

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 12TH JANUARY 2017 IN THE HOLIDAY INN, WESTHILL

Community Council		
Name	Position	Present
Shona Collins	Chairperson	✓
Audrey Findlay	Deputy Chairperson	✓
Becky Ferguson	Secretary	X
David Ritchie	Treasurer	✓
(vacant)	Minutes Secretary	X
Mervyn Barr	Member	✓
Alan Eastell	Member	X
David Ewen	Member	✓
Bill Loudon	Member	✓
Raymond Swaffield	Member	✓
Kate Lumsden	Member	✓
Nara Morrison	Member	X
Gurudeo Saluja	Member	X
Diane Reid	Member	✓
Heather Brock	Member	✓
John Long	Member	✓
Dawn Anderson	Member	✓
Alistair McKelvie	Member	X
Heather Coull	Member	X
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		
Sujan Mahayan	PC Steven Middleton	Aileen Swaffield
Diane Priestley	Clare Davidson	Jim Clark
Colin Davidson	John Thornton	Margaret Thornton
Heather Cook		

	<u>Item</u>	Action/ Attention
1	<p><u>Chairperson's welcome and opening remarks</u> Shona Collins opened the meeting by welcoming everyone to the first meeting of 2017 and wishing them A Happy New Year.</p>	
2	<p><u>Apologies</u> Becky Ferguson, Alistair McKelvie, Gurudeo Saluja, Nara Morrison, Alan Eastell, Cllr David Aitchison, Cllr Amanda Allan.</p>	
3	<p><u>Review and Approval of the Draft Minutes of Meeting 8/12/16</u> Proposed: Diane Reid Seconded: Heather Brock Although Diane had previously questioned a line in Item 6 regarding 'WECC remaining neutral throughout this whole planning process' she agreed at the meeting she would accept the minute as accurate. The minutes were approved by the meeting. [NB: Later in the meeting Audrey picked up that again in Item 6 in lines 5 and 6 there was an inaccuracy regarding the change of use to retail at Prime Four having been approved and everyone agreed, including the mover and seconder of the minute, that a line and a bit should just be removed.]</p>	

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4	<p><u>Matters Arising</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shona reported that Marc Mills has not been back in touch and has not managed to meet with us. Cllr Ron McKail reported that that he had several complaints again about car parking in the Centre being really very bad. He had written to Mark Mills and got a very 'weak' reply. There followed a fairly long discussion about further development in the Centre. Also there were queries about the Aldi car park again and what rights they have regarding tickets to people staying over 3 hours. Tying in with any future proposal the owners of the main Centre have about a similar scheme this again has to be raised with Marc Mills. People are generally disappointed that it appears that some residents do treat the Centre as a 'park and ride' car park. • Ownership of the Walled Garden at Kirkton House. David Ritchie said that he has contacted Chris Pinnell, who was very involved a while back when there was talk of the local community looking after the garden. He updated that Chris said nothing has been happening and it is a case of wait and see. 	
5	<p><u>Police Report</u></p> <p>PC Steven Middleton spoke to the report, already circulated. He also advised that he had visited Elrick School since the December meeting and the teachers are not happy about the parking of some drivers outside the school but he said that little more can be done about it other than to appeal to people to have common sense. From the floor the parking outside the Old School/Schoolhouse was raised. It was discussed that there is a lack of clarity now about who is responsible for taking the bookings for that venue since SensationALL have taken over the building. It was reported that Dyslexia Scotland also book rooms there at times. Cllr Ron McKail asked PC Middleton if yellow lines on one side of the road would help. Cllr Iris Walker said that the staff at SensationALL are hoping to get some extra ground off the play park, beside the building on Westhill Road, to provide more off street parking.</p> <p>A resident, John Thornton, had reported a spate of vandalism in Hilltop last summer to the police but nobody has come back either to himself or a neighbour who also reported the same incident. PC Middleton gave an undertaking he would look into that and get back to Mr Thornton. There was a question on the 3 assaults reported in the Police Report as to how the police see Westhill. PC Middleton assured everyone that the town is still a very safe place to live.</p> <p>Comments were made about a police presence at WECC meetings and again PC Middleton spoke of the importance he puts on local police being involved by attending these meetings. David Ritchie made comment about there not being a police article in the Westhill Bulletin any more. Cllr Iris Walker made reference to the fact that there is to be a report going to Aberdeenshire Council's Policy and Resources committee meeting in the near future about police attending CC meetings. PC Middleton was thanked by the chair for his input.</p>	
6	<p><u>Update on Kingsford Stadium Development</u></p> <p>Diane Reid requested under Article 5 of the WECC Constitution that a special meeting be called of Community Councillors to establish who are for or against the stadium development. There followed a lengthy discussion that became very heated at times about the role of WECC remaining neutral throughout the whole planning process. People did agree that as the CC is in a position of trying to reflect the views of the whole population of the area this is becoming very difficult to gauge. With a very active No campaign while there is awareness that there are people in the community who support the application as well, the CC is in a 'no win' situation as we are being questioned from both sides. After a long debate there was a show of hands (of members only) and the majority thought it was worth investigating paying for a market research independent survey to be carried</p>	

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	<p>out asap, and it was decided to go with that. The cost was spoken about and a very rough estimate of £1,000 was mentioned.</p> <p><i>The planning application for the proposed Kingsford Stadium was submitted 4 days after the meeting, therefore no action had yet been taken on conducting a survey. At this point it is now too late to organise a survey that will contribute to commenting on the application. A special meeting was arranged for members.</i></p>	
7	<p><u>Planning Watch</u> <u>APP/2016/3133 - Change of use of Amenity Land to Domestic Garden Ground at 5 Burnland View, Elrick:</u> John Long reported that he had visited the site and he thought this would present a precedent could be set all across Westhill and Elrick in similar circumstances. It was decided to ask Becky to write in our concerns and object on these grounds. On the other application <u>APP/2016/3378 - for Alterations and Extension to 10 Gordon Close, Westhill</u> as John had visited that site also and did not see a problem, it was decided to take no action.</p> <p>John was then asked if he would be willing to take on the role at looking in detail at the weekly lists to see which ones in his view we should comment on and get back to Becky. He said he was willing to do that which is helpful to Becky.</p>	Becky Ferguson
8	<p><u>Update on Gateway Art Feature</u> A meeting had been held on Monday 9th January between members of the Gateway Project Group and Sheila Waterhouse, Arts Development Officer for Aberdeenshire Council. Shona asked Mervyn Barr to report on what progress had been made. He said that Sheila will help members but ideas must come forward on producing a Vision first and from there on an Artist's Brief. There must be monies found from various sources. It was reported that Kate Lumsden will take over the lead, perhaps in a joint role with additional admin help.</p>	
9	<p><u>Events</u> Christmas Event – All had gone well, and it was fairly well attended. The goodies and hot chocolate had been appreciated again. Thanks were expressed to the shops who had donated and the Holiday Inn for the drinking chocolate. Also to the churches for the singing and music provided. Robertson Construction had been a great help with getting the lights to the top of the tree and also helping put up the lights elsewhere. Of course Dunecht Estates had provided the tree as usual. There was talk of looking for additional music opportunities as we had expected the Academy Orchestra to participate. There is a need to start planning earlier next year. Notes of thanks will be sent to all who were involved.</p>	
10	<p><u>Ward 13 Councillors' Reports/Updates</u> <u>Cllr David Aitchison</u> No update received</p> <p><u>Cllr Amanda Allan</u> No update received</p> <p><u>Cllr Ron McKail</u> <u>Westhill Drive Zebra Crossings.</u> Received emails and phone call after my Bulletin article expressing similar concerns that if action is not taken an accident is more than likely To improve the lighting on both crossings an accident is likely. Latest email was from John Imrie recommending high intensity beacons. Similar concerns expressed regarding the crossing at the hotel with the added hazard of pedestrians exiting the shopping centre and walking straight on to the crossing without checking on the oncoming traffic. I'll raise both of these issues with the Council and will contact MJ Mapp in regards to installing pedestrian barriers as a safety measure.</p>	

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<p>Tennis Courts + Bowling Clubhouse. Water leakage has prevented the heating system from working. Reported this to Council Road Surface Tesco and Costco in need of repair. Reported to the Council.</p> <p>Shopping Centre Complained to MJ Mapp regarding the lack of car parking slots during busy shopping days prior to Christmas. Vehicle Number recognition plate is still being considered. Will contact Marc Mills to express concern regarding the delay in having this system fitted.</p> <p>Unauthorised Signs. Complaint from constituent regarding `Weight Watcher` posters proliferating Westhill. Have sent letter to Enforcement Officer.</p> <p>Scam Message Scam email being sent out supposedly from Amazon is causing concern for those caught out with its request for personal information. Agreed to send the email to WECC members.</p> <p>Rock Challenge Invitation. Agreed to send to WECC members.</p> <p><u>Cllr Iris Walker</u> Happy New Year to W&ECC!</p> <p>Planning Review As promised, an update on the Scottish Planning Policy consultation - a further consultation opened today (10th January) and closes 4th April 2017. The consultation sets out 20 proposals for change following on from the recommendations of the independent review of the planning system. http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2017/01/3486 <i>At this point Iris suggested a small group be formed to respond to this additional consultation on the Scottish Government Planning Review.</i></p> <p>Local Development Plan Councillors will be asked in March to formally approve the latest blueprint after Scottish Ministers concluded their assessment of the Council's vision for the region. There are no surprises from the Reporter for Westhill, really, with no further bids being recommended for inclusion. The reporter agreed with Sport Scotland's recommendation to protect Carnie playing fields from future change of use. She disagreed that the trees in front of the old vet premises should be specifically protected and concluded that sufficient policy protection through Policy PR1 exists. We need to remain vigilant for any future planning applications. With regard to WECC's comments about a site for any potential new academy, the reporter agreed with officers that it would not be appropriate to identify a site at this time as there are no specific plans to develop a new secondary school in Westhill. At a recent Garioch Area Committee, I asked for an update from the Education Service on medium to long term plans for schools in Westhill. This is awaited. Scottish Enterprise had submitted a representation to include all plans of all allocations of land at Westhill, including Aberdeen City Council's proposed sites. Aberdeenshire policy planners thought that this might prove confusing but suggested that they could "grey out" all areas on the Proposals Maps which lie outside the shire boundary with a reference to the appropriate LDP included to link the greyed out areas. Happily the reporter agreed with this!</p> <p>Budget Aberdeenshire Council will set the 2017/18 budget on 9th February. There are discussions ongoing on whether council tax will be raised this year, over and</p>	
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	above the increase imposed by the Scottish Government on bands E-H. WECC may wish to discuss.	
11	<p><u>Website Report/Communications Group</u></p> <p>Recent highlight: 1,933 views on November 14 -- 1,386 for the mystery symbol unveiled. Though we haven't had a big response in terms of suggestions (although this might have been down to the forwarding email problems), it DID get the attention of people. Other top viewing that day were the Home Page (136) and 108 looked at Stadium update. 1,324 came through Facebook In all we had 1,543 visitors. The most popular day for viewing material is a Thursday (a third) -- not sure why! (Nov 14 was a Monday, so that didn't skew it.) 8am is the most popular time (9%). In an effort to promote the Westhill Bulletin, I've given it a permanent plug using a website widget. There is also now more detail about advertising rates too, which will hopefully reduce work for David R.</p> <p>The web site continues to evolve in small ways, sometimes in response to feedback from residents. We now have a page (under Local Links) that provides contact details for politicians. A while back the dedicated AWPR section has now been given over to the AFC Stadium on the home page bar. We can't let this navigation too busy -- a clean and simple aesthetic works best. The website draws regularly queries on a range of topics. We can't deal with all but try to direct correspondents to the most appropriate place (eg Aberdeenshire Council or CAB). – <i>David Ewen</i></p>	
12	<p><u>Treasurer's Report and Bulletin Updates</u></p> <p><u>Treasurer's Report:</u> Holiday Inn have paid their winter Bulletin advert invoice. Cash is rolling into the coffers from the 80 advertisers who have agreed to pre-pay for their 2017 Bulletin adverts and get a 15% discount. – <i>David Ritchie</i></p> <p><u>Bulletin Report:</u> Spring issue deadline is 27th January, with a grace period to 31st Jan. I have put the advert prices up by around 5%. They only get increased every 3 years. – <i>David Ritchie</i></p>	
13	<p><u>Sub-group Reports</u></p> <p>Litter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There will be no organised litter pick in January. • We have contacted all known volunteers with the dates for all the planned Litter Picks in 2017. • We have been supplied with the surplus chocolates from the Christmas Event and these will be offered to the volunteers at the end of Picks. We should have sufficient to last the whole year. • Our next Litter Pick will take place on 18th February. - <i>Aileen & Raymond Swaffield</i> <p>Bulbs and baskets: Nothing to report.</p> <p>Christmas tree & lights: The Christmas tree at Shopping Centre was taken down on 7th January. Robertson Construction said they would help us take down the festive street lights and I requested to do that this Friday 13th Jan, but I am waiting on them to confirm that day is OK. – <i>David Ritchie</i></p>	

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	Art Project: No report received. The portrait project will be launching soon, followed by our usual Easter events when the time comes.	
14	<p><u>Correspondence</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As per Diane's request at the last meeting regarding Kingsford communications, this is being compiled and will be circulated to members. Unfortunately Becky has been unwell therefore this has been delayed. 	
15	<p><u>AOCB</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dawn Anderson raised the fact that she had noticed 'No Clearway Signs' on the A944. Some other had seen them but not everyone. This is something we will have to keep a close eye on. 	
	<p><u>Date of next meeting</u> Thursday 9th February 2017, 7pm, Holiday Inn, Westhill Drive.</p>	

Becky Ferguson
Secretary

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	GENERAL FUNDS	ADVERTISING PRE-PAID FOR 2017 ISSUES	MAKING IT REAL FUND	LITTER CAMPAIGN FUND	TOTAL
FUNDS IN BANK AT 8/12/16	18015.37	0.00	3972.62	763.21	22751.20
<u>Receipts in period 9/12/16 to 12/1/17</u>					
Bulletin advertisers-winter issue	3530.00				3530.00
Bulletin advertisers- 2017 prepayments		17153			17153.00
Bank interest	1.60				1.60
<u>Payments in period 9/12/16 to 12/1/17</u>					
Honorarium to website manager for Q4 2016	-225.00				-225.00
Honorarium to secretary for Q4 2016	-300.00				-300.00
FUNDS IN BANK AT 12/1/17	21021.97	17153.00	3972.62	763.21	42910.80
Funds in bank include £18,361.35 in Santander Business bond at 0.75% 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 set against a dark blue rectangular background.

POLICE
SCOTLAND

WESTHILL AND ELRICK

**COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MEETING ON**

Thursday 12 January 2017

1. LOCAL INTEREST INFORMATION

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

There have been 3 Assaults reported, of which 2 are detected.

There was 9 Vandalisms reported, of which 1 is detected. There was a spate of Vandalisms whereby cars were damaged at Harvest Hill, Westhill and enquiries are still ongoing to try and detect these crimes.

There have been 2 Thefts reported, of which 1 is detected.

The other incidents reported relate to Attempted Fraud, Dangerous Driving, Drink Driving, Attempting to enter licenced premises whilst drunk and other Road Traffic matters.

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

3

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