mervyn met with Doug Milne and Sheila Waterhouse to discuss the plans for our Gateway Art Feature and got clarification on what is required for any publication in the lead up to the project.</p> | |
| 9 | <p><u>Events</u> <u>Christmas Event</u> – A small group has met to look at the plans for the Christmas Event, and this is in hand. E-mails will be circulated when there is further need to organise parts of this event.</p> | |
| 10 | <p><u>Ward 13 Councillors' Reports/Updates</u> Cllr Ron McKail: It was noted that the grass has been cut recently, following requests from individuals to do so. Denman Park – It is believed that the situation of smells in the Burn has been resolved. This will be monitored. Roads Winter Maintenance – As discussed last month, there was a proposal for a change to the winter maintenance schedule, with our pavements being down as not being cleared/gritted until after 8am. This is extremely disappointing and our comments were noted at Garioch Area Committee.</p> | |
| 11 | <p><u>Website Report/Communications Group</u> We've doubled the number of visits and views from 2015 to 2016. Regular, prompt Facebook postings have helped. To date we've had 13,344 web visitors, with 35,474 views ie. on average people are looking at 2.8 pages. The biggest numbers of views was on June 7 this year - 2,382. That week we had the gala pictures + 3 other posts. From June 6-12 we had 601 visitors who on average looked at 7.82 pages: a total of 4,706 views. The most popular day for viewing is Sunday (20% of traffic) and time of day is 8pm. This suggests that our website is used as a leisure resource rather than a news source -- people aren't rushing to it at 8am to see what's breaking or visiting at lunchtime during work. In terms of website development, we'll look to carry a poll around the Gateway Art Project. In terms of general comms activity, we might look to make more use of local media (newspapers in particular) in promoting our work. We do have a protocol in place for this now; it's just a question of doing feeding news. Just as WECC has resisted getting drawn into a debate about the football stadium proposal at this early stage, we have resisted allowing the website to be used a platform for this (in line with our protocol which doesn't enable comments). We have permanent post that explains our reasons for this, and the number of contacts from residents asking us to take a stance has reduced. The Communications group is to meet again soon.</p> | |
| 12 | <p><u>Treasurer's Report and Bulletin Updates</u> <u>Treasurer's Report:</u> Hanging Baskets - John Imrie is proposing that we replace the tubs on lampposts on Straik Road with proper hanging baskets like those on Westhill Drive and Old Skene Rd. The Straik Road tubs are the remaining ones from 2008 when we</p> | |

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| | <p>bought a pile second-hand from Inverurie for £717. They are quite difficult to plant up and put up on the brackets. In 2009/10 we spent a total of £2193 replacing the Westhill Drive and Old Skene Road tubs with 48 proper new 'Cup & Saucer' type hanging baskets and the brackets for them.</p> <p>John is proposing that we buy 20 more of them for Straik Road, which will cost £1025. The purchase cost of a basket and bracket has only gone up by 5% in 7 years, but the vat rate has also gone up by 5% since then!</p> <p>The annual operational costs for the baskets is now quite small as the watering is done free by Perfectshine in exchange for getting an advert in Bulletin. If we had to pay for the watering this year it would be over £600 as it was being done weekly.</p> <p><i>It was agreed to go ahead with this proposal.</i></p> <p><u>Bulletin Report:</u></p> <p>Printer delivered Autumn Bulletin a day earlier than expected, which helped to get them distributed quickly. Deadline for winter issue is 28th October.</p> <p>There is a bad debt of £115 from the summer issue due to Albyn Roofing from Aberdeen not paying their invoice. The owner Jack Ross got numerous reminder emails and letters over a 2 month period and promised a few times to sort out the payment but never has. This is the first bad debt for a number of years. Albyn Roofing started advertising in the Winter issue and did pay for winter and spring, though he was a few weeks late each time.</p> <p>I was contacted a few weeks ago by a resident who had got some slabbing work done by Cutting Edge Tree Care and Landscaping. They are an Aberdeen company who started advertising in the summer issue. The work they did for this lady was poor standard and they refused to go back to rectify it and became abusive and didn't answer phone when she called etc. She had to get another company in to rectify the work. The advert is in Autumn issue because the complaint came in too late to take the advert out, but I will not be repeating his advert. This kind of thing happens once every couple of years or so, and is normally that type of business, so in future I will ask for references before taking a new advert of that type.</p> | |
| 13 | <p><u>Sub-group Reports</u></p> <p><u>Litter:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our regular August Litter Pick was well attended. Two new volunteers joined in and we have hopes that they will come to future picks. • Our Bulletin and Web Page entries seem to be effective at encouraging new volunteers. • We found what we feel is an increasing dropping of litter in general. • We encountered a problem with the large bin which we order from the Council each month for our collected litter bags. We were surprised to find that it was almost completely full of black bags before we even started. There was insufficient space left for even some of our bags. Some of our volunteers resorted to dumping litter in other waste bins in the area. When we finished, the lid could not close properly, exposing the top bags to disturbance by birds. • I assumed that the council workers had used the bin and so contacted the council department to clarify our concern. • Peter Rhodes, Waste Management Supervisor for collection and cleansing central, investigated the delivery of our bin and found that it had been empty when delivered. The driver had noticed a quantity of black bags stacked outside the Tennis Courts. The conclusion is that the Tennis Club or Bowling club had filled our bin. I have since e-mailed Peter for advice on how best to tackle this problem, as it is not acceptable for us to have no bin at the end of a Litter Pick. | |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our next Litter Pick will take place on 17th September - <i>Raymond & Aileen Swaffield</i> <p><i>On the above matters, one comment was raised regarding the state of Denman Park during school lunchtimes. Discussion followed this regarding our previous attempts, and Heather Brock present stated that she would take this back to the school Parent Council.</i></p> <p>Bulbs and Baskets: The hanging baskets will be removed this month depending on the weather forecasts for later in the month. It will also depend on the availability of the Rotary Club who will be providing the manpower. We also have to send in our plant order to Aberdeenshire Council Landscape Services for next year's plants by 30th September. I have sent a quotation to WECC for 20 new hanging baskets and brackets for Elrick to replace the existing tubs (14) and add some new ones. This work also requires agreement from Aberdeenshire Council regarding the installation of the new brackets on lamp posts. – <i>John Imrie</i></p> | |
| 14 | <p><u>Correspondence</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have received an email from Ken Seward, who due to family illness is standing down from WECC. Audrey has replied to Ken, thanking him for all his work while being involved with WECC. • The next Westhill & District Community Sports Hub meeting will be held on 4th October at Westhill Holiday Inn, 7pm. • The South West Aberdeenshire Citizens Advice Bureau AGM will be held on September 19th, 7pm in the Ballater/Braemar Rooms, Holiday Inn. • The next Garioch Area Bus Forum will be held on September 22nd in Kemnay. • An email was also received from John Imrie, part of which related to the outstanding issues at the Shopping Centre, as previously promised by MJ Mapp. Extra waste bin, collection of rainwater on the walkway outside Co-Op, the anti-slip studs, the resurfacing of the entrance to the service yard, amongst other serious issues. We will endeavour to meet again with Marc Mills as soon as possible. | |
| 15 | <p><u>AOCB</u> Alan Eastell raised concerns over the pavement along Old Skene Road, on the side of Denman Park. This was noted by Councillor McKail, who will investigate. Co-option onto WECC – a number of individuals have raised an interest in joining WECC. Gurudeo Saluja, Heather Brock, Diane Reid and John Long all expressed an interest, and the co-option of these members was agreed.</p> | |
| | <p><u>Date of next meeting</u> Thursday 13th October 2016, 7pm, Holiday Inn, Westhill Drive.</p> | |

Becky Ferguson
Secretary

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| | GENERAL FUNDS | ADVERTISING PRE-PAID FOR Autumn & Winter 2016 ISSUES | MAKING IT REAL FUND | LITTER CAMPAIGN FUND | TOTAL |
|---|-----------------|---|---------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|
| FUNDS IN BANK AT 11/8/16 | 18663.25 | 9148.00 | 3972.62 | 781.17 | 32565.04 |
| Receipts in period 12/8/16 to 8/9/16 | | | | | |
| Transfer of autumn pre-paid adverts to General Funds | 4574.00 | -4574.00 | | | |
| Bulletin advertisers-autumn issue | 1313.00 | | | | 1313.00 |
| Payments in period 12/8/16 to 8/9/16 | | | | | |
| Sundry admin Expenses | -70.00 | | | | -70.00 |
| XIC- Bulletin Autumn issue printing | -6073.95 | | | | -6073.95 |
| Bulletin sundries & postages | -31.56 | | | | -31.56 |
| Westhill in Bloom prizes & expenses | -65.60 | | | | -65.60 |
| Aberdeenshire Council -3 A3 dog poo signs for primary schools | -87.84 | | | | -87.84 |
| Members meetings expenses | -84.60 | | | | -84.60 |
| Ray Swaffield- reimburse refuse bags for litter-picks | | | | -17.96 | -17.96 |
| FUNDS IN BANK AT 8/9/16 | 18136.70 | 4574.00 | 3972.62 | 763.21 | 27446.53 |
| Funds in bank include £18,361.35 in Santander Business bond at 0.75% interest | | | | | |