

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 9TH JUNE 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	X
Mervyn Barr	Member	✓
Alan Eastell	Member	X
David Ewen	Member	✓
Bill Loudon	Member	✓
Rosemary Murray	Member	✓
Ken Seward	Member	X
Raymond Swaffield	Member	✓
Kate Lumsden	Member	✓
Nara Morrison	Member	✓
Tim Yeomans	Member (co-opted this meeting)	✓
Cllr David Aitchison	Ward 13 Councillor	X
Cllr Amanda Allan	Ward 13 Councillor	X
Cllr Ron McKail	Ward 13 Councillor	✓
Cllr Iris Walker	Ward 13 Councillor	✓

Members of Public/Invited Guests		
Aileen Swaffield	Nancy Manning	Beryl Burbidge
Charlie Love	Daniel Andrew	Justin Clarkson
Heather Brock	Diane Reid	Lynda Eddie
Graham Hunter	Matthew Reid	Leslie Eddie
Tim Dean	Colin Davidson	Roger Shinne
Angela Allan	Margaret Shepherd	Ken Shepherd
Clare Davidson	Charlie Henderson	Matthew Steele
Graham Stanley	Kendall Stanley	Liz Scatterty
David Farquhar	Ainsley Farquhar	Tony Scatterty
Jules Hunter	Heather Cook	Francis Charles Yeates
Jean Smith	Heather Duncan	Bert Rennie
Andrew Tong	Ell Henderson	Hilary Davidson
John Davidson		

	<u>Item</u>	Action/ Attention
1	<u>Chairperson's welcome and opening remarks</u> Audrey Findlay opened the meeting, welcoming the great number in attendance this evening. It is great to see so many people interested in what is happening within their community.	
2	<u>Apologies</u> Ken Seward, Cllr David Aitchison, Shona Collins, Alan Eastell	
3	<u>Review and Approval of the Draft Minutes of Meeting 14/05/16</u> Proposed: David Ritchie Seconded: Nara Morrison The minutes were approved by the meeting.	

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4	<p><u>Matters Arising</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Response from Malcolm White – This was in relation to the proposed 8 houses applied for by the golf club, and the suspected change of 'type of house' due to online advertisement. Malcom White explained that there has been no application for a change in the planning application, and until there is there is nothing which can be done. • Report from Community Council Forum – John Foulkes raised the issue of why Westhill does not have a fire station? The answer to this was that our area is covered by North Anderson Drive, which is a 24/7 station. The other stations in the area, such as Inch & Inverurie are RDS stations (Retained Duty System), manned by individuals who have other jobs etc. Another issue raised was that of the lack of Police presence at Community Council meetings, not only by ourselves but other Community Councils too. Along with this, the detail of the reports were not always at the same standard which they used to be. Overall, the Garioch Community Council Forum was a very worthwhile evening, and it is very helpful to hear from other community councils. • Cllr McKail noted that there were discussions regarding having a Community Safety Hub, which would mean having Police and other services running out of the Westhill Police Station. This is encouraging to retain the use of the building. 	
5	<p><u>Police Report</u></p> <p>The report was circulated prior to the meeting. No comments were raised. Attached as PDF.</p>	
6	<p><u>Kingsford Stadium Development</u></p> <p>This item was taken first in the meeting. Audrey welcomed those interested in this issue, explaining that at this point in time WECC have not made an opinion on the matter. We have not seen any further information than what was published in the press.</p> <p>A number of items of concern were expressed by those present at the meeting. This included traffic, parking, safety in the area, policing, people drinking in Westhill, light and noise pollution, the use of the stadium for concerts or rugby etc, proximity to the pipeline and loss of views & amenity.</p> <p>A number of residents who live in close proximity to the proposed site were present, and expressed their disapproval due to the affect it will have on their standard of living. The land is not currently zoned for any development in any Local Development Plan.</p> <p>Audrey commented that speaking to Kingswells CC and also the Kingswells councillors will have greater impact, as they are the ones who will have a greater say in the consultation.</p> <p>It was noted that a proposal for a driving range was previously knocked back due to light pollution, setting a precedent for other developments, and being on greenbelt – in 2005ish. This shows that other developments have been objected to on similar principals.</p> <p>Audrey reminded everyone of the fact that there is no planning application as of yet, so we don't know a lot of information yet.</p> <p>It was expressed that AFC are the applicants, and everybody should contact them with their concerns, as they are the ones with the power to change anything.</p> <p>It was questioned who owned the land – a farmer who has agreed a missive with AFC.</p> <p>It was questioned whether AFC had been in touch with Aberdeenshire Council on this issue. Cllr Walker confirmed that the head of planning is aware of the plans, and will ensure someone is working close with the City Council planning development.</p> <p>Why do they need this site, when they have planning permission at Loirston?</p>	

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	<p>It was asked what would happen if the application was refused by Aberdeen City Council? It would go to the Scottish Reporter in Edinburgh.</p> <p>Cllr McKail expressed the fact that all our local councillors have to remain neutral at this point in this process, as they would have to declare an interest and not be included in any consultation.</p> <p>It was noted that it is believed that the head of the City Council has not ruled herself out with her comments, as she was not commenting on a live application at the time.</p> <p>It was questioned whether we would use our website and social media to advertise any dates/important information etc. We will.</p> <p>It is important to express all opinions within the community, as there will be many who are in favour of the plans also.</p> <p>One gentleman noted the possibility of Westhill being targeted to be included within the City boundary if the Stadium is the edge of our boundary.</p> <p>It was questioned whether there had been communication with the Lawsonsedale Trust. Nobody was aware of anything.</p>	
7	<p><u>Planning Watch</u> <u>Strawberryfield Road – APP/2016/1352 & APP/2016/1442</u> Modification of Planning Obligation (Affordable Housing Provision) of Planning Permission Ref: APP/2010/0289 (Erection of 10 Houses and Associated Infrastructure) & Erection of Dwellinghouse</p> <p>Previously, an application was approved for ten houses on this site at Strawberryfield Road. This included three affordable houses, following the previous rules of 30% affordability. Since the application, the rules have changed to up to 25%. This means they have changed their application to now contain two affordable houses rather than three. We have now missed the deadline for comment on this application, however the land is allocated for development anyway. This further application seems to simply be an addition to the development, with one singular house.</p>	
8	<p><u>Westhill in Bloom</u></p> <p>Cllr Walker is hoping to hold a meeting with everybody interested in running this competition soon. We will need to get more publicity going, in order to receive nomination forms.</p>	Cllr Walker
9	<p><u>Update on Gateway Art Feature</u></p> <p>We are still awaiting the written confirmation of the use of the land for the Art Feature from Doug Milne. It has been expressed verbally but not on paper. The last meeting was held with Sheila Waterhouse, which was extremely beneficial to the group. She explained how other groups have done it, including the use of recycled materials, and also lighting the feature. It is our hope to erect a 6 foot white question mark in the location, advertising the fact that we are hoping to construct an Art Feature. Obviously this is still in the early stage, however we want to raise as much interest as possible, along with raising as much money as we can for the project. A rough figure of £50,000 has been suggested.</p> <p>David Ewen questioned if we would get a specific breakdown of the costs, in case we can save money in any areas.</p> <p>We will consult as many individuals and groups as possible, to ensure ideas are shared and encouraged, along with utilising the website, Facebook & Bulletin.</p>	
10	<p><u>Events</u> <u>Report back on Wellbeing Event & Gala</u></p> <p>Wellbeing Event – This event went well, with a great number of people coming past. We handed out many of the Emergency Contact detail forms. IT was good for us to be there and make ourselves known. We even found a new member!</p> <p>Gala – Again this went really well. It was a beautiful day, with a huge number of people there. We advertised the Art Project, had the Scarecrows on show, and took a straw poll on initial opinions on the Stadium development. While the</p>	

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	<p>Stadium is something we can't take an online poll for, we could utilise this feature for the Art Feature.</p>	
<p>11</p>	<p><u>Ward 13 Councillors' Reports/Updates</u> <u>Cllr David Aitchison</u> No update received <u>Cllr Amanda Allan</u> No update received <u>Cllr Ron McKail</u> Councillor Issues involved in since last WECC meeting Aberdeen Football Club Stadium. Several emails regarding the publicity in the P and J regarding the location of this stadium close to the Westhill/Aberdeenshire Border. Cllrs being asked to take action. Advised those who contacted me that (if it comes to it) this will be a City planning application. Local councillors may at some future date be involved in a `neighbouring authority` formal consultation process. Therefore unable to make comment. Nicol of Skene 10 K. Have volunteered to help at this event. Also there are local concerns that with road closures may affect church attendance. Organisers confirmed they have this concern in hand. Brodiach Flooding Plan. £4500 allocated to deal with the flooding issue at Brodiach Mill and surrounding area. Have kept affected residents informed of the programme. Street lights Brimmond Drive Lane. Reported street lights on this lane which intermittently fail to light up. Council Road Sign. Location > junction with Westhill Drive and Tesco Roundabout (A944). This recently erected blue sign has arrows and direction pointing in the wrong direction. Reported to Roads Officers. Garlogie Day Centre. Council`s (Social Work) policy is for service costs to be met by users who have the `ability to pay`. An example regarding a Westhill constituent using the centre is that her costs pre April were £6.60 per session increased to £43.36 per session. Concerns include that those who used the centre to socialise will `drop out` losing the health benefits which they previously enjoyed. Shopping Centre Car Park. Still receiving complaints about the lack of directional arrows in the area of the parking bays. Common comment is that this is an `accident waiting to happen`. M J Mapp have indicated that they will not be taking any action, being satisfied with the current parking arrangements. Emergency Contact Discs. On behalf of Council`s Community Safety Group - thank you to WECC for sponsoring/purchasing 500 disc holders. <u>Cllr Iris Walker</u> Hill of Keir Road I've had concerns raised about the time afforded to the developers by way of closure of the Hill of Keir Road; specifically that the road was being used to park work vans during the closure. I have had confirmation from both the Roads service and the developer that the required road widening, gully and kerb work will be completed within this current closure period. Westhill in Bloom The Facebook page is now live and can be updated by WECC or any other interested party. Email log-in details passed separately to WECC to monitor return of forms. A supply of forms has been passed to Tesco. Marc Mills has agreed to speak to shop owners about hanging baskets and/or encourage tenants to get</p>	

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	<p>involved. I suggest a short meeting to discuss overall progress and timescales with interested parties.</p> <p>New crossing on Old Skene Road I am persevering to keep this issue on all Ward meeting agendas! Roads have agreed to survey before the summer holidays and after collecting further feedback from residents, they have also agreed to have a look at Westhill Drive (Hilltop end) where there is no provision for safe crossing to the Academy. Roads officers will now attend our Ward meetings and hopefully this will progress some issues quicker.</p> <p>Hillside Road steps No update since last meeting. Funding agreed in principle by ISC but needs to go back to Area Committee for comment.</p> <p><u>In addition at the meeting</u> There were reports that there may be raw sewage in the pond in Arnhall Moss. It has been confirmed that this is not the case, however there is a lot of litter which needs to be cleared. Environmental Health will keep an eye on this.</p>	
12	<p><u>Website Report/Communications Group</u> An arrangement has been put in place to potentially secure more media coverage for WECC activities. When a link to major web stories is posted on Facebook, it will also be sent to the local press (<i>Press & Journal</i> and <i>Evening Express</i>). Web traffic continues to grow. The biggest single number of views was 834 on May 17 this year, which would have been on the back of news about the Dons' stadium proposal. We have posted a note on the website – partly in response to emails from residents asking us to oppose the stadium – that WECC has no view at this stage on the proposal; will scrutinize plans only when they are formally submitted; the land lies with the city council boundary. – <i>David Ewen</i></p>	
13	<p><u>Treasurer's Report and Bulletin Updates</u> <u>Treasurer's Report:</u> The financial year-end is 30th June, so if anyone has expenses or reimbursements to claim please get them to me soon. If you get a cheque from me this month please bank it by 27th June. Christmas Lights Repairs- 6 lights needing repair were picked up by Blachere Illumination recently. The repairs cost £933. Repair costs in 2015 were only £203. The pattern for a number of years has been alternating years of low and high repair/refurbishment costs <u>Bulletin Report:</u> Printer delivered Summer Bulletin after 4pm on Friday 20th May but most distributors did their deliveries that weekend. This issue includes details and nomination form for Westhill in Bloom competition so hopefully that will help to generate interest in it. Deadline for Autumn issue articles is Friday 29th July, but printing process won't start till around 10th August, so what we put in about the football stadium and Gateway Art Project can be tweaked until then.</p>	
14	<p><u>Sub-group Reports</u> <u>Litter:</u> Our May litter pick went ahead successfully, run by Rosemary, as we were away on holiday. We have held two youth group evening litter picks this month, the 2nd Westhill Guides and the 3rd Westhill Rainbows. Our next regular Litter Pick will take place on 18th June. <i>Raymond & Aileen Swaffield</i> <u>Bulbs and Baskets:</u> I was informed on Saturday 4th June that the plants would be available for collection from Aberdeenshire Council's Landscapes Services facility at Kemnay on Monday 6th June. Plants were collected courtesy of John Fraser (Car and Van Hire) and other members of Westhill Rotary Club. The hanging baskets will be filled this week at Broomfold (courtesy of Grant and Dot Williamson) and will be then hung up in their polytunnel for a week prior to being hung up in the various locations in Westhill and Elrick by Westhill Rotary Club and other volunteers.</p>	

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	<p>Bedding plants will be planted at the Rotary Stone on the A944, the raised bed on Westhill Drive and various other locations in Westhill over the next week or so. – <i>John Imrie</i></p> <p>In addition at the meeting: It was noted that the Council had not tidied up around the Rotary Stone, however this has now been done by volunteers. There were excess plants available, of which John Imrie asked for suggestions of where could use them. Iris suggested the Old Schoolhouse, so it is believed some have gone there. They will be watered weekly this year by Perfectshine, compared to fortnightly in previous year. Perfectshine will continue to get free advertising in Bulletin in return for the watering and have confirmed they will not be charging us for the extra watering's. Thanks were expressed to both John and those in Rotary for all their hard work in organising these baskets.</p> <p>Art Project: We held a very successful Scarecrow Trail on Sunday 29th May, as part of Gala week events. There were only 29 creations this year. However they were admired and voted on by at least 120 to 150 people during the course of the day. Two prizes were awarded – one for the favourite Scarecrow and one for the best returned form. The children received a certificate and a £10 voucher for Art & Craft goods from Waste Enterprise, this expense approved by the treasurer. The WAP had claimed no other expenses for this event. Although it was a FREE event, people wanted to make a donation. We collected £40.25 which will go to a local charity (yet to be decided). - <i>Rosemary Murray (WAP team leader)</i></p> <p>Christmas Event: A meeting is still to be held to begin the organisation of this event.</p>	
15	<p><u>Correspondence</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letter from Margaret Cooper – A letter was received by the secretary from Margaret Cooper, expressing her concerns about the proposed football stadium. The same concerns (and more) were raised this evening as above. She also expressed her thanks for the work that W&ECC do within the community. • Communication with Shopping Centre – David Ritchie met with Marc Mills regarding a bench sponsored by the Lions Club to be placed within the shopping centre. David took this opportunity to express other concerns which we have had. It was confirmed that the slabs on the slope will be changed. Other slabs are also a problem. A new bin outside Dominos is still to be completed, as is the hatching round at the entrance to the Vets. His problem is that he finds it difficult to communicate with the construction agents in order to get anything done. It has also been confirmed that Marc Mills would be happy for W&ECC to purchase a plaque to explain who the artist is behind the boar sculpture at the shopping centre. 	
16	<p><u>AOCB</u></p> <p>Tim Yeomans has expressed an interest in joining W&ECC, following coming to our stall at the Wellbeing in Westhill Event. He was co-opted on unanimously by those present.</p> <p>Cllr Walker explained that the response to the Planning Review is now in, and there is a document which we can read the recommendations. Getting rid of Strategic Development Plan, housing numbers set centrally & getting rid of the Main Issues Reports are a few of the recommendations.</p>	
17	<p><u>Date of next meeting</u></p> <p>Thursday 11th August 2016, 7pm, Holiday Inn, Westhill Drive.</p>	

Becky Ferguson
Secretary

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	GENERAL FUNDS	ADVERTISING PRE-PAID FOR 2016 ISSUES	MAKING IT REAL FUND	LITTER CAMPAIGN FUND	TOTAL
FUNDS IN BANK AT 12/05/16	18908.11	13795.00	3972.62	781.17	37456.90
Receipts in period 13/5/16 to 9/6/16					
Transfer of summer pre-paid adverts to General Funds	4700.00	-4700.00			
Bulletin advertisers-summer issue	408.00				408.00
Payments in period 13/5/16 to 9/6/16					
M. Barr - items for Gala day	-105.77				-105.77
Sundry admin Expenses	-30.36				-30.36
XIC- Bulletin Summer issue printing	-6118.26				-6118.26
Bulletin sundries & postages	-34.80				-34.80
Members mileage & other meetings expenses	-71.70				-71.70
Fee to Minutes Secretary for March to May	-120.00				-120.00
Rosemary Murray- reimburse scarecrow winner prizes	-20.00				-20.00
D. Ritchie- reimburse Xmas lights repair bill from Blachere	-932.62				-932.62
Gift to Fara West for photographing our events	-100.00				-100.00
Correction to May donations total	3.10				3.10
FUNDS IN BANK AT 9/6/16	16485.70	9095.00	3972.62	781.17	30334.49
Funds in bank include £18,196.53 in Santander Business bond at 0.9% interest					



WESTHILL AND ELRICK

**COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MEETING ON**

9 June 2016

1. LOCAL INTEREST INFORMATION

13 crimes and or offences have been reported to Police since the last meeting on 12 May 2016:

There have been 5 Assaults reported, of which 4 have been detected.

There has been 1 Vandalism reported, which is meantime undetected. However there is a positive line of enquiry ongoing in relation to this crime.

There has been 1 Theft reported, which is meantime undetected. However there is a positive line of enquiry ongoing in relation to this crime.

There has been 1 Theft by Housebreaking and an Attempted Theft by Housebreaking reported, which are meantime undetected. However there is a positive line of enquiry ongoing in relation to this crime.

The other incident reported relate to Road Traffic matters, neighbourhood disputes and dog incidents.

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 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.