

APPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 12TH APRIL 2018 IN THE HOLIDAY INN, WESTHILL

Community Council		
Name	Position	Present
Vacant	Chairperson	*
Heather Brock	Deputy Chairperson	✓
Suspended	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	✓
John Long	Member	✓
Diane Priestley	Member	✓
Ken Stewart	Member	✓
Daniel Hay	Member	✓
Mandy Duggan	Member	✓
Stuart Bews	Member	✓
Brian Colvin	Member	✓
Chika Edeh	Member	✓
Cllr David Aitchison	Ward 13 Councillor	✓
Cllr Iris Walker	Ward 13 Councillor	✓
Cllr Ron McKail	Ward 13 Councillor	✓
Cllr Alistair McKelvie	Ward 13 Councillor	✓

Members of Public/Invited Guests		
John Thornton	Helen Palmer	Heather Cook
Margaret Thornton	Mike Forbes	PC Steve Middleton
Aleen Shinnie	Aileen Swaffield	Linda Lawson
Karen Soutar	Ian MacMaster	Keith Sinclair
Stephen Anderson		

Item
<p>1 <u>Chairperson's welcome and opening remarks</u> Vice-chair Heather Brock (HB) opened the meeting and welcomed all members, residents and councillors. She also advised that Charlie Love has resigned his post of Chairperson and member of WECC this afternoon with immediate effect. The position of Chair is vacant and will be discussed by members only at end of this meeting. Note: the WECC monthly meeting was postponed by 1 hour to allow a closed WECC members meeting to take place with the Aberdeenshire Council Garioch Area Manager.</p>
<p>2 <u>Apologies</u> None</p>
<p>3 <u>Review and Approval of the draft Minutes of Meetings</u> Monthly WECC meeting of 8th March 2018 There was confusion regarding which revision of the minutes was distributed to members. HB proposed to return to the minutes of meeting once the revisions are clarified.</p>

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	<p>Post meeting, the minutes that had been sent to members on 23rd March were circulated again with corrections to a few spelling errors and other minor changes. Members were requested to review them and advise approval by email. Proposed : Raymond Swaffield (RS) Seconded: Bill Loudon (BL)</p>
4	<p><u>Matters Arising</u> Update on Kingsford Stadium Development No current update on the Kingsford stadium application. However WECC did receive a letter on 4th April from AFC inviting WECC to provide representatives to form part of a working group to gather views on uses of the community sports hub. Background discussions ensued, Cllr McKelvie requested that the meeting retain order and points/views are raised through the chair to ensure everyone can hear. HB advised WECC would be looking for 2 volunteers to have involvement in this working group. At this point HB asked if there were any declarations of interests. Clare Davidson (CD) declared an interest and would have no involvement in this discussion. HB also declared an interest and handed the chair to David Ritchie to continue the item. DR stated that Margaret-Jane Cardno had advised us at the closed session that there was no issue with WECC maintaining our objection whilst being involved in the working group. There was consensus that WECC should have representation on the working group. There is no indication within the letter when the group is set to be meeting but we suspect it would be evenings. RS would like WECC to include in the reply to AFC that WECC are maintaining their objection.</p> <p>Discussion continued on the role of the community councillors involved; it would be to gather opinions on what community benefits residents would like to see incorporated. It was clarified that Westhill Sports Hub group had also been invited to join the working group. Therefore it would not be the best use of time to engage with groups who are already involved in the Sports Hub. Resident Mike Forbes said it was important that WECC consult widely with residents in order to canvass opinion. He did not believe that this was done in the past when the WECC decided to oppose the proposed development. Although a number of Community Councillors disagreed with this, another local resident (Helen Palmer) agreed with his view. DR requested we move on and nominate representatives to be part of the working group. Daniel Hay and Stuart Bews put themselves forward, which was supported by members. KL raised a concern that there should be more of an offering than only football. DR will advise AFC that WECC will participate in the working group and confirm the names to them when the first meeting date and time is announced.</p>
5	<p><u>Police Report</u> PC Steve Middleton presented the Police report to the meeting (as attached) Steve commended the community response to the gentlemen selling door to door and the prompt circulation of details to the police. Cllr Mckail asked for advice for residents if they do come to the door. PC Middleton advised to have a 'no cold callers' sign, lock your door, do not answer or answer on the chain and politely decline. They may work in groups or individually.</p> <p>A visitor asked about a newspaper article today - have there been reports of threats to people in WECC on social media, as he had read in the paper about people having to use pseudonyms. PC Middleton hasn't seen any articles but advised he has discussed this openly before and if anyone is being threatened they have the right to contact the police to make a complaint and the police will investigate. The same visitor asked if there have been many complaints. PC Middleton advised there have been some complaints, but he can't discuss names etc. John Thornton (JT) asked what constitutes a threat, if someone says nasty things to you for example, calls you a scumbag for arguments sake. PC Middleton advised it is about how the person perceives it.</p>
6	<p><u>Presentation re: Westhill and District Men's Shed</u> Ian MacMaster attended the meeting and thanked WECC for inviting him to present. Ian provided a short background/ history on Men Sheds, which started in Australia. Westhill and District Men's Shed is based on the model established in Australia. Aberdeenshire Council leased them the old library building and a number of grants were received. The Shed opened in February 2013 with 20 members, now it has 200 members. It is free to join and any male can sign up (aged 18+). One aim is to support the community- IM handed out a list of example projects the Men Shed have undertaken. The request</p>



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	<p>from Dunecht school for planters was the first large scale project. Aim is to help bridge the gap from work to retirement. 15% of the male population in Westhill is retired. The main issue now is space constraint, resulting in having to turn down projects. The decision has been taken to extend the current building, at same time as carrying out remedial repairs. Tenders will be invited in the near future for the construction. For the ladies there is a 'She Shed' every Monday evening during the winter to learn DIY skills and work on projects.</p>
7	<p><u>Planning Watch (John Long)</u> There has been a number of domestic and industrial planning applications for which WECC has no comments or objections to make.</p> <p>On a previous application at Hilltop Gardens, the applicant is now appealing against the public open space restriction. Meeting to be held on 25th May. WECC do not have to get involved in this.</p> <p>For information- there is a proposal to turn a formal office building on Peregrine Road into a nursery.</p>
8	<p><u>Ward 13 Councillors' Reports</u> <u>Cllr. Iris Walker</u> Meeting with M J Mapp George Grimes is now the contact for the shopping centre via M J Mapp, the Managing Agents. We met on site last week and discussed the following:</p> <p>Trees outside vets Unfortunately, no further explanation could be given for the trees being chopped down. This was done under the instruction of the last member of staff. George is however going to contact the contractor who carried out the work as a local resident raised an issue with me about a tree near Westhill Primary School being cut down on the same day by the same contractor and I have asked that this is investigated. It may be that the contractor was under instruction from two different sources for totally separate jobs.</p> <p>Bins/Litter They are looking to increase the number of bins. George is happy to work with the school/HT to resolve the litter issue.</p> <p>Landscaping A review will be carried out on site. It is apparent that the planting done at the time of the latest development did not produce the most appropriate planting in places hence some plants died off. More appropriate planting will be considered.</p> <p>Line markings etc. The rear car park will be resurfaced nearer summer time and appropriate line markings laid down/refreshed. George has noticed the large amount of chewing gum marks and has committed to clean up.</p> <p>Permission to use centre at holiday periods M J Mapp are very keen to work with the community and have no problem authorising the Easter and Christmas decorations/tree/lights but would ask that on each separate occasion, written permission is sought so that insurance criteria can be met. Cllr Walker advised that any request for the Centre to erect Christmas lights should be emailed to George Grime at MJ Mapp to discuss.</p> <p>Controlled parking It is the intention within the next month or so to bring forward some sort of limit to parking within the shopping centre. This is to discourage long-stay parking so that customers can use the car park with ease when they shop there. At the moment they are considering length of time limits and cannot say if this will be 2 hours/3 hours/90 minutes – they are looking at a range of options. I have asked that M J Mapp communicate with the four local councillors and the community council when they know an implementation date so that residents can be notified. Notices will be up in the car park and once the cameras are on site, there will be a one-week grace period.</p> <p>Hill of Keir Road Issues have been raised by residents about the speed some vehicles travel on Hill of Keir Road/Old Skene Road. You may recall that discussions were held within WECC some months/years ago and that it was the intention to extend the 30mph section beyond the new church going West after building of the SMG development was complete. I have asked Roads to look at this again now that the Broadshade development is complete.</p>



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Speed survey on Old Skene Road near Dawson Drive

Results from PC Middleton of recent survey as requested by residents:

20 Days duration, 35,311 vehicles passed camera, Ave speed - 29.9 mph, 85th percentile - 34.4 mph.

Hilltop Lampposts

Discussions ongoing between the area office/Roads/Lighting.

Pedestrian Crossing on Old Skene Road West

Still awaiting timeline for this project after it was deferred in the last financial year.

Kingsford

Meeting with our planning and legal colleagues was postponed to Monday 16th April and feedback will be provided when available.

Cllr. David Aitchison

No report submitted and no additional information.

Cllr. Ron McKail

Flooding in Lyne of Skene is currently being followed up. There have also been reports of flooding on foot paths in Westhill.

The Garioch and North Marr Community Safety Group has bought 10 school banners to prevent rogue parking. 5 of these have been given to PC Middleton for placement around local schools. Also got 9000 card protectors for contactless cards which will be distributed from the library.

Ron has been made aware of a car key fob security issue - the signal can be intercepted and cloned, so he is looking into security measures for this.

In his role as deputy Provost Ron has attended a few events recently:-

- Aberdeen v RGU boat race.
- Grampian Houston Gateway event - this group helps people from Aberdeen looking to set up business in Houston and visa-versa.
- Aberdeen Indian Association Holi Mela at the Ashdale Hall. They are looking for a larger venue for next year.

Cllr. Alistair McKelvie

From my March report we are now aware of the Scottish Government decision not to call in the Kingsford application. Disappointing indeed, but it now requires negotiations to commence between City and Shire Officers to deal with the planning issues and conditions that remain contentious.

We have appointed a new Head Teacher to Crombie Primary, and that completes the leadership personnel changes to all 5 Westhill and Skene Schools. Interestingly, we now have an all-female group of 'Heads', in our schools, and I wish them all every success in the years ahead.

We are fortunate to have a number of interested and supportive parents in our schools Parent Councils, and they are an integral part of any schools success in developing our children. Crombie Primary currently has a number of unfilled parent spaces, and I would encourage parents of children at this school to get involved, as it is very rewarding and informative on the schools activities, and education needs.

Scottish Fire and Rescue are undergoing a public consultation on its service, and this is called 'have your say'. This is a strategic review, as well as consultation, looking in to technological advancements, locations of services, etc., so I would encourage everyone to engage with this via the SFRS website www.firescotland.gov.uk. Closing date is 14th May 2018.

We have a limited programme of roads, path, lighting maintenance in place for this year 2018/19, these are either surface dressing or resurfacing work, including B9119 at Garlogie, A944 Skene to Dunecht, Old Skene Rd, Brodiach Rd, Costco access Rd, Lyne of Skene, South Fornet. Pathways in Westhill including the Heights, Oak Cres adjacent to Elrick Primary, parts of Morven and Fare Park, Keir and Shaw Circle.

I have recently been looking at the populations of our town and surrounding district. Officers use an estimating procedure to gauge populations, as the last Census was 7 years ago in 2011. However, it



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	<p>is estimated Westhill now has a population of c12300, which is only c1300 lower than Inverurie (13600), and c1100 more than Stonehaven (c11200).</p>
9	<p><u>Treasurer's Report and Bulletin Updates</u> (David Ritchie)</p> <p><u>Treasurer</u> Nothing to report, normal financial summary for the transactions since March meeting will be added to minutes</p> <p><u>Bulletin</u> Deadline for Summer issue is Friday 4th May, but 7th May should be ok for Councillor reports. Re the Bulletin being 'showcased' on the Scottish Community Councils website, I answered a detailed questionnaire a few weeks back but haven't heard back about it.</p>
10	<p><u>Sub-group Reports</u></p> <p><u>Litter (Raymond Swaffield)</u> Our Litter Pick on 17th March went ahead as scheduled. As usual we found no shortage of litter, although we thought that the Denman Woods were a bit better than normal. The next Litter Pick will take place on 21st April. We were contacted by the Rainbows group based at the Academy. They had not done a litter pick previously but we arranged for them to borrow our kit and they did a pick on 29th March despite dodgy weather. They had a good time and said they will do another pick later in the year.</p> <p>After Councillor Walker obtained further information re the disposal of coffee grounds, I decided to contact SEPA directly, to obtain the full regulations regarding this topic. The information I received made it clear that the rules will not permit our local coffee shop to distribute grounds to gardeners. This seems a shame but, in the circumstances, I decided to not take this further or to re contact the shop manager</p> <p><u>Gateway Art Project (Kate Lumsden)</u> Funding – The second stage-payment to Holger is due to be paid within next month or so. It is coming from a Public Art Fund grant that was approved last year. The money could disappear as it is developer's contributions and must be used by a certain date. After a few frantic emails and calls I have been reassured that the money has been ring fenced for the Gateway Art Project and there is therefore no rush to get Holger to raise an invoice. Holger will be coming to the Gala with models and drawings. There is no money from Tesco 'Bags of Help' so there is a concern on the lack of money for landscaping. Therefore WECC would like to encourage volunteer help for the landscaping.</p> <p><u>Westhill Art Project (Kate Lumsden)</u> Easter Egg drawings were put up at shopping centre and have now been removed. Next Art Project is the scarecrow trail for the Gala. KL advised she won't be at the next meeting but will provide a written update.</p> <p><u>New WECC Constitution</u> No Update Provided</p>
11	<p><u>Correspondence</u> Correspondence has been circulated to community councillors by acting secretary David Ritchie</p> <p>As part of the Local Development Plan (LDP), Aberdeenshire council are having a 'Call for Sites' where developers are invited to bid for sites in the LDP. WECC will be advised what bids are in for the area and a Garioch seminar will take place on 13th June. A time slot will be advised for Ward 13.</p> <p>'Festive lights' meeting in Inverurie - DR will attend next week and provide feedback.at May meeting</p>
12	<p><u>AOCB</u></p> <p><u>Westhill Gala 9th June</u> This is 1 week later than normal. KL is unavailable for this. WECC main feature will be the Gateway Art Project. Holger will attend with models and drawings. Could possibly use our stall to try to get volunteers to help with landscaping at the sculpture site.</p>



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	<p>Strategic Development Plan Review- Main Issues Report Consultation- closes 21st May The Community Council Forum on the Main Issues report and LDP was held on 7th March, attended by David Ritchie and John Thornton. Consultation on the Main Issues report is open until 21st May. The Report and feedback forms are in the library to allow residents to comment on the report. JL will have a look at this online and feedback. Westhill has not been considered as a development area.</p> <p>Westhill in Bloom Competition Agreed to hold this again this year, Judging will be early August. Need a group to organise this event.</p>
13	<p>Vacant Chair position The visitors left the meeting. HB then asked if anyone would consider taking on the Chair. Brian Colvin said he could do it but is going to be away a lot over the next 6 months. John Long indicated he may be able to do it for an interim period, but would like to wait to see what the outcome of the complaints hearings is.</p>
	<p>Date of next meeting Thursday 10th May 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 8/03/18	19874.97	14464.00	739.27	35078.24
Receipts in period 8/03/18 to 12/04/18				
Bulletin advertisers-Spring issue	2702.00			2702.00
Bank interest	2.51			2.51
Payments in period 8/03/18 to 12/04/18				
Honorarium to Minutes Secretary for Jan to March	-150.00			-150.00
FUNDS IN BANK AT 12/04/18	22429.48	14464.00	739.27	37632.75

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



**WESTHILL AND ELRICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING ON
12/04/2018**

1. LOCAL INTEREST INFORMATION

Here is a summary of crimes and offences of local interest in the area since the last Police report.

DETECTED -

ROAD TRAFFIC OFFENCES - 5 detected. 1 for dangerous driving in the Westhill area and 4 where drivers having caused an accident, failed to stop or report same.

THEFTS - This includes 2 thefts of fuel and theft of a push bike which one of the persons reported for Peddler's certificate incidents has been charged with.

FAIL TO HAVE A PEDDLERS CERTIFICATE - 9 detected, see section 4 below.

THEFT AND OFFENSIVE WEAPON - 1 - Steal item and use a knife to try and remove security tag.

ONGOING -

THREATS - 2 ongoing enquiry. (Threats made over phone)

VANDALISM - 1 ongoing. (Car windscreen wiper)

THEFT - 1 ongoing. This involves the theft of a key from a car on a driveway moments after an unidentified male had attended their front door trying to sell goods to the homeowner.

2. FEEDBACK ON POLICE ACTIONS IN RESPONSE TO MATTERS RAISED AT THE PREVIOUS MEETING

3. DETAILS OF ACTIONS IN RESPONSE TO MATTERS RAISED AT THE PREVIOUS MEETING

4. ONGOING LOCAL / FORCE-WIDE ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

As you will all no doubt be aware, there has been a lot of reports from local residents regarding a group of males going door to door trying to sell household items without holding a peddlers certificate. Some residents reported that the males were persistent.

Police Scotland are delighted with the reaction of residents as soon as this activity started in the area, information was immediately shared on different types of Social media and many resident then called the Police providing excellent descriptions of the males involved and their direction of travel.

As a result, the males were taken into Police custody on Friday, Saturday when they were released with Police bail conditions not to go door to door and when it happened again on Sunday, some males were kept in custody overnight until they appeared in Court on Monday.

5 accused have been charged with 9 peddlers certificate offences and one with the theft of a push bike from a property.

SPEED CAMERA RESULT.

In reaction to residents requesting that the speed camera be placed towards the roadshade/Dawson Drive end of the Old Skene Road, here is the outcome of the survey.

15 March - 4 April, (20 days)

Total vehicles - 35,311.

Average speed - 29.9 mph.

85th percentile - 34.4 mph.

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