

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 11TH JANUARY 2018 IN THE HOLIDAY INN, WESTHILL

Community Council		
Name	Position	Present
Charlie Love	Chairperson	✓
Heather Brock	Deputy Chairperson	✓
John Thornton	Secretary	✓
David Ritchie	Treasurer	✓
Clare Davidson	Minutes Secretary	✓
Heather Coull	Member	✓
Raymond Swaffield	Member	✓
Bill Loudon	Member	✓
Dawn Anderson	Member	✓
Kate Lumsden	Member	✓
Alan Eastell	Member	X
John Long	Member	✓
Diane Priestley	Member	✓
Ken Stewart	Member	✓
John Hunter	Member	X
Daniel Hay	Member	✓
Mandy Duggan	Member	✓
Stuart Bews	Member	✓
Brian Colvin	Member	✓
Chika Edeh	Member	X
Cllr David Aitchison	Ward 13 Councillor	X
Cllr Iris Walker	Ward 13 Councillor	✓
Cllr Ron McKail	Ward 13 Councillor	X
Cllr Alistair McKelvie	Ward 13 Councillor	X

Members of Public/Invited Guests		
Freda Imrie	John Imrie	PC Steve Middleton
Aileen Swaffield	Heather Cook	PC Samuel Cockburn
Mervyn Barr	Margaret Thornton	

	<u>Item</u>	Action/ Attention
1	<u>Chairperson's welcome and opening remarks</u> Chair Charlie Love (CL) opened the meeting and welcomed all Members, residents and Councillors back after the Christmas and New Year break	
2	<u>Apologies</u> Cllr. Ron McKail, Cllr. Alistair McKelvie, Cllr. David Aitchison, John Hunter, Alan Eastell	
3	<u>Review and Approval of the draft Minutes of Meetings</u> <u>28th November</u> – Meeting with Area manager regarding code of conduct Proposer: Raymond Swaffield (RS) Seconded: John Long (JL) <u>30th November</u> – Members meeting to discuss WECC response to latest documents submitted by AFC Re: Kingsford Proposer: Ken Stewart (KS) Seconded: David Ritchie (DR) <u>11th December</u> – Special Public meeting on latest documents submitted by AFC Re: Kingsford Proposer: Bill Loudon Seconded: Dawn Anderson	

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	<p>14th December – WECC Monthly Meeting Proposer: Raymond Swaffield Seconded: John Long</p>	
4	<p><u>Matters Arising</u> <u>Update on all Christmas activities</u> Notes have been put together by David Ritchie and Heather Cook for future Christmas Switch-on events. These will be passed to John Thornton for filing.</p> <p>The Christmas tree at Shopping Centre was taken down on 6th January, by DR, KS, Daniel Hay and John Thornton (JT). FES were due to help us take down the festive street lights on Friday 12th Jan by providing 2 guys plus ladder and van. However they are unable to assist so JT, KS, John Long (JL) and DR will remove as much they can while the weather remains favourable. There are some lights and the angel in Skene to go back for refurb this year.</p> <p>If we are going to be having a meeting this year with Kim Potts (our new contact in the shopping centre agents MJ Mapp), then we need to ask her what happened with their promises that they would be putting Christmas lights up along the frontages this season.</p> <p><u>Update on Kingsford Stadium Development and Pre-Determination Hearing</u> JL advised John Hunter has been preparing the Pre-Determination Hearing (PDH) speech and JT, JL & RS have been reviewing. The speech will not be broadcast or made public before it is delivered at the PDH, but will be in line with objection. This was agreed by all at the meeting. CL asked if the speech prepared by the former acting chair was circulated for the last PDH in October 2017. It was advised by JL it was not. JL continued to give a brief overview of the areas covered in the speech.</p>	
5	<p><u>Police Report</u> Police Scotland Report attached. PC Steve Middleton was present and presented the police report for November and December.</p> <p>PC Middleton advised there had been changes within Police Scotland meaning that officers won't attend Community Council meetings, however, as a community officer, he will continue to attend the WECC meetings.</p> <p>Cllr. Walker advised there is a Police 'short-life' working group, which is currently looking at reports and police input. A meeting was held by representatives from each community, who were invited to provide feedback. Next meeting for this is 5th February.</p> <p>Mervyn Barr asked if rolling trends could be provided for community councils. It has been advised by Police Scotland that this is not possible. However Cllr. Walker stated that stats are available on the council website which can be scrutinised.</p>	
6	<p><u>Planning Watch</u> <u>Domestic Proposals</u> 1) APP/2017/3223 – 21 Larg Drive, Westhill Alterations and Extension to Dwellinghouse. Domestic extension consisting of a two level side extension to house utilising existing driveway / garden area and also internal alterations to dwellinghouse. No comments or objections. Public Comment Expiry Date 16/01/2018.</p>	

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	<p><u>Industrial Proposals</u></p> <p>1) APP/2017/2239 – Divex Ltd, Westhill Industrial Estate, Enterprise Drive, Westhill Siting of 2 Containers and 2 Modular Units Locating 2 containers and 2 Portacabins in their yard. Container 1 - 2.4mW x 2.59mH x 6mL – Compressor, Container 2 – 3mW x 2,59mH x 6mL - Material Store Portakabin 1 – 2.4mW x 2.59mH x 7.3mL - Temporary Archive Store Portakabin 2 – 3mW x 2.5mH x 9.7mL - Canteen No comments or objections. Public Comment Expiry Date 01/02/2018. Brian Colvin (BC) declared an interest, as Divex is his employer.</p> <p><u>Objection Updates</u></p> <p>1)APP/2017/2581 – Unit 2, Kingshill Commercial Park East, Venture Drive, Arnhall Business, Westhill Erection of Banner Sign. 'To Let' sign 11mL x 3mH. Application was approved but with consent limited to 2 years and shall cease to have effect on 27/11/2019. Applicant was requesting 4 years.</p> <p>2)APP/2017/2765 – 17 Hilltop Gardens, Westhill Change of Use of Public Open Space to Garden Ground, Alterations to Dwellinghouse and Erection of Double Garage/Store. Application was refused. Was referred to the Area Committee, which determined that under the 2017 Local Development Plan it was deemed as open space, which states “Development will not normally be permitted on areas of open space”. Quote / extract from the Report of Handling document “a change in ownership has occurred, this does not change the role of this area as open space, which it has been previously identified and confirmed and on which previous applications have been determined. Ownership of a piece of land does not changes its function or land use”.</p>	
7	<p><u>Ward 13 Councillors' Reports</u></p> <p><u>Cllr. Iris Walker</u> Council is currently busy trying to balance the budget by 8th February. The Chief Executive for Aberdeenshire Council came to Westhill for visit. He was taken to Lawsondale to see where public funding had been used at the new 3G pitches and to the new statue in Elrick. The Chief Executive was also keen to see the site of the proposed Kingsford Stadium development. He will be back soon for another visit.</p> <p>Regarding MJ Mapp's new manager Kim Potts, do WECC want to set up a spring meeting with her? It was agreed that WECC would await notification of a date when she would be in Westhill, and arrange a meeting at that stage. Cllr. Walker also commented, and would liaise.</p> <p><u>Cllr. Ron McKail</u> <i>JT presented Cllr. McKail's report:</i> The big issue, and the subject of many emails, is the icy pavements not being cleared; resulting in comments such as 'I can't get out of my house'. Secondly- either grit bins not being available, or not being filled with salt. Cllr. McKail followed up on these with council officers and some progress has been made with a bin being provided (in some areas) and in others the bins were filled.</p>	

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	<p>He feels there needs to be some understanding with the council's position in as much as, it is not possible to clear all pavements and side roads in Westhill, as well as in other areas in Aberdeenshire where the situation was very similar.</p> <p>Although he does feel that, if we want residents to play a part in pavement clearing, providing grit bins (filled with salt) should be given serious consideration.</p> <p>Whilst all the ward 13 councillors will have raised these problems with council officers perhaps WECC should also follow up on this by contacting Aberdeenshire Council Roads Dept., or the Area Manager to discuss how the recent icy footpaths issues could be dealt differently than they had been during the recent cold spell.</p> <p><u>Cllr. Alistair McKelvie</u> No Report Received</p> <p><u>Cllr. David Aitchison</u> <i>JT presented Cllr. Aitchison's report:</i> In early December, due to his role as Opposition Infrastructure Services spokesperson, he was consulted on the Council response to the further information on the proposed Kingsford stadium.</p> <p>He asked officers to add comments on site selection and economic benefits. These were then incorporated in the final submission, "It is noted in the Supporting Statement that it asserts that the stadium and training facilities each require at least 12.5ha, this would appear excessive compared to the requirements of other clubs" and "Conversely, the 'do nothing' scenario appears to predict a steady decline in attendance from the current base of 13,083 attendance to 8,500-10,000 attendance with resulting differentials on jobs sustained and GVA generated by the development."</p> <p>Previous comments made by Garioch Area Committee, Westhill & Elrick Community Council and Cllr. McKelvie were also incorporated</p>	
8	<p><u>Treasurer's Report and Bulletin Updates</u> <u>Treasurer's Report:</u> CL and Heather Brock are now set up as cheque signatories. Cash is rolling into the coffers from the 80 advertisers who have agreed to prepay for their 2018 Bulletin adverts in order to get a 15% discount. First instalment payment of £10,000 has been paid to the Gateway Project artist Holger Lonze</p> <p><u>Bulletin Report:</u> Spring issue deadline is 2nd February, with a grace period to 6th February. It should be published by late February.</p>	
9	<p><u>Website Report & Communications Group</u> DR posted 3 items on the website in December. The number of views of these has been:- WECC December meeting agenda - 10 Know Who to Turn To (NHS) - 17 Notification re: 11th December Kingsford meeting - 434</p> <p>DR posted the bus service changes that came into effect on 8th January on evening of Sunday 7th January, and this had over 200 views within a day of being</p>	

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	<p>posted. The new bus route has been implemented and there will be a Spring Bus Forum as an opportunity to feed back.</p>	
10	<p><u>Update on Gateway Art Project - Holger Lonze</u> Holger Lonze was present at the meeting to discuss the Gateway Art Project. The sculpture will be placed at the entrance to Westhill where the question mark was placed. There was a piece in the Press & Journal on 10th January about the project; the first consultation event happening at the Library on Saturday 13th January 10am – 12pm. The groups who submit articles to the Bulletin and local schools were invited to this consultation. The event is also posted on social media, and all were encouraged to like and share it.</p> <p>Holger introduced himself to the Community Council and explained that the purpose of his visit was for research. He advised his work draws on archaeology, history and heritage. The art sculpture will celebrate the last 50 years of Westhill. He had just arrived from Ireland that evening and will have a good look at the town in daylight. He is looking for ideas from the community.</p> <p>Cllr. Walker asked how we could reach out to the older generation, and it was discussed that Heather Cook could assist here through the senior citizens group. Holger would like any photos, stories etc. on the area. Every piece Holger produces is different, and he has worked with communities on art pieces for 15 years. He can show examples of these on Saturday.</p> <p>Freda Imrie asked about the materials Holger uses. He explained he works mainly in bronze, perhaps stainless steel, but can also work in stone. The area will normally dictate the type of medium he uses.</p> <p>DR suggested a visit to the sculpture in Elrick – Kate Lumsden will show Holger this.</p> <p>BC asked about the control of cost. Holger advised that there is a budget and he will remain within the budget as per the contract.</p> <p>It was suggested that Holger be put in contact with the Heritage Committee. There is also a meeting with Landscape Services on Tuesday 16th January.</p>	
11	<p><u>Sub-group Reports</u> <u>Litter:</u> Litter Picking Our Litter Pickers are enjoying a short break during December and January as weather conditions seldom allow satisfactory collection during this period. Our next Litter Pick will take place on 17th February 2018, weather permitting.</p> <p>Coffee Grounds Recycling We must thank all those who contributed to a request for advice, from the Manager of Costa Coffee, Daniel Morrison, on environmentally effective disposal of Coffee grounds, particularly Cllr. Walker, who investigated several contacts for us. We met with Mr Morrison and passed on the information for which he was most appreciative. It seems that currently he uses his delivery van to take away used grounds so any cost for a new system would not be appropriate. He would have liked to see the grounds used locally but ongoing research into disposal may yet prove to come up with a solution that would not involve a long drive to be recycled. <i>Aileen & Raymond Swaffield</i></p>	

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15	<p><u>Correspondence</u> Email from Linda Walker, Secretary, Rathen, Memsie & Cortes Community Council re: Teacher Visitor Specialists received 8th January JT read out the Email Cllr. Walker – Best to get in contact with Education Committee to gain a recent position on the issue, Cllr. Walker will look at this.</p> <p>Email from Alisa Anderson (Senior Aberdeenshire Council Policy Planner and Piers Blaxter Policy Team Leader) re: Place Standard exercise from October. Looking for feedback, JT will distribute email for feedback.</p> <p>Aberdeenshire Licensing Committee Invitation to Gordon House Council Chamber at 10am on 7th February community representation. To be forwarded for anyone who may wish to attend.</p> <p>WECC was copied in on a letter from No Kingsford Stadium to INEOS, also copied to a number of UK Government Ministers, MPs, MSPs and local councillors. Letter is regarding INEOS safety policy about the pipelines, incidents and inspections of the pipeline. No further action needed, but JT will send acknowledgement.</p> <p>Health and Welfare – Passed to JT from DR Planning to hold a retirement festival in March and a Wellbeing festival in May. This is the project Cllr Mckelvie included in his report at the November meeting Cllr. Walker asked if anyone was interested in Healthy Living this may be of interest and would help bridge a link. If anyone would like to get involved please let us know and we will forward on details.</p>	<p>IW</p> <p>JT</p> <p>JT</p>
17	<p><u>AOCB</u> CD asked about the photo taken last month - this will go in the Spring Edition of the Bulletin. DR will get a photo of those who were not present at the end of this meeting.</p> <p>Brodiach Road will be closed from the 15th January for drainage, not repairs to the potholes. That issue should be reported to Aberdeenshire Council and the local councillors.</p> <p>The bins at the Ashdale Hall were overflowing after an event at the weekend. However the Council would charge for additional bins. It was advised this was normal practice and up to the Hall to arrange collection, or have the hirer remove any rubbish. Cllr. Walker will raise at the next Ashdale Hall meeting.</p> <p>Ken Stewart offered to assist with the monitoring of Arnhall Moss, as has been discussed at previous meetings</p>	
	<p><u>Date of next meeting</u> Thursday 8th February 2018, Holiday Inn, Westhill Drive</p>	

Clare Davidson
Minutes Secretary

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TREASURER FINANCIAL REPORT	GENERAL FUNDS	ADVERTISING PRE-PAID FOR 2018	LITTER CAMPAIGN FUND	TOTAL
FUNDS IN BANK AT 14/12/17	19437.46	0.00	739.27	20176.73
<u>Receipts in period 15/12/17 to 11/01/18</u>				
Bulletin advertisers-Winter issue	1644.00			1644.00
Bulletin advertisers- 2018 prepayments		9733.00		9733.00
Bank interest	1.65			1.65
<u>Payments in period 15/12/17 to 11/01/18</u>				
Honorarium to Becky Ferguson for October & November	-200.00			-200.00
Honorarium to Clare Davidson for November & December	-100.00			-100.00
FUNDS IN BANK AT 11/01/18	20783.11	9733.00	739.27	31255.38

Funds in bank include £18,493.3 in Santander Business bond at 0.50% interest