

## APPROVED MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 8<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2018 IN HOLIDAY INN, WESTHILL

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

Members of Public/Invited Guests		
Heather Brock	Clare Davidson	Heather Cook
Donald Davidson	John Imrie	Freda Imrie
John M Imrie	PC Samuel Cockburn	Kasia Matula
Alison Cumming (Area office)		

<b>1</b>	<p><b><u>Chairperson's welcome and opening remarks</u></b> The Vice Chair opened the meeting and introduced himself to those who didn't know him, he explained that he would be chairing the meeting as the Chairman Chika Edeh was away on work business.</p>
<b>2</b>	<p><b><u>Apologies</u></b> Chika Edeh, John Thornton, Cllr McKelvie and Cllr Atchison.</p>
<b>3</b>	<p><b><u>Review and Approval of the draft Minutes of Meetings</u></b> The Vice Chair advised that there was a proposal for addressing members of the public as 'member of public' in the minutes rather than using their names, this is for data protection reasons. This was proposed by Mandy Duggan and seconded by Heather Coull. The Vice-Chair proposed a vote on whether or not to include all of part 14 of the October Minutes in the final minutes. This was the item where members of the public were excluded. It was proposed that only the first sentence be included and the Vice Chair took a vote on this. There was a majority agreement. Approval of the October minutes was proposed by Heather Coull and seconded by Dawn Anderson. A member of public asked who the draft minutes are released to; the Vice Chair stated that they are released to members only, unless a member of the public who attended requests them from the chair or secretary. Should this happen, it will be considered.</p>
<b>4</b>	<p><b><u>Matters Arising</u></b> <b><u>Allotment Survey</u></b> Diane Priestley completed the allotment survey in October and received 18 comments. Some respondents said that they were previously asked about this and despite their positive comments about the prospect of allotments, nothing was done about it. Bill Loudon stated that a survey was done before, it came back positive for allotments, but there was no suitable piece of land available in the Westhill area</p>

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	<p><u>Second Shopping Centre Notice Board</u> Brian Colvin advised that he has secured a notice board from the Men's Shed. David Ritchie advised Brian that permission is required from MJ Mapp to install the notice board.</p> <p>A member of public asked about the shopping centre car park restrictions. The Vice-Chair advised that the Community Council cannot do much about this.</p> <p><u>Additional Subgroups</u> The Vice-Chair stated that at last meeting there was talk about the new subgroups which will be created within WECC. Leaders are needed for the subgroups and individuals had been asked if they would step up to the various positions; he asked that these now be approved. Members were invited to nominate themselves to lead a group if they had not already done so. No further nominations were received.</p> <p><b>Governance leader-</b> Brian Colvin, proposed by Ken Stewart, seconded by Bill Loudon. <b>Projects leader-</b> Kate Lumsden, proposed by Diane Priestley, seconded by Heather Coull. <b>Finance leader-</b> Dawn Anderson, proposed by Raymond Swaffield, seconded by David Ritchie. <b>Environment leader-</b> Ken Stewart, proposed by Heather Coull, seconded by Diane Priestley. <b>Community Liaison leader-</b> Mandy Duggan, proposed by Brian Colvin, seconded by Diane Priestley. <b>Communications leader-</b> Chika Edeh, proposed by Kate Lumsden, seconded by Mandy Duggan. <b>Development Plans leader-</b> Diane Priestley, proposed by Ken Stewart, seconded by Raymond Swaffield. <b>Events leader-</b> David Ritchie, proposed by Heather Coull, seconded by Bill Loudon.</p>
5	<p><u>Police Report</u> Police Report was received today from Inspector Darren Bruce, Inverurie Community Policing Team. It will be issued as an appendix to these minutes. No police at meeting to talk to it.</p> <p>David Ritchie will request Steve Middleton to include the neighbourhood alert programme in his section in the Spring Bulletin. A member of public advised of an issue regarding bottles being thrown off local buses, the vice chair stated that there is not much WECC can do about this and that it is more of an issue that the bus company will be dealing with.</p>
6	<p><u>Residents Items from the Floor</u> The Vice Chair introduced this new part of the meeting where it gives residents the chance to talk about any issues they have within Westhill, it also allows them to ask questions. Kasia Mutala gave a presentation about her business idea which is a free bus service for residents. The proposed bus service would run between 6:30am and 9:30am and 4pm and 7pm, which are the peak traveling times for commuters. There would be a bus every half hour between these times and it would stop at Westhill, Westhill Business Park, Prime Four, Westburn Road and the City Centre. It would be a free alternative to the Stagecoach service bus. For this to work, they would need six drivers which creates an employment opportunity. They would hire six buses which they are hoping would be hydrogen buses in order to save the environment. Each bus would take an hour and a half to go around all the destinations. The six new drivers would be on £10 per hour, the business would be operating 30 hours per week and each driver would be on £15,600 per year which makes a total for the six drivers to be £93,600 per year. The estimated price for bus hire would be £402,480 per year and all together it is estimated that the costs would be between £500,000 and £700,000 per year. The project would require funding. They have a number of funding options, these include: Climate Challenge Fund- up to £150,000 Funding Scotland - up to £149,000 per year. Council &amp; Industrial sponsorship</p> <p>Overall, the main aim is to save the environment by cutting down emissions, by offering a free bus service, people would be more inclined to park their cars and get on the bus and this would also cut down traffic congestion. Raymond Swaffield expressed his concern that Stagecoach may withdraw their services at these times which would not make the situation any better.</p>

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	<p>A member of public didn't think that the buses would run on time and that the competition would become an issue as like it was when First Bus used to run in Westhill along with Stagecoach some time back.</p> <p>The Vice Chair stated that he previously made a deal with Van Hool through his work at Aberdeen City Council to get the hydrogen buses in Aberdeen. His concern was that when the funding runs out the company may want to sell their buses and not hire them out. However, he also advised Kasia that the government are keen to donate to any projects regarding climate change and environmental projects.</p> <p>Raymond Swaffield asked if Stagecoach could put some subsidised buses on instead. Kasia said that they cannot do that and that it is easier to get funding rather than paying Stagecoach.</p> <p>A member of public asked who it would benefit and how would they restrict it to just Westhill residents. Kasia stated that it would benefit the Westhill community but they would like to get Kingswells involved also. She added that if people come from Dunecht, park their cars in Westhill and get on the free bus, it would be a good thing as it would help them achieve their aims to have less cars on the road and improve emissions</p> <p>Brain Colvin suggested that the project may need to look at replacing the Stagecoach service between those times, making it an every 15 minute service, and therefore doubling their budget. Brian also stated that the buses need to be environmentally friendly ones otherwise there would be no real benefit. Alan Eastell said it would be difficult to get people out of their cars and into these buses as cars are really convenient.</p> <p>The Vice Chair thanked Kasia for coming and sharing her proposal. He stated that WECC cannot commit to anything at this moment, however he is keen for us to work with the project and to have her back once more information has been collated.</p>
7	<p><b><u>Update on Kingsford Stadium Development</u></b></p> <p>The Vice Chair attended the recent working group meeting which himself and Daniel Hay are both part of. The updates are</p> <p>Phase 1- This should be seeded by spring 2019 and ready by June 2019. AFC have a request for advertising consent to ACC planning dept. Public comments are not able to be made on this consent request. A decision is likely due soon.</p> <p>The procedural hearing for the judicial review will be held on 19<sup>th</sup> December and the substantive hearing will be held 29<sup>th</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> January, with the outcome expected 3 months later.</p> <p>Raymond Swaffield expressed concerns which residents have of ground works being done on the stadium part of the site, which is not allowed until after the judicial review. A member of public advised that the ground works approval was for the whole site, not just the community sports hub and training facilities.</p> <p>It was agreed that WECC write to Aberdeen City Council to enquire about what ground work was approved.</p> <p>Diane Priestly asked what Community Facilities will be included in the Pavilion. The Vice Chair advised that there will be sports facilities, a gymnasium and other facilities, however space will be limited until the stadium is built.</p> <p>A member of public stated that the judicial review includes all phases.</p> <p>A member of public queried the potential conflict of interest of the members of the working group as they are season ticket holders of the club, the Vice-Chair advised that the interest they have is for the club to win games, wherever the club may be based and that it is better to have people familiar with the club to be on the working group.</p>
8	<p><b><u>Strategic Development &amp; Local Development Plan</u></b></p> <p>Diane Priestley has written a basic guide on the LDP for winter issue of Westhill Bulletin, however she recommends that people look at the two Council's planning websites which provide information on the LDP and SDP. Bids on land around A944 are on the ACC website, they could have an effect on Westhill.</p> <p>The Vice-Chair recommended that members go to the Garioch Community Council Forum meeting in Gordon House on December 5<sup>th</sup>.</p> <p>Alison Cumming reminded members about a 'Planning Matters' training evening which will be held on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2019 at Gordon House.</p>
9	<p><b><u>Planning Watch</u></b></p> <p>David Ritchie has been keeping check on the recent planning applications weekly reports. There has not been any applications relevant to Westhill recently that we need to discuss.</p> <p>He stated that the application for a house to be built on Westdyke Drive on land behind the Peter Nicol Squash Centre was approved by the Garioch Area Committee at their meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> October.</p>

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	<p>WECC had objected to this earlier in the year as part of the site was on public open space and 7 large trees would require to be felled.</p>
<b>10</b>	<p><b><u>Ward 13 Councillors Reports/Updates</u></b></p> <p><b>Cllr Aitchison Report</b> At the October WECC meeting the issue of counsellors in schools and the help available for pupils was raised and briefly discussed.</p> <p>I have now checked and am able to confirm that the Scottish Government has recently announced £60M funding for secondary schools to provide mental health counselling for pupils. Up to 350 counsellors and 250 specially trained nurses will be employed across the country to tackle growing levels of anxiety and depression. I have been contacted in the past by parents concerned about the use of social media and mobile devices and hopefully the counselling which will now be available will help with these issues and others if they occur at Westhill Academy.</p> <p><b>Cllr McKail Report</b></p> <p><b>1. Pass Plus.</b> <b>Thank you letter to WECC from young driver and his parent for the grant of £100 for part payment for meeting the cost of the Pass Plus Course</b></p> <p><b>From Young Driver</b> Thank you very much to the Westhill Community Council for the pass plus grant. I found that it helped with my confidence in driving. It also gave me the opportunity to drive on a motorway with a driving instructor. I did not have to experience a motorway by myself. I would recommend it to other new drivers that think they would like a bit more experience or if they would be doing a lot of driving by themselves.</p> <p><b>From Parent</b> From a parent's perspective, I was very grateful for the grant. Driving lessons are very expensive and even once they pass their test they are still learning and haven't a great deal of experience doing long distance driving, and on motorways. I was pleased that my son had the opportunity to complete this course with his driving instructor for more experience as he does do a lot of driving out with the city centre and Westhill. Had we not received the grant, it is unlikely my son would have done this so soon after passing his test with a trained instructor due to funding. Along with his Driving Instructor he had a very good long distance drive, taking in new routes and experiences. He was very tired by the end of the day but certainly worthwhile and a confidence builder for sure.</p> <p><b>2. Leaf Clearance.</b> Been receiving numerous requests for help with getting rid of leaves. Council policy is that residents take care of leaf disposal themselves (Westdyke recycling, not black wheelie bin). Residents who are physically unable to deal with disposal of their leaves should contact the Council direct and explain their difficulty.</p> <p><b>3. Tree /Branch Trimming.</b> Number of issues reported regarding trees causing a severe shadow on their property. Reported this and Council responded positively.</p> <p><b>4. Double Yellows Hays Way.</b> Householders in this area are concerned about the excessive car parking usually as a result of visitors to the swimming pool. Council had indicated the painting of double yellows were on the works programme for the lines to be painted weeks ago. Sadly not the case now. This job planned for 2019.</p> <p><b>5. Blackhill's Court.</b> I've received requests to raise the concerns of these residents regarding a number of issues including: When resurfacing of the car park no disabled parking places included. This is now sorted. A number of issues which I brought to the Sheltered Housing officer were dealt with. WECC members would have seen the recent P &amp; J article where the residents are expressing concern about security within the building. These complaints have been investigated by council officers and the issues are being dealt with.</p> <p><b>6. Car Parking for Disabled at rear of Shopping Centre.</b> Recent resurfacing and marking out of 5 car spaces. No disabled space was the complaint I received. Contacted MJ Mapp with this complaint that with their being a disabled toilet adjacent a disable space seemed necessary. MJ Mapp take a different view. Shoppers should not use the rear car park. Disabled parking slot was not on the works schedule. In the series of email exchanges including photographs that shoppers were parking. Explained that on one day when I was shopping there were 9 cars parked which included parking on</p>

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the recently painted hatch lines. Not sure if WECC sees the need for a disabled parking space. If so contacting ML Mapp might raise the profile of disabled parking.

**7. Citizens Advice Bureau.** Attended their AGM. Tremendous service CAB provides. Part of the presentation made reference to 50% of elderly admitted to hospital are undernourished; There are people in Aberdeenshire going hungry. Increase in the number of clients being suicidal. Due to the downturn in oil and gas some of the volunteers have moved on. Thus there is a need for more volunteers to undertake training. Reported that 19 different languages are used by CAB's multi ethnic staff.

**8. Fire and Rescue Seminar.** Attended a meeting in Peterhead FC hosted by the FRS Board Chairman and the Chief Fire Officer. The gist of the presentations is the progress this service has made in transforming the work of their fire officers. Obviously their role is firefighting. But they are often first on scene for road fatalities dealing with the injured driver. Cutting them out of their vehicle. Administering first aid (CPR and when required using their defib). Carrying out these additional roles until police and para medics take over. A new role for the FRS is that in the event of an ambulance not being available for 999 call then the FRS is on call to respond. The Chief summoned up the role of his service as being the 'country's insurance policy'. Good presentation; those attending were asked about the views of the FRS in Aberdeenshire and the response the Board members took away was one of an effective service.

**9. Cornerstone AGM and Awards.** Deputised for the Provost at this event. Cornerstone provides support for clients who need support. Aberdeenshire Council along with other councils throughout Scotland use their service. Some of the bullet points are they have supported 2400 children, adults and families across Scotland in 2017/18. Locally Cornerstone in partnership with our council provides support for over 500 adults and families. What was very satisfying about their AGM is that the clients who use their service were part of the AGM. The awards ceremony recognised those staff members who had been with Cornerstone for 10 years and 20 years. Very enjoyable event with an organisation which delivers high quality care and support allowing their clients to live a valued life.

### **Cllr Iris Walker**

Cllr Iris Walker had not submitted a report in advance.

The pedestrian crossing on Old Skene Road between Hays Way and Crombie Acres is in the design stage.

The Hilltop lampposts are due to be painted in late November.

Westhill Walkers are looking for new members and walk leaders.

Cllr Walker attended the Sports Hub meeting on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> November where it was reported that the pitches at Carnie have had vandalism, bikes have been used on the pitches, they are looking to get this fixed and to make it more secure.

She met with the Syrian residents who are staying in Westhill. The Syrian children are happy, confident and enjoying their time here.

There has been some issues at the shops, the green wall is not looking very good. The Council is corresponding with MJ Mapp to see if they are breaking their conditions.

### **Cllr Alistair McKelvie**

Cllr McKelvie was not present at the meeting and has not submitted a report.

### **Treasurers Report and Bulletin Update**

**Mileage rate-** at the recent office-bearer meeting it was agreed to increase the car mileage rate from 30p to 40p per mile, as it had been 30p for at least 6 years. The most common trip that members do is to Inverurie for things like CC Forum meetings and meetings with Council officers. The standard amount that can be claimed for that will now be £10.

**Donations-** at the May meeting it was agreed that the treasurer plus Bill Loudon and Daniel Hay would form the new sub-group to review the donation requests and propose the list of twice-yearly donations. We met earlier this week to review the requests for the November donations and the proposals are shown on table below. WECC will not require to fund as much of the Gateway sculpture landscaping costs as we thought we would a month ago so we can afford to continue to make donations totalling around £4000 per year. This should equate to between 40% and 50% of the Bulletin profits.

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<b>NOVEMBER 2018 DONATION REQUESTS</b>			
<b>Group</b>	<b>Purpose of Donation</b>	<b>Proposed</b>	
		<b>Donation</b>	<b>Previous Donations</b>
Westhill Photography Club	to help update equipment which members can borrow	150	£300 in Nov 2017
Westhill Primary Lego Club	to buy some key Lego pieces	150	£350 for library furniture in 2014
Tiffin Club	to subsidise cost of monthly trips in community minibus for senior citizens	200	None
Skene Parish Church -Young Heroes Award	to help fund prizes for winners, e.g. some respite care	200	None
Milne Hall, Kirkton of Skene	to help fund major hall improvements	400	£400 in 2012, £300 in 2014
Kirkton of Skene Playgroup	to help with running costs	300	£750 from 2012 to 2016
Westhill Community Church	to help fund a defibrillator	300	£300 in 2016
Westhill Community Church	to help fund an outside play area (costing £9000)	<u>400</u>	£300 in 2016
	total	<u><u>2,100</u></u>	
Dawn Anderson			
There were no objections to the donations. The donations were proposed by Raymond Swaffield and seconded by Brian Colvin			
<b>Bulletin Update</b>			
Winter issue is on schedule for delivery by printer on Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> November. The batching is done in my garage with help from my wife Fiona and ex-member Rosemary Murray. It would be good to have another regular helper. It only takes an hour, normally late afternoon. All Autumn issue adverts invoices have been paid, though there are a few that are perpetually quite late and need to be sent a few reminders. I will soon be contacting all the regular advertisers to encourage them to sign up to the pre-pay option for all four 2019 issues and get a 15% discount. David Ritchie Ken Stewart volunteered to help David with Bulletin into batching			
<b>12</b>	<b><u>Sub Group Reports</u></b> <b>LITTER</b> Our planned Litter Pick in October turned out to be seriously problematic. After a day or so prior, reminding our volunteers of the event in the usual manner, I drove up to the Academy on the morning of the pick to collect the kit. To my horror, I found the whole area fenced off, with no access to our kit locker. Too late to warn of a cancellation, I had no option but to drive empty handed to our start point and tell volunteers the bad news as they arrived. Fortunately for us, an enterprising group from Torphins, formed by Thomas, a school boy with whom I had previous contact, turned up. They had brought along a group of helpers and their own set of kit. They lent their extra kit to our volunteers and so we were able to continue with the pick as planned. I was very grateful that they had saved our bacon and we collected, the usual skip full of litter in the end. I will try to establish well before our next litter pick on 17th November, that I can get access to our kit. The cause of the problem is that builders working at the Academy are using the playground as a secure yard and our kit is within. No work is done on Saturdays when we have our pick, so the site is all locked up. Raymond Swaffield		

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	<p><b>GATEWAY ART PROJECT</b> After a very successful meeting with Area Manager Margaret-Jane Cardno, we now can proceed with the landscaping required for the sculpture to be erected in April. The cost for this will be split 3 ways. Aberdeenshire Community Fund will pay one third, Landscaping department will pay one third and the Community Council one third. We had a meeting with Jim Robertson from Landscaping last week and he will help us coordinate this. FES will be supplying the solar lighting. The deadline at the moment is end April but work will start by March. Kate Lumsden, team leader.</p> <p><b>CHRISTMAS LIGHTS &amp; 8<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER EVENT</b> <b>LIGHTS-</b> FES Ltd have confirmed they can assist us again this year. The planned date for putting up the street festive lights is the morning of Friday 16<sup>th</sup> November. Then on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> November the Men Shed will assist with putting up the Christmas tree at shopping centre and FES will assist with putting the lights on it. Two helpers from WECC would be useful on both dates. The sub-group for organising the 8<sup>th</sup> December event will need to meet soon. The Academy have advised they will not be able to provide the music so we will use Granite City Brass again. David Ritchie Volunteers to help with the organising of the event are Diane Priestley, Heather Coull and Heather Cook.</p> <p><b>Community Liaison</b> Brain Colvin gave a presentation on his survey of the Westhill Producers Market. The aim is to increase the footfall at this event which is held on the first Saturday of the month. The presentation is attached as appendix to minutes. David Ritchie stated that the advert that Brian created is in as a ¼ page in the winter issue of the Bulletin and it will be on the front cover of the spring issue.</p>
13	<p><b>Correspondence</b> <b>Items of interest previously circulated by the secretary are:</b> 1. A96 Dualling East of Huntly to Aberdeen Community Council Forum on November 13<sup>th</sup> in Inverurie. No WECC members wished to attend this. 2. Strategic Development Plan Main issues consultation meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> of November in Oldmeldrum, This invite went to Garioch &amp; Formartine community councils. David Ritchie, Diane Priestley and Dawn Anderson are going to this. 3. The Westhill Year of Young People Awards event is on 17<sup>th</sup> November at Trinity Church. David Ritchie has been invited to attend with a plus one. He will ask Chika if he would like to attend. Cllr McKail will also be attending with Heather Coull as his plus one.</p>
14	<p><b>AOCB</b> A member of public stated that it is good that the new resident's items from the floor is included in the meetings as it gives them a chance to talk about issues important to them. More people should be encouraged to attend the monthly meeting. The Vice Chair stated that this new item is included to give members of the public time to talk about issues important to them, however, there is still a lot of Community Council business to get through.</p> <p>A member of public asked about potentially collecting P&amp;J tokens to win a minibus to add to the Community Minibus fleet. David Ritchie stated that Westhill won the first P&amp;J minibus in 2002, but he has not organised a campaign to collect tokens this year.</p> <p>The Vice Chair drew the meeting to a close at 9.50pm.</p>
	<p><b><u>Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> December 7pm at Holiday Inn Westhill.</u></b></p>



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<b>TREASURER FINANCIAL REPORT ( Receipts &amp; Payments between the October &amp; November meetings)</b>	<b>GENERAL FUNDS</b>	<b>ADVERTISING PRE-PAID FOR 2018</b>	<b>LITTER CAMPAIGN FUND</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
FUNDS IN BANK AT 11/10/18	22447.03	4822.00	727.30	27996.33
<b>Receipts in period 12/10/18 to 8/11/18</b>				
Bulletin advertisers-Autumn issue	42.00			42.00
<b>Payments in period 12/10/18 to 8/11/18</b>				
Donations to Community Groups (see list in November minutes)	-2100.00			-2100.00
FUNDS IN BANK AT 8/11/18	<b>20389.03</b>	<b>4822.00</b>	<b>727.30</b>	<b>25938.33</b>