

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 11TH AUGUST 2016 IN THE HOLIDAY INN, WESTHILL

| Community Council | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|---------|
| Name | Position | Present |
| (vacant) | Chairperson | X |
| Audrey Findlay | Deputy Chairperson | X |
| Becky Ferguson | Secretary | ✓ |
| David Ritchie | Treasurer | ✓ |
| Shona Collins | Minutes Secretary | ✓ |
| Mervyn Barr | Member | X |
| Alan Eastell | Member | ✓ |
| David Ewen | Member | X |
| Bill Loudon | Member | ✓ |
| Rosemary Murray | Member | ✓ |
| Ken Seward | Member | X |
| Raymond Swaffield | Member | ✓ |
| Kate Lumsden | Member | ✓ |
| Nara Morrison | Member | ✓ |
| Tim Yeomans | Member | ✓ |
| 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 | | |
|---|------------------|-------------------|
| John Imrie | Aileen Swaffield | Diane Priestley |
| Moira Archibald | Alison Cumming | Charlie Love |
| Diane Reid | John Thornton | Margaret Thornton |
| Freda Imrie | | |

| Item | Action/ Attention |
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| 1 Chairperson's welcome and opening remarks Becky Ferguson opened the meeting, handing over to Shona to chair tonight's meeting. | |
| 2 Apologies Audrey Findlay, Ken Seward, Mervyn Barr, David Ewen, Cllr David Aitchison | |
| 3 Review and Approval of the Draft Minutes of Meeting 09/06/16 Proposed: David Ritchie Seconded: Rosemary Murray The minutes were approved by the meeting. | |
| 4 Matters Arising Nothing to be discussed at this point. | |
| 5 Police Report The report was circulated prior to the meeting and it was read during the meeting as there were no Police Officers present. Attached as PDF. | |
| 6 Kingsford Stadium Development Becky read out the main points from a letter received by AFC regarding the transport, traffic & parking consultation. This meeting will include a number of organisations, including Aberdeen City Council, Aberdeenshire Council, NESTRANS, First Aberdeen, Stagecoach, Central Coaches, Kingswells | |

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| | <p>Community Council, Aberdeen Cycle Forum, Police Scotland, Sons Supporters Together and ourselves. This will hopefully contribute to a realistic transport assessment and plan of action.</p> <p>The residents present at the meeting expressed a strong opinion of holding a Public Meeting in Westhill, as soon as possible. Discussion followed this suggestion, where WECC explained that at this stage the information presented is vastly incomplete and we do not have the full details required to construct an opinion. This would be one way in which we can judge the opinions of residents in Westhill. WECC do feel that AFC should be putting in the effort to organise these events, however we do believe this would be a useful exercise. In principle we therefore agreed to host a public meeting, however this would be following the submission of the planning application as we require detailed information. Logistics would have to be carefully thought out to ensure a full and even debate. Christian Allard then discussed the planning process and explained that at this stage it is extremely difficult to represent the community, and as there is no planning application in yet there is nothing we can physically comment on. Alison Cumming echoed these remarks, explaining the planning process in more detail and the fact that WECC is not a statutory consultee. We have requested to become a statutory consultee however have not heard anything back yet. Becky will chase this up.</p> | Becky Ferguson |
| 7 | <p><u>Planning Watch</u> <u>APP/2016/1875 - Condition 12 (Siting, Design and Landscaping) of previously approved Planning Permission in Principle APP/2014/1356 (Part Site Unit 1 Only) – Kingshill Commercial Park</u></p> <p>David Ewen has looked at the above application and expressed his opinion that it was not something to worry about but an adjustment to the original planning permission. John Imrie stated that he believes it is a change to floor space within the same footprint, increasing the office space.</p> | |
| 8 | <p><u>Westhill in Bloom</u></p> <p>The team met last week, and there are now around forty nominations. We are still looking for one more judge. Aberdeen Housing Partnership is sponsoring one trophy, and we will pay for four of the same design but smaller. We have a number of prizes donated by many local organisations. Kate will organise taking the judges around shortly. David questioned whether going around forty gardens would take too long, or whether they should be shortlisted beforehand. Bill explained that previously he would take photos and shortlist. It was concluded that it is important for the judges to see all gardens, to ensure a fair decision. . Certificates will be given to all nominated, with prizes being awarded at the AGM.</p> | |
| 9 | <p><u>Update on Gateway Art Feature</u></p> <p>There is permission from Doug Milne for the site, however there is no permission for erecting a question mark until Planning have been to see the site and approve it. The question mark is to be made by the Mens Shed. Hopefully we will be able to source funding from many different sources, as confirmed by Sheila Waterhouse.</p> | |
| 10 | <p><u>Events</u></p> <p>There has been a meeting planned to begin discussing the Christmas Event on August 23rd at 7pm, in the Holiday Inn Lounge.</p> <p>One resident questioned what the Christmas Event was, and it was clarified that this event has been a community event surrounding the switching on of the lights on the Christmas Tree, including musical items, mince pies and hot chocolate.</p> <p>This year we are hoping to expand the event even more as we enter the third year of it running. Details will be discussed at the meeting.</p> | |

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| 11 | <p><u>Ward 13 Councillors' Reports/Updates</u></p> <p><u>Cllr Ron McKail</u></p> <p>Hill of Kier Road. Several enquiries regarding this road closure. Response from officers stated that they were unable to open it at present as there are safety issues for both locals and passing traffic. My colleagues are currently in discussions with the developer to ensure our concerns are addressed and the road opened again as soon as possible" Still closed for safety reasons.</p> <p>Denman Park/Arnhall – Westhill Denman Park pond has been generating media publicity since the last WECC meeting due to an unpleasant smell. Advised in late July that remedial work has been completed with Scottish Water reporting no smell and no sewage fungus. Problem apparently arises in the Shopping Centre where measures are being put in place to prevent a reoccurrence.</p> <p>Overgrown verges causing a safety hazard. Concern regarding lack of grass cutting on verges on Auchronie Road and Auchenclech Crossroads being two areas raised with me. Seen as a safety problem for motorists/ walkers /joggers/cyclists. Contacted Landscape services who at the time of writing this taken action to cut the grass etc.</p> <p>Garlogie Day Centre Have spent time with elderly persons who attend the Garlogie Day centre where the issue for those with the `ability to pay` was increased from pre April 2016 costs for day attendance of £6.00 to £44.00 per day attendance. Reason for the increase relating to £14.00 for cost of transport and the removal of the 35% cap for lunch which previously reduced the cost. In this coming September HSW Committee will be proposing to raise the income threshold from £16000 to £26,500. Those attending the Garlogie Centre were very distressed at what they described as the lack of consultation as well as the increase in fees which was not fully understood as what they had to pay was related to their `ability to pay`.</p> <p>Westdyke Recycling Centre (WRC). Trial in Westhill to increase the amount of waste the public recycle. This will involve site staff encouraging users of WRC to segregate their waste ensuring that items which can be recycled are placed in the appropriate skip. The intention being to reduce items going to landfill.</p> <p>Aberdeen Football Stadium. From the emails received on this AFC proposal this is the current major issue for a very large number of Westhill residents who are opposed to this planning application.</p> <p>Westhill Tennis Court Road. Road is in a disgusting state with several potholes which require to be filled. Did report this in May. Current state of play is that a decision is awaited whether to temporarily fill the potholes or await permanent overlaying of the road with a new surface in October. Job should have been done at the beginning of the tennis season not at the season end.</p> <p><u>Cllr Iris Walker</u></p> <p>Inspiring Aberdeenshire Before the holidays, Aberdeenshire Council hosted "Inspiring Aberdeenshire" at Haddo House – an annual celebration of volunteers and local groups. Elrick Primary choir took part in the opening ceremony and Westdyke Community Club was runner-up in the "Best of Garioch" award.</p> <p>Denman Park/Arnhall Moss Ongoing discussions with SEPA, Scottish Water and Environmental Health. Since the choke on the drains at the shopping centre has been cleared, the water seems to be slowly clearing. The Arnhall Moss advisory group met on site last week and an update will be provided shortly. I've since spoken to SEPA and they advise that</p> | |
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| <p>M J Mapp have been requested by SEPA to provide a plan of inspection and an outline of measures they will take to prevent a repeat of this happening again.</p> <p>A944</p> <p>There are a couple of road closures which may affect Westhill residents in their day to day travel on the Westhill to Dunecht road – 29th August for two weeks from Nether Afflock to Craighedarg then from 12th September for two weeks, the Dunecht to Tillyfourie Road from Burnseat to Kinnernie, all for essential repair works.</p> <p>Carnie Woods</p> <p>Aberdeenshire and City officers have been working on concerns raised by residents - some repair work has been carried out on the broken wooden tracks in Carnie Woods. A drainage problem by the “kissing gate” at the Peregrine Road end is to be dealt with by Aberdeen City and there are also some tree works to be done.</p> <p>Playpark at Broadstraik Drive</p> <p>There have been repeated acts of vandalism at this park over the last few weeks with “gangs of youths of about 14 years of age” reported to be leaving litter, broken glass, drug paraphernalia and ripping sections from the play equipment, rendering it unsafe for normal use, as well as damaging nearby properties. Police Scotland are aware as are Landscape Services. New parts for the climbing frame have been ordered and are due to be fitted within the next couple of weeks. Some residents are calling for a review of the lighting/security/potential to remove the “shelter” at the park nearer Westdyke Way. I have asked Landscape Services for the long-awaited feedback from the Playpark Review conducted in 2014 and have been told this is “imminent”.</p> <p>AFC Stadium proposal</p> <p>Emails continue to come in on a daily basis. Well over 500 responses have come in via my online survey which is restricted to views of Ward 13 residents. I have asked Doug Milne to invite a planner to our next ward meeting to give more up to date advice on how local councillors are likely to be involved/consulted as the application progresses.</p> <p>Dog Poo Campaign</p> <p>A small selection of the primary school posters have been displayed in Tesco. The metal signs (funded by W&ECC) were distributed to the three primary schools so look out for them displayed after the holidays. The council sign shop did a great job and the signs look fab! I was asked to do an interview for Radio Kent a few weeks ago as a volunteer dog warden there had heard about our spray paint campaign!</p> <p><u>Cllr David Aitchison</u></p> <p>AFC Stadium</p> <p>The proposed stadium development at Kingsford has generated a very large number of communications from Westhill residents since the football clubs announcement in May.</p> <p>In response I have given advice regarding the planning process as it applies to this particular proposal. This is ongoing and comprises email responses, telephone conversations and face to face meetings with many individuals and groups.</p> <p>Planning Review</p> <p>The Scottish Government published their response to the review of the planning system on 11 July 2016. The Scottish Government’s response welcomed the report and confirmed its commitment to simplifying and strengthening the planning system.</p> <p>The response identified 10 key actions to be taken forward as a priority, as well as advising of work with key stakeholders to develop more detailed proposals for the other recommendations. The response also advises that the Government aims to consult on a White Paper in Autumn/Winter 2016 with the intention of bringing a Planning Bill forward in 2017.</p> | |
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| | <p>It is expected that the White Paper will seek views on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A reconfigured system of development plans • New tools to assist housing delivery • An approach to infrastructure and delivery • More meaningful and inclusive community engagement | |
| 12 | <p><u>Website Report/Communications Group</u> David Ewen was not present, therefore David Ritchie explained that we are trying to ensure that we send any new stories that we put on the website to the press also.</p> | |
| 13 | <p><u>Treasurer's Report and Bulletin Updates</u> <u>Treasurer</u> The annual accounts for the year to 30th June are prepared and will be passed to auditor Colin Currie soon. We have just broken even for the year, but we have still got £23000 of reserves from previous years surpluses. We are also in the process of securing the Santander Bond for another year.</p> <p><u>Bulletin</u> Printer should be delivering Autumn Bulletin to me on Friday 19th August. 5,500 copies are being printed this time. It should stay at this number for a few years as Broadshade is nearly finished and there is no other major house-building projects in the pipeline.</p> | |
| 14 | <p><u>Sub-group Reports</u> <u>Litter</u> July was the Summer break for our volunteers and so we have not held any organised Litter Picks. Our next regular Litter Pick will take place on 20th August. We have had a communication from George Niblock of Aberdeenshire Litter Initiative – Ali who originally was involved in setting up our group with Ian Forsyth. He was keen to get an update on how we were getting on and of our current numbers. We responded to his request and he sent us this:- <i>Raymond, thank you for the update. The Keep Scotland Beautiful annual report highlights the increasing problems with litter across the country. This, allied to the reductions in service for more conventional street sweeping locally does not pose an optimistic picture for the future. I am due to meet with senior civil servants in Edinburgh at the end of the month to highlight this and the fact that most public bodies are failing in their statutory duty including Scottish Ministers.</i> He suggested we recommend our group look at the Ali FaceBook Page and we will pass on the link with our next e-mail reminders. Join Friends of Ali on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/groups/47510797273/ Raymond advised that the dam in Denman Park pond is currently damaged and requires repairing. Christian suggested contacting Subsea 7 as they are always on the lookout for new projects to get involved in within the community. – Raymond & Aileen Swaffield</p> <p><u>Bulbs & Baskets</u> The hanging baskets and tubs were eventually installed on 15th June after a delay caused by very wet weather. The work was carried out by members of Westhill Rotary and coordinated by myself. In particular, John Fraser arranged for the collection of the plants from Aberdeenshire Council landscape services depot at Kemnay and the collection of the compost for the baskets and tubs from Parkhill garden centre near Dyce. Grant and Dot Williamson at Broomfold provided the facilities for putting the plants into the baskets.</p> | |

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| | <p>This year, we used a specific type of Irish peat compost and added bone meal fertiliser, as well as increasing the number of plants in each basket and tub. Also, I provided a formal layout for the plants in the baskets and tubs. Guidance on these improvements was provided by Inverurie Environment Improvement Group (John Glover and Sandy). This has produced improved floral displays in all of the baskets and tubs. Watering has been carried out by Perfectshine with David Ritchie providing the liaison with them.</p> <p>There have been a number of positive comments regarding the quality of the displays in the hanging baskets and tubs this year. This shows that some of the community have noticed what has been achieved.</p> <p>Some of the plants were put into the flower beds at the Rotary stone on the A944, the raised bed on Westhill drive, and one or two other locations in Westhill. Spare plants were given to Rotary members and Westhill residents with donations for these going to the Rotary charity.</p> <p>Next year's plant order will be reduced in both the number of different plants ordered and the quantity of plants. I will also be putting together some costs for additional baskets in place of the tubs that are located on Straik Road in Elrick.</p> <p>- <i>John Imrie</i></p> <p>Cllr Walker thanked John for the plants put in at the Old School House, as they have been a great improvement.</p> <p><u>Art Project</u></p> <p>There was a very successful third annual scarecrow trail at the beginning of Gala week, and there was also a great morning drawing on the pavements at the Shopping Centre. The next thing to be organised will be the Christmas decorations – <i>Rosemary Murray</i></p> | |
| 15 | <p><u>AGM</u></p> <p>Our AGM will be held on September 8th, downstairs in the function suite within the Holiday Inn. Anyone is welcome to attend. We need to know if members are willing to stand for another year. If this is not the case then members are asked to contact Becky to let her know.</p> <p>At this point Shona thanked Rosemary for all her hard work since 2002, as this is her last meeting as a member of WECC. Rosemary has been involved in many different things, including spearheading the many Art Projects and events which have run over the years. She will still be involved in the Art Project Group.</p> | |
| 15 | <p><u>Correspondence</u></p> <p>All members of WECC received an anonymous letter regarding the bus routes around Westhill and the confusion regarding the different numbering of routes. The individual raised suggestions regarding renumbering. These details were given to Cllr Walker who has passed them onto Stagecoach. These concerns have been raised before. Hopefully this will be discussed at the next Bus Forum. It is believed there has been a trial of bus routes going around Broadshade.</p> | |
| 16 | <p><u>AOCB</u></p> <p>Alison Cumming from Aberdeenshire Council advised that the next Garioch Area Community Council Forum will be held on September 7th – There will be SEPA coming to talk about floods, along with a Developers Obligations talk also. E-Learning for Community Councils will be re-established following consultation. There are now 14 modules which will be launched on 1st October at the training day at Woodhill House, where different sessions will be running (further details to be circulated later).</p> <p>John Imrie questioned what the status was with Knight Property Group and the 'avenue of trees' which was promised but has not happened yet. Iris explained that Knight Property Group have given the money to Aberdeenshire Council and they are now to do the work. Iris has been chasing this up, so hopefully we will see something happen soon.</p> | |

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| | Christian Allard explained that Tesco have put up a new Community Notice Board and we should utilise it as much as possible. He also explained that he will be moving away from the area and thanked WECC for their work over the years. WECC also thanked Christian for all his involvement. | |
| 17 | <u>Date of next meeting</u> Thursday 8 th September 2016, 7pm, Holiday Inn, Westhill Drive. | |

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 9/06/16 | 16432.70 | 9148.00 | 3972.62 | 781.17 | 30334.49 |
| <u>Receipts in period 10/6/16 to 11/8/16</u> | | | | | |
| Bulletin advertisers-summer issue | 2988.00 | | | | 2988.00 |
| Bank & Santander Bond interest | 166.80 | | | | 166.80 |
| <u>Payments in period 10/6/16 to 11/8/16</u> | | | | | |
| Autumn Bulletin honorariums | -400.00 | | | | -400.00 |
| 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 11/8/16 | 18662.50 | 9148.00 | 3972.62 | 781.17 | 32564.29 |
| Funds in bank include £18,196.53 in Santander Business bond at 0.9% interest | | | | | |

The logo for Police Scotland, featuring the word "POLICE" in large, bold, white capital letters above the word "SCOTLAND" in a smaller, light blue, sans-serif font. The text is centered within a dark blue rectangular background.

POLICE
SCOTLAND

WESTHILL AND ELRICK

**COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MEETING ON**

11 August 2016

1. LOCAL INTEREST INFORMATION

24 crimes and or offences have been reported to Police since the last meeting on 9 June 2016:

There have been 6 Assaults reported, of which 5 have been detected.

There has been 7 Vandalisms reported, of which 1 has been detected.

There has been 5 Thefts reported, of which 3 have been detected.

During this period there was a Domestic incident which occurred in the Brimmond area of Westhill and the perpetrator was charged with Attempted Murder. This incident was reported in the local media.

The other incident reported relate to Road Traffic matters, Drugs offences and threatening 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

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

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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.

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

3