

APPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, 13 MAY 2021 (VIA ZOOM)

Community Council		
Name	Position	Present
Mervyn Barr	Chair	✓
Hilary Benson	Member	✓
Malcolm Collie	Member	✓
Heather Cook	Member	✓
Donald Davidson	Member	✓
Becky Ferguson	Member	✓
Audrey Findlay	Member	✓
Ben Horsburgh	Associate Member	x
Kate Lumsden	Member	✓
Alan McCue	Member	✓
William Munro	Vice-Chair	✓
Gordon Prentice	Treasurer	✓
Diane Priestley	Member	✓
Justin Reid	Member	✓
David Ritchie	Secretary	✓
Ken Stewart	Member	✓
Raymond Swaffield	Member	✓
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	✓

Members of Public- David Cowie, Janine Cracknell (Kintore CC), Mr & Mrs Bradford (Sclattiebrae residents)

1	<p><u>Welcome and opening remarks</u> Chair Mervyn Barr opened the meeting and welcomed everyone, with a special welcome to members of the public and in particular to the representatives of residents of Sclattiebrae. Permission was granted to record the meeting.</p>
2	<p><u>Apologies and Declarations of Interest</u> Apologies received from Cllr Mckail & Ben Horsburgh No Declarations of Interest</p>
3	<p><u>Approval of Minutes of Meeting 8th April 2021</u> The minutes were approved, with no changes. Proposed: Gordon Prentice, Seconded: Ken Stewart</p>
4	<p><u>Matters Arising/ Actions Update</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Set-up of Micro-soft One-Drive – Malcolm advised there has been no progress in past month, but he has another route into Microsoft which he will be looking to use. 2. Phase 2 Review of Scheme of Establishment- David advised that AC has approved the proposed amendments to the Scheme. The few small additional wording changes suggested by WECC have been accepted. There will soon be a further four week consultation on the final draft. It is likely there will be some training arranged to take us through the changes. 3. Public Toilets- Meryn has obtained quotes from a company called Healthmatic. To refurbish an existing toilet block would cost around £110k for supply and installation. Mapp are considering possible options but have not made any definite commitments.

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	<p>4. Ideas on projects for next financial year- The suggested projects are:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - additional seating and bins for Denman Park (Heather) - cleaning out of Denman Park ponds (Ken) - boardwalks for wet parts of Orbital Trail <p>Mervyn proposed setting up a projects group to review funding sources and scope out possible projects. Members offering to be in the group are Gordon, Mervyn, David and Cllr Walker. Audrey suggested reps from other groups in Westhill could be involved, however given the short timescales and deadlines for funding applications (31st May) we will have to work within WECC for the moment.</p> <p>Inspiring Aberdeenshire Awards update- Mervyn advised that Heather Cook has been selected as a finalist for the Inspirational Volunteer Award and congratulated Heather on her success. Heather has over many years in many ways inspired and encouraged many to adopt active and healthy lifestyles in pursuit of physical and mental well-being.</p>
5	<p>Community Action Plans- Caroline Smith, Garioch Community Planning Officer</p> <p>CAPs are owned by the community. Things in it are identified by the community through a series of engagements. They are useful as an evidence base when looking for funding.</p> <p>Normally community engagement events would be held in a local hall, supported by the Rural Partnership. In current circumstances these events can be run online using a tool called Engagement HQ. Questionnaires can be delivered to houses, picked up in shops etc.</p> <p>The themes where gaps can be identified are Health & Wellbeing, Connectivity (e.g. transport, digital), Environment, Housing, Economy, Safety & Community. The info is then analysed.</p> <p>There is a standard format for a CAP. It would be accessible online, hard copies would also be available.</p> <p>The commissioning group looks at the priorities that have been identified and the actions that can come from them, under 3 categories:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Independent- actions that we can progress ourselves Partnership - actions that can be progressed with support of Aberdeenshire Council or a third party Outside Agencies- <p>CAPs work best in smaller communities than Westhill. We can decide whether to do one CAP for Westhill or do a few Neighbourhood plans.</p> <p>Local Place Plans are separate from CAPs. Place Plans are more about land use</p> <p>Caroline will send us an example of a completed CAP.</p> <p>Diane agreed to take the lead role in a CAP sub-group, supporting the Rural Partnership team that will be involved.</p> <p>The relevant Council website is:-</p> <p>https://www.ouraberdeenshire.org.uk/your-area/garioch/community-planning-in-action/</p> <p>Mervyn thanked Caroline for her interesting and informative presentation and looked forward to WECC working with her to start on a CAP later this year.</p>
6	<p><u>Correspondence</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Impact Assessment Forum- Ward 13- Mon 31st May 6.30-8pm- This is a follow up to the Forum held in August 2020. WECC can nominate two members to attend. Ben Horsburgh has advised he would like to attend it. Mervyn will also attend.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shopping Centre Car Park- Ben Horsburgh has told Mervyn about the correspondence he has been getting about the potholes in car park, some quite abusive. Mervyn added that he has always found Ben (who is now an Associate Member of WECC) approachable and helpful but there are limitations to his operational budget. Funds for major repairs are released at a higher level within MAPP; in the meantime Ben is lobbying to get the repairs done ASAP. Mervyn will contact Mapp at their Glasgow office to register our concerns about the potholes and urge speedy repairs. • Slattiebrae residents and others have serious reservations about proposed route for Orbital Trail. Will be covered in item 9 on agenda • A944 Active Travel Route Study- Presentation planned for 20th May at 7pm for 1 hour. – This is to review the options for a new walk/cycle route between Westhill and Kingswells. The consultation period starts next week, details will be circulated when received.
7	<p><u>Police Report</u> As circulated and appended to minutes. Current priorities are anti-social behaviour, drugs and road safety. Public Nuisance incidents continuing to rise, all are youth annoyance and anti-social behaviour calls. David will check if the community police officer James Stewart can attend a WECC meeting within next few months.</p>
8	<p><u>Environmental Group Update</u> Report from Raymond has been circulated, as below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our organised Litter Picks resumed in April. WECC and Rotary both pick on the second and fourth Saturday of each month. We support each other at each pick. Staff help from Tesco and McDonalds was welcome. We collected around 40 sacks of litter at each pick, which completely filled our large bin each time. • We welcomed several new volunteers, many recruited by the Winter Resilience Group (now Westhill Voluntary Action) • We were disappointed to find Denman Park and Carnie Woods heavily littered and with broken glass strewn around on the day following our organised pick. A few dedicated volunteers tackled clearing this up again. This trend of “night drinkers” smashing their bottles on stones is a worrying development. • We had a meeting with Norman Wright, Council Waste Officer, to discuss the inadequate bin provision at the Park. He has promised to get back to us with options to take this forward, although he said that it was really a Landscape Services remit. • A fly tipping incident at the farm track, just beyond Meadowlands was cleared thanks to David and John from the Rotary and the waste was correctly disposed. • We had a catch-up meeting with the Deputy Manager at McDonalds. We were amazed to see the extent that their staff went to, in collecting litter. They had been approached by one of the nearby industrial sites, complaining that their car park was being used at night by McDonald’s customers and the litter left behind. This car park is now cleared daily by McDonalds. • We detected a sewage leak incident at the Lawsondale burn, where sewage was seeping out from a water drain outlet. SEPA, Scottish Water and the Council were notified, and the incident is now escalated to the Network Analyst. We do not have an update yet. • Following complaints to Ken that our “Eyes” posters were frightening children, further discussion with the complainer has resulted in her suggesting alternative posters. With the noticeable increase

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	<p>in dog fouling and the complaints it generates, we feel there may be a need to re-start a “clear up your dog poo” project</p> <p>Ken updated on Denman Park pond. It was last cleaned out by Froglife contractors in 2015, funded by lottery funds. Tamsin Morris can do a survey and organise another project. Cost for survey would be £300 (which was then authorised). She would also help with application for funding. The Council are responsible for the pond but they have not indicated willingness to get it cleaned up.</p>
<p>9</p>	<p>Orbital Trail Project (Gordon Prentice) Main points from circulated report:-</p> <p>Issue at Easter Kinmundy- The publication of a centre page spread in the Summer Issue of the Bulletin, including a map of the Orbital Trail has had to be suspended following issues that arose after last month’s meeting and related advice given to WECC from Aberdeenshire Council; the issues arising mean the legal status of the route through Sc lattiebrae must now be formally resolved, and to that end WECC has requested independent mediation.</p> <p>Funding Update- £2,243 of the £14,000 funding is uncommitted, but the plan is to deploy this on stiles, signage and a raised path [rather than boardwalk] at Lawsondale.</p> <p>Ongoing Trail Development- Maintenance of the newly hewn routes at the Golf Club, Broadshades and Lawsondale Woods will be undertaken by volunteers using a WhatsApp group. This group was used last month to organise a few sessions of woodchipping to clear the north bank of some of the waste. The group will also be used to monitor the other parts of the route, particularly drainage and overhanging branches. Members of the project team have also been invited to attend a zoom session on a possible source of funding the raised path at Lawsondale via Paths for All.</p> <p>Gordon welcomed Sc lattiebrae resident Peter Bradford and his wife. Mr Bradford expressed the strong concerns of the Sc lattiebrae and Kinmundy estate residents about the paths beside their properties being promoted as part of the Trail. They have suggested an alternative route and expected the planned route to be changed after providing strong feedback about it not being suitable. He doesn’t think that bringing in a third party to mediate is the right approach. Re Sc lattiebrae, the farm track that leads to Westhill has not been overly used by walkers in the past. There has been an increase in past year due to the lockdown and people hearing about the Trail. There has been some anti-social behaviour and the residents have strong concerns about privacy and security. He accepts that there is a public right of responsible access, but thinks the privacy rights should overrule that. Mervyn advised that the Council have initiated a mediation process and that is why WECC have not yet responded to the recent email from Mr Bradford; sent on behalf of all complainants.</p> <p>Mervyn thanked Mr and Mrs Bradford for attending and said that their contribution was both informative and useful. A meeting in person with residents at Sc lattiebrae was agreed as the next step towards resolution.</p>
<p>10</p>	<p>Planning Matters (Diane Priestly)</p> <p>No significant recent planning applications. Extracts from circulated report:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on APP/2020/2249 the former Blockworks Site, Straik Road planning application for 63 affordable homes - This application is now the subject of an appeal to Scottish Ministers as Aberdeenshire Council have not determined it by the deadline of the 8th April. • Why is there no right of planning appeals for communities in Scotland?- The right of appeal for communities was proposed and supported during the planning reforms by several political parties that were involved with the 2019 Planning Act. However the proposed amendments were voted against, apparently the reason given was that development lobby/volume house builders were resistant to any changes!

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Place Plans -These plans offer the opportunity for a community led approach to planning which also have the potential to help change Scotland but only if communities can have greater control over them, there is a concern that they will be controlled by the Scottish Government as they have to comply with the existing national and local authority plans and timescales. The consultation on Local Place Plans closes on the 25th of June. • Draft National Planning Framework 4 Housing Land -Consultation to be completed by Friday 4th June: - This consultative document outlines the amount of land that local authorities will need to make available for housing over the next ten year period 2022-2032. The Scottish government have proposed the draft housing requirements to be set out in the National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) for Aberdeenshire as 6500 units/houses to be built over the next 10-year period. This figure is considerably lower than the current 2020 SDP which has quoted 13,200 units for the same period. The estimation is lower due to the population slow-down, particularly in Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire which is linked to the downturn in the oil and gas industry since 2014. If these lower figures are not enough in the future and if the economy improves there would be scope to amend if required.
11	<p>Financials (Gordon Prentice)</p> <p>Financial Transactions in April</p> <p>Income: £1,592, comprising £327 from the wind-up of Leddach Grange Association plus £1,265 Bulletin advertising income.</p> <p>Expenditure: £3,672, comprising £2,923 on WoT project, plus £714 on the Town Centre Planting Scheme and £35 on ICO registration.</p> <p>Outstanding Commitments: £Nil</p> <p>Spring Bulletin Contribution: £3,058 on income of £9,422 from 114 advertisers. One invoice [£190] for winter issue is being pursued through the small claims court.</p> <p>Bank Balances at Month End: £27,150 [after cheques cleared]</p> <p>Community Support Fund [CSF] & Covid Fund Applications: None received for the May round. The sub-group recommends topping up to £4,000 for the current year, with applications to be considered in October and February. This was agreed.</p> <p>The annual accounts for 20/21 have been circulated and will be independently verified soon.</p>
12	<p>Westhill Voluntary Action</p> <p>Dave Cowie advised that he has recently changed name of the Westhill Winter Resilience facebook page to Westhill Voluntary Action.</p> <p>David Ritchie advised that the Summer Bulletin will have a page of details of the local groups who rely on volunteers for running their activities. Most of the expected groups have responded to the request for their details. The page title will be 'Westhill Volunteering Opportunities'</p>
13	<p>Planting scheme/Hanging Baskets</p> <p>Mervyn advised that there has been a change of plan re the hanging baskets, mainly because the previous watering service is no longer available. Plan now is to attach hanging baskets to the living wall at the shopping centre. A tap and timer will be added to the existing water supply there to give us a local water source for the baskets and planters at the roundabout. Two tons of topsoil is being delivered next week to put along the living wall as there is not sufficient soil for the plants to flourish.</p>

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	<p>Westhill in Bloom- This project was resurrected by Cllrs Walker & Mckail in 2016, then run by David Ritchie since then. In 2020 it was run as a photo competition. There was agreement that it should continue but we should investigate if another group could take it over. David is prepared to run it again this year so the nomination form will be put in summer Bulletin. If there is a good number of entries we can then look at another group to take it over next year.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">14</p>	<p><u>Ward 13 Councillors Updates</u> Reports from Cllrs Walker and Mckelvie have been circulated. Main points raised are:-</p> <p>Cllr Walker- Litter- Iris is helping us to get larger bins installed in Denman Park. Overflowing bins, broken glass, fly tipping etc. can be reported on the “MyAberdeenshire” app or online Funding- Details provided of Place Based Investment Programme and Community Renewal Fund. Project proposals for these funds have to be submitted to AC before 31st May.</p> <p>Cllr Mckelvie Around £0.5m will be spent on surface dressing & pothole repairs in Westhill over the next year. Westhill Primary School has had two cases of Covid infection this week, which was promptly dealt with by the Head of the School, & the NHS response team. The 7 day Covid infection rate in N. East has dropped to 11.5 per 100,000 people.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">15</p>	<p><u>Close of Meeting</u> Meeting closed at 10.10pm <u>Date of Next Meeting- 10^h June</u>, at 7pm, via Zoom. The AGM will be followed by the normal meeting.</p>

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APPENDIX



GARIOCH COMMUNITY POLICING TEAM VISIBLE, ACCESSIBLE AND EFFECTIVE

Community Council: Westhill and Elrick
Reporting Period: April 2021
Previous Reporting Period: March 2021

Current Policing Priorities:

Our current priorities have changed in response to emerging crime patterns and are as follows:

1. ASB – Proactive patrols to provide community reassurance and to deter and detect instances of ASB and Vandalism.
2. DRUGS – Intel gathering and disruption tactics to target those dealing drugs and related violence.
3. ROAD SAFETY – Preventative measures and enforcement action to ensure our roads are safe to use.

Crime Overview and Explanation:

CRIME TYPE	CURRENT PERIOD	PREVIOUS PERIOD
Assault	4 crimefiles	4 Crimefile
House Breaking	0	0
Public Nuisance	27 incidents	21 incidents
Road Traffic	4 crimefiles 6 incidents	5 crimefiles 11 incidents
Drugs	0	2
Fraud	0	3

Assault – Includes all recorded instances of violence.

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Housebreaking – includes all break in's to domestic and commercial premises, including attempted break in's.

Public Nuisance – All youth annoyance and calls in relation to anti-social behaviour.

Road Traffic – all calls in relation to Road Traffic Offences (speeding, illegal parking, obstruction etc).

Drugs – all reports incidents in relation to drugs dealing and use.

Fraud – all different types of Frauds reported

This reporting period has seen

Assaults – One of the assaults was domestic related and the other one was an assault on a child by a parent. There were no serious injuries and all assaults have been detected

Housebreaking – 0

Public Nuisance – Slight rise in numbers with 27 reports. 22 of the reports were of youths gathering in different areas of Westhill with most reported on a Friday or Saturday evenings. Some of the reports were in regards to the same incident. When Police attended most youths ran off but a few were traced and given suitable advice. The other 5 were alleged Covid breaches and when investigated no breaches had occurred.

Road Traffic Offences – 2 of the crimefiles relate to minor accidents where one driver has failed to stop at the accident then failed to report the incident to Police and the other 2 were minor incidents in car parks where 1 driver has not reported or left details

The 6 incidents mostly relate to cars abnormal loads, animals on road and parking issues.

Drugs – 0

Fraud – 0

Significant crime/issues within your community:

There was a sneak in Theft from the Broadstraik Inn where a 15 and 16 year old had entered the premises through an insecure fire door and stolen alcohol. They were traced close by soon after.

Planned Community Policing Activity/Advice:

We will continue to patrol the Westhill community tackling youth annoyance. Various youths have been traced as a result of these patrols and this is being supported by the residents calling in ongoing issues. We will continue to take robust action to target these individuals.

On 16 April speed checks were done in Westhill with 4 drivers warned regarding their speed.

Conclusion:

Overall no serious crime was committed in Westhill but it is disappointing to see the increase in Public Nuisance calls again.