

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 8<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2016 IN THE HOLIDAY INN, WESTHILL

<b>Community Council</b>		
<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Present</b>
Shona Collins	Chairperson	✓
Audrey Findlay	Deputy Chairperson	✓
Becky Ferguson	Secretary	✓
David Ritchie	Treasurer	✓
(vacant)	Minutes Secretary	X
Mervyn Barr	Member	X
Alan Eastell	Member	✓
David Ewen	Member	✓
Bill Loudon	Member	✓
Raymond Swaffield	Member	X
Kate Lumsden	Member	✓
Nara Morrison	Member	✓
Tim Yeomans	Member	X
Gurudeo Saluja	Member	✓
Diane Reid	Member	✓
Heather Brock	Member	✓
John Long	Member	✓
Dawn Anderson	Member	✓
Alistair McKelvie	Member	X
Heather Coull	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	✓

<b>Members of Public/Invited Guests</b>		
Patricia Saluja	Heather Cook	Moira Archibald
Ven Sujan	Diane Priestley	PC Steven Middleton
Freda Imrie	Joe McAdie	

	<b><u>Item</u></b>	<b>Action/ Attention</b>
<b>1</b>	<b><u>Chairperson's welcome and opening remarks</u></b> Shona Collins opened the meeting, welcoming everyone.	
<b>2</b>	<b><u>Apologies</u></b> Mervyn Barr, Alistair McKelvie, Raymond Swaffield, Tim Yeomans	
<b>3</b>	<b><u>Review and Approval of the Draft Minutes of Meeting 10/11/16</u></b> Proposed: Alan Eastell Seconded: John Long The minutes were approved by the meeting.	
<b>4</b>	<b><u>Matters Arising</u></b> <b><u>Shopping Centre Issues</u></b> – A number of outstanding issues are still a problem at the shopping centre. The slippery slabs all around the shopping centre are a major concern. Communications have been ongoing with Marc Mills, and we are hoping to meet him before Christmas to put pressure on regarding these dangerous issues. It was questioned whether reporting this to the Health and Safety Executive would be effective, since we have not seen any progress. It was	

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 8<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2016 IN THE HOLIDAY INN, WESTHILL

	<p>noted that this could be an effective threat if we do not see a change, however a suggestion was made to just go ahead and do this anyway.</p> <p><u>Ownership of walled garden at Kirkton House</u> – Ongoing. David Ritchie to investigate with Chris Pinnell who was leading the project.</p>	David Ritchie
<b>5</b>	<p><b><u>Police Report</u></b></p> <p>PC Steven Middleton presented the Police Report following an explanation of his new job role in the area. He or another member of staff will be aiming to attend as many meetings as possible, as they are aware of the infrequency of police attending WECC meetings. A reminder was made to secure houses and cars, as opportunist thefts are still rife in the area. The speed check camera has been vandalised and is awaiting repair. There is still a waiting list of locations around the area relating to speed. It was noted that Elrick Primary is the worst in the area for complaints relating mainly to parking. One incident regarding cars racing on Wellgrove Road was reported. It was explained that unfortunately they need a registration number to act unless they as Police witness the incident. It was also questioned whether it was possible to report someone for using their mobile phone, to which it was replied yes. However it has to be proven beyond reasonable doubt, therefore sometimes it is difficult to confirm.</p> <p>It was noted that it was great to see a Police Officer committed to the local area, specifically as over the last few years we have seen many different officers come and go.</p> <p>One question was raised regarding the policing of the potential Kingsford Stadium, and the fact that this would be the responsibility of Police Scotland. PC Middleton expressed that although he is a resident of Westhill, he is in uniform and must not take his personal opinions over into his professional position. He explained that policing in Westhill goes up to the boundary of Aberdeenshire, and the policing of the stadium will be the responsibility of the City.</p> <p>It was also noted that a number of cars have been seen speeding with Irish registration plates, believed to be workers on the AWPR. This is already known to the Police. It was also noted that there are fake £50 notes in circulation, and as this was discussed it was suggested that posters could be put up in retail and food units to deter individuals from trying to use these notes. PC Middleton will email David Ewen regarding this and we can then upload information to our website. Shona thanked PC Middleton for his report and input to WECC.</p>	David Ewen
<b>6</b>	<p><b><u>Update on Kingsford Stadium Development</u></b></p> <p>There has been no application submitted as of yet. It is believed that it will not be submitted until after the festive period.</p> <p>A question was asked regarding the potential Retail Park at Prime Four, and whether this was assessed in relation to the Kingsford development or not. It was confirmed that these applications will be assessed individually. Aberdeenshire Council were publicly not in favour of this application.</p> <p>The SDPA (Strategic Development Planning Authority) was also consulted on the Prime Four development and would be making the following comments:-</p> <p>SDP &amp; LDP have identified the site as employment land and not for retail.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The applicant only recently through LDP was arguing for more employment land at this location.</li> <li>• The Retail Impact Statement is well short of what is required for a proposal of this type and scale.</li> <li>• The proposal is contrary to the Aberdeen City &amp; Aberdeenshire Strategic Development Plan (2014).</li> </ul> <p>It was noted that there is a difference with these two applications as we will be consulted on a discretionary level for Kingsford, but not the Prime Four development, however as always any individual can comment.</p> <p>In relation to Kingsford Stadium proposal, we will be creating a sub-group to look at the planning application once it is submitted as it is bound to be quite a complex</p>	

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 8<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2016 IN THE HOLIDAY INN, WESTHILL

	<p>job. Shona explained that while in attendance at the public feedback event she was told to put together a list of requests for what was wanted in Westhill. With regards to the public feedback event, it was noted that there was not a lot of further information or answers. Shona and Audrey attended the pre-feedback event the night before, and had the opportunity to ask a number of questions and raise the concerns made by residents to the Community Council. People both in favour and against the development have concerns with regards to planning issues, and these issues are what will have to be commented on.</p> <p>It is taking longer than expected for the planning application to be submitted, which may indicate that there are further concerns with the application to be rectified.</p> <p>At the feedback event, George Yule explained that the main issues that they are looking to rectify are to do with roads, traffic and the pipelines.</p> <p>The position of Westhill &amp; Elrick Community Council was clarified at this point, as WECC are being accused of being on either side of the argument. Previously we had been accused of siding with Aberdeen Football Club, however in recent weeks following the publication of the Bulletin we have been accused of being against the development as we allowed the No Kingsford Campaign to publish an article. WECC are and will be neutral throughout this whole planning process.</p> <p>At this point it was requested that any correspondence received could be tabled and shared with all CC members. Becky raised concerns over circulating any private information, however the content of correspondence can easily be shared. It was asked what the chances of this being called in by the Scottish Government would be? This is unknown. However, this is still a possibility. There is also the possibility that if rejected by Aberdeen City Council then it could be appealed and taken to a Scottish Reporter who will then decide the outcome.</p> <p>At this point in time we are awaiting a planning application to be submitted. Until then we will be forming a sub-group ready to look at the details when received.</p>	
<p><b>7</b></p>	<p><u>Planning Watch</u></p> <p><u>APP/2016/3141</u> – Full Planning Permission for Erection of 2 Dwellinghouses (Change of House Type) – Plots 1 &amp; 2, Westhill Golf Club – When the seven dwellinghouses were granted permission, there was a stipulation that two units had to be affordable. Following this, a request was made for the affordable housing to be made available off site at Broadshade. These two plots are those which were originally affordable, however now have an amendment to be made into larger houses. The question of whether we should be making comment was raised. Previously, we made comment on the application for seven houses, as the settlement boundary has now been breached. At this point in time, there will be houses built on these plots anyway, and therefore larger houses may be more suited to this site. No comment required.</p> <p><u>APP/2016/3113</u> – Full Planning Permission for Erection of Retaining Boundary Walls – Unit 1, Kingshill Commercial Park East – No comments were made on this application.</p>	
<p><b>8</b></p>	<p><u>Update on Gateway Art Feature</u></p> <p>The question mark went up, and it is not known how many comments have been received since then. It certainly sparked communication around the area. Sheila Waterhouse has been in touch, asking to meet up as soon as possible in the new year to take this forward. Certain money has been allocated to this project, and must be planned to spend before certain deadlines. Mervyn Barr is not willing to take the lead on the project, so therefore we are in need of an individual to take on the project. This may be someone out with WECC who is willing to champion the project. The office bearers will meet and discuss the plan for going forward and how to engage with the local community as much as possible.</p> <p>Cllr Iris Walker explained that at a recent AWPR briefing meeting it was noted that they wanted to engage with local communities up to the completion of the AWPR.</p>	

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 8<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2016 IN THE HOLIDAY INN, WESTHILL

	<p>This could involve practical or financial support with the project. Iris will pass on Audrey's details to initiate communications on this.</p> <p>It was questioned whether a student from Gray's School of Art could be involved, however it was also noted that often these students are very busy in their own Final art shows.</p> <p>A brief could be written, to then be circulated to artists, to get ideas and take this forward. At this point in time, we will try and meet with Sheila Waterhouse before our next WECC meeting on January 12<sup>th</sup>.</p>	Office bearers
9	<p><b>Events</b></p> <p>Christmas Event – The event is this Saturday, and we need as much help as possible. The tree is in place, erected with assistance from Robertson Construction and their cherry picker. The lights will be switched on by a young person who attends groups through SensationALL. The goodies have been donated by local retailers, and the hot chocolate and cups will be provided by the Holiday Inn.</p>	All members
10	<p><b><u>Ward 13 Councillors' Reports/Updates</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Cllr David Aitchison</u></b></p> <p>The Local Development Plan will be back to the Council on December 23<sup>rd</sup>, to be looked at by planners over the festive period and back to councillors following that. Planning Review – expected back in January. It had been stated that this was more of a consultation paper than a white paper, perhaps indicating there may be more to come yet. Audrey asked if this could mean that there could be another period of consultation, as the 'Third Party Right to Appeal' is not currently included. There is also a working group being set up by ISC to look at anomalies in the Winter Maintenance plan, expected to be looked at in January.</p> <p><b><u>Cllr Amanda Allan</u></b> No update received</p> <p><b><u>Cllr Ron McKail</u></b></p> <p><b>Winter Maintenance.</b></p> <p>Received several complaints that roads are not being gritted in circumstances similar to last year. To illustrate Westhill Grange was one of the streets. Response from officers advised that in line with policy this is a Priority 3 route and the Grange (along with other similar priority 3 routes will not receive treatment unless the conditions meet the criteria in the winter maintenance plan.</p> <p>The link is: <a href="http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/roads/maintenance/winter-maintenance/">http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/roads/maintenance/winter-maintenance/</a></p> <p>Also received complaints regarding the shopping centre requiring gritting. However as this is private did advise MJ Mapp of the comments being received regarding 'slippy areas'.</p> <p><b>Kingsford Stadium.</b></p> <p>Attended the public presentation at Pittodrie. Many attractive display boards. Did ask questions of the presenters. Disappointing event for me.</p> <p><b>Infrastructure Services Committee (ISC) agenda item.</b></p> <p><b>Prime 4 Retail Shopping Park. Aberdeen City Application.</b></p> <p>ISC were requested to make comment on the city council's application for a retail shopping park in the area of/off Arden House. The size of the site is equal to 5 football pitches (30,000m<sup>2</sup>). Will have employment for 1,500 employees. Access to the site will be off the A944.</p> <p>The ISC response was to request a retail impact assessment and a traffic assessment (both absent from the city report). The decision was to refuse this application until further information became available.</p> <p>Discussion points raised at ISC included:</p> <p>What effect will a retail shopping park have on Westhill shops?</p> <p>Cumulative effect of traffic congestion if both AFC and Prime 4 planning applications are agreed.</p>	

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 8<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2016 IN THE HOLIDAY INN, WESTHILL

	<p>With access to the site being off the A944 at the Vets entrance (possibly) this again will lead to traffic hold ups.</p> <p>The implications of siting the stadium and the retail park along with the likelihood of increased traffic coming off the AWPR heading for the West end of the city requires action to the roads infrastructure.</p> <p>Add to the mix the Countesswells housing development of some 3000 units and also that at Maiden Craig.</p> <p>Both the single carriageways leading towards Hazelhead and also Langstracht suggests a complete rethink of the city's roads leading from and to Westhill. The alternative to doing nothing is traffic congestion/tail backs particularly at peak periods.</p> <p><b>Skene Primary School. HMle Inspection Report.</b></p> <p>Presentation on the outcome of the HMle inspection with the HT of Skene School. Garioch Area Committee noted:</p> <p>Good result with GOODS for Performance/and Curriculum; and VERY GOODS for Learners experience and Meeting Learners needs.</p> <p>No further inspection planned by HMle which is always a positive sign.</p> <p>Areas where the HT will follow up on included continuation of curriculum development.</p> <p><b>Road Safety Issues Skene School.</b></p> <p>Concerns in regard to road safety issues are being expressed by parents. I have been asked to follow up on these road safety concerns which are affecting pupils/parents and staff. Meeting being arranged with officers/staff.</p> <p><b>Changes in Council Tax (CT) Banding.</b></p> <p>Aberdeenshire Council discussed the anticipated changes to the council tax for 2017/18. Councillors are yet to agree whether the increase in CT will 1%/2% /or 3%. In addition there will be further additional increases in the bands E (7.5%) to H (22.5%). These additional taxes raised locally will be allocated to the Scottish Government's Educational Attainment Fund where the target is to raise £100m to be allocated to HT's on the basis of the number of pupils in school receiving free school meals. The intention of this additional funding (2017 to 2021) is to tackle and close the educational attainment gap throughout Scotland. Ashire will raise £8.2m by this means of which £2.2m will be returned to our schools and the £5.9m will be allocated to the Attainment Fund to be distributed to schools elsewhere in Scotland.</p> <p><b>Update of Freedom to Roam&gt;&gt;&gt; Westhill Golf Course.</b></p> <p>Council officers have been dealing with this case for some time. The Golf Club are stubbornly asserting that access rights do not apply and that there are liability issues. It may be that the Council as a last resort will have to take legal action provided under S14 of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003. Officers intend writing them again to indicate that if the signs are not removed the Council will consider this action.</p> <p><b>Meadowlands Public Areas.</b></p> <p>Householders on this estate are continuing to express concerns that trees are being removed without consulting the residents. Council had initially stated the removal of the trees was not an issue they could deal with. This is private property. Since receiving copy of the `Deeds of Condition`s the Council are considering whether they can offer advice etc. The Deed of Conditions, registered 26 Nov 1998, by Cala Management Limited states that No trees or shrubs or bushes shall be cut down, lopped, pruned, or removed from any amenity ground, play area, landscaped areas or open spaces unless the same have become dangerous or overgrown and only after having first received written consent from us&gt;&gt;&gt;.</p> <p><b>Attached for information is a Council item on Community Councils.</b></p> <p><b><u>Cllr Iris Walker</u></b></p> <p><b>Education</b></p> <p>The Scottish Government are currently consulting on a governance review -</p>	
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## MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 8<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2016 IN THE HOLIDAY INN, WESTHILL

	<p>“Empowering teachers, parents and communities to achieve excellence and equity in education”. The deadline for responses is 6<sup>th</sup> January 2017. Aberdeenshire Council have prepared a draft response for councillors to consider at the next Education, Learning &amp; Leisure Committee this Thursday. The council’s draft response can be read in the attached report, but in summary, they believe that governance provided by local authorities works well as it is with clear lines of accountability, that Head Teachers should not be required to undertake administrative tasks associated with managing budgets and what is most needed is more teachers. The Education service feels there is a danger in this review focussing too much on school and devolving budgets rather than “the wider strategic ambition of improving outcomes for young people and communities”.</p> <p><b>Empowering teachers, parents and communities to achieve: excellence and equity in education – a governance review attached.</b></p> <p><b>Inspiring Aberdeenshire</b></p> <p>It’s always thrilling to see local groups and individuals on the stage being recognised for their achievements at the annual “Inspiring Aberdeenshire” awards ceremony. If you know someone or a community group that you feel has gone above and beyond to support people in the area, please get your nominations in. As a reminder, there are four special awards as well as the best of each area awards</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outstanding Leader Award – awarded to someone who can demonstrate outstanding examples of leadership</li> <li>• Young Leader – a person under 18 who has shown leadership skills in helping others and/or contributing to their community</li> <li>• The Doric Award – awarded to an individual or group who has promoted Doric in Aberdeenshire such as a school or heritage group</li> <li>• Pupil Voice – nominated and voted for by pupils</li> </ul> <p>Nominations close 1<sup>st</sup> February.</p> <p><b>Planning Review</b></p> <p>You will recall that WECC responded to a Scottish Government consultation on Scottish Planning Policy. Following some 48 recommendations by an independent panel to the SG, a White Paper is expected soon with a Bill to follow in early 2017. At the next CC meeting, I will report back on this when more detail is available.</p> <p><b>Scheme for the Establishment of Community Councils</b></p> <p>Aberdeenshire Council discussed last month, grounds for dissolution of CCs within the Scheme and the possibility of adding in an appeals process for groups who have been dissolved. These changes will be further consulted on with community councils and the general public in the new year before the final Scheme is adopted.</p>	
11	<p><b><u>Website Report/Communications Group</u></b></p> <p>Everything is running smoothly, with many likes on Facebook over the recent months. Nothing else to report.</p> <p>The communications group will be meeting in early 2017.</p>	Comms group
12	<p><b><u>Treasurer’s Report and Bulletin Updates</u></b></p> <p><u>Treasurer’s Report:</u></p> <p>The Bulletin winter issue advert invoices were sent out on 17<sup>th</sup> November and payments are coming in, though a bit slower than normal. The only one I am a bit concerned about is the £180 due from Holiday Inn as it went into administration at same time as invoice went out, though I have not been contacted to say it won’t be paid. – <i>David Ritchie</i></p> <p><u>Bulletin Report:</u></p> <p>Winter Bulletin was delivered by printer on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> November which was one or two days earlier than normal. I had pushed for it then as I was going away for a few days from the Friday and wanted to get it all batched up for distributors in good time before I left. The timing worked well as almost all the boxes had been</p>	

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 8<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2016 IN THE HOLIDAY INN, WESTHILL

	<p>picked up by the Sunday. I will aim for that timing for future issues, so Councillors please note you will only get a few days grace after deadline date! The batching work is normally done by my wife Fiona and Rosemary Murray, who is happy to continue doing this though she is not on CC now. It only takes them around 1.5 hours.</p> <p>There are two Bulletin rounds which have been done by relief distributors for last 2 issues and slips have gone in twice asking for new distributors who live in these streets, but I have not had any volunteers. The two areas are Larg Drive/Broadstraik Avenue (88 houses) and Kirkton Road &amp; Avenue/Blackhills Place &amp; Way (95 houses). If you know anyone who lives in these areas and could be persuaded to help, please speak to them! – <i>David Ritchie</i></p>	
<p>13</p>	<p><b><u>Sub-group Reports</u></b></p> <p><b>Litter:</b> I can say that our November event was well attended and we collected a huge amount of litter.</p> <p>This was the last event for 2016. We will be circulating dates for 2017 after Christmas and the first litter pick is scheduled for February. – <i>Raymond Swaffield</i></p> <p><b>Bulbs and baskets:</b> No report received.</p> <p><b>Christmas tree &amp; lights:</b> Robertson Construction initially wanted to help with the street lights on same day as tree was going up (2<sup>nd</sup> December). I knew there wouldn't be time to do all that on one day so I arranged for the Elrick and Kirkton of Skene lights to be done on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> November, using the normal ladder. Mervyn Barr, John Long and a regular volunteer Jim McEwen helped with that. Robertson's then suggested the remaining Westhill lights be put up on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> December and so they were done then, using a set of podium steps, which worked well. There was two Robertson guys plus myself, John &amp; Jim. Two of the three large blue lights at Tesco roundabout are not flashing properly. I think the wiring would have got damaged when they were at the blacksmiths in January for re-welding broken joints. They will be repaired in 2017.</p> <p>John Long helped me on Sunday 27 November to put lights on the live fir tree in raised bed on Westhill Drive. We put baubles on as well, not sure how long they will last!</p> <p>The Christmas tree at Shopping Centre was installed on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December. The tree, supplied by Dunecht Estate, is 23 ft high. Robertson Construction provided a cherry-picker + operator for putting on the lights and baubles. A few guys from Men Shed helped as normal to fix the tree supports to the ground and put the hoarding round the base. Robertson's put a large banner on hoarding saying "Tree kindly supplied by Dunecht Estate, organised by Westhill &amp; Elrick Community Council, in conjunction with Robertson"    I should have asked them to also acknowledge the Men Shed.</p> <p>I will be aiming to take the tree down on weekend of 7/8 January so will put a note out earlier that week for help. I am hoping Robertson's will help with taking street lights down, but will still need a few helpers. Date will be decided early January</p> <p><b>Art Project:</b> 750 snowflakes have now been hung up around the shopping centre, all ready for the event on Saturday. In the New Year the portrait project will begin and be advertised. – <i>Kate Lumsden</i></p>	
<p>14</p>	<p><b><u>Correspondence</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aberdeenshire Council – Budget Engagement – This email was circulated on December 2<sup>nd</sup> around WECC members. This are a number of online surveys, accessible to all within the community to have their say. This is open for consultation until January 3<sup>rd</sup> 2017.</li> <li>• Shopping Centre notice board – An email was received suggesting that we use some of the profits from the bulletin advertisements to put up a new</li> </ul>	

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 8<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2016 IN THE HOLIDAY INN, WESTHILL

	<p>notice board at the shopping centre. This is something which has been raised previously, and will be discussed with Marc Mills when we meet with him. There is also something which looks like a notice board as you cross over towards the shopping centre from the Holiday Inn. We will ask Marc Mills what this is and if it can be used.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ed Pirie – Westhill Golf Club signs – This is an ongoing issue, as communications began earlier in the year regarding if there is a Right to Roam on the Golf Course or not. Cllr McKail has been taking this forward and is now leading the communications. Council officers are in communication with the Golf Club regarding the legality of these signs.</li> </ul>	<p>Office bearers</p> <p>Cllr McKail</p>
15	<p><b><u>AOCB</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An email was received from Tim Yeomans with his resignation due to many other commitments. He hopes to re-join later in 2017. Becky will email him to thank him for his time on W&amp;ECC.</li> <li>• David attended the Garioch Community Council Forum meeting last week, where there was a talk from Dawn Brown of the Garioch Partnership on Community Empowerment. This talk explained how Community Councils could take over Council services and receive funding to do so.</li> <li>• Heather Coull, in attendance this evening would like to join W&amp;ECC. This was proposed by Gurudeo and seconded by Nara.</li> <li>• A question was raised regarding a car using a public footpath as a short cut around a cul-de-sac in Wellgrove Crescent. Discussion followed, and a conclusion of contacting the Police was reached.</li> <li>• Robertson Construction held a coffee morning on November 12<sup>th</sup> which explained the construction of the hotel, as it is coming in shipping containers from China fully constructed.</li> <li>• Ven Sujana from Varapunya, based at Easter Mains Cottage, Kinmundy Estate, explained a problem with two different postcodes for the site. This is very confusing, however it was advised to contact Royal Mail or Land Registry to clarify which post code should be used.</li> </ul>	<p>Becky Ferguson</p>
	<p><b><u>Date of next meeting</u></b> Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2017, 7pm, Holiday Inn, Westhill Drive.</p>	

Becky Ferguson  
Secretary

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 8<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2016 IN THE HOLIDAY INN, WESTHILL

FUNDS IN BANK AT 10/11/16	19736.05	4574.00	3972.62	763.21	29045.88
<b>Receipts in period 11/11/16 to 8/12/16</b>					
Bulletin advertisers-winter issue	770.00				770.00
Transfer of winter pre-paid adverts to General Funds	4574.00	-4574.00			
<b>Payments in period 11/11/16 to 8/12/16</b>					
XIC- Bulletin Winter issue printing	-6073.95				-6073.95
Bulletin sundries & postages	-78.10				-78.10
Autumn Bulletin honorariums	-400.00				-400.00
Meetings expenses	-96.55				-96.55
Holiday Inn -Function room hires for AGM and Stadium public meeting	-262.50				-262.50
Xmas tree sundries	-153.58				-153.58
FUNDS IN BANK AT 8/12/16	<b>18015.37</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>3972.62</b>	<b>763.21</b>	<b>22751.20</b>
Funds in bank include £18,361.35 in Santander Business bond at 0.75% interest					