

APPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, 11TH NOVEMBER 2021 AT HOLIDAY INN

Community Council		
Name	Position	Present
Mervyn Barr	Chair	✓
Malcolm Collie	Member	✓
Heather Cook	Member	✓
Donald Davidson	Member	✓ via zoom
Becky Ferguson	Member	✓
Audrey Findlay	Member	✓
Ben Horsburgh	Associate Member	✓ via zoom
Kate Lumsden	Member	✓
Alan McCue	Member	✓
William Munro	Vice-Chair	✓ via zoom
Gordon Prentice	Treasurer	✓
Diane Priestley	Member	✓
Justin Reid	Member	x
David Ritchie	Secretary	✓
Ken Stewart	Member	✓
Raymond Swaffield	Member	✓
Tim Yeomans	Member	✓
CLlr David Aitchison	Ward 13 Councillor	x
CLlr Iris Walker	Ward 13 Councillor	✓
CLlr Ron McKail	Ward 13 Councillor	✓ via zoom
CLlr Alistair McKelvie	Ward 13 Councillor	x

Members of Public Freda Imrie (via zoom), Peter Bradford, Sgt Graeme Allen

1	<p><u>Welcome and opening remarks</u> Chair Mervyn Barr opened the meeting and welcomed everyone</p>
2	<p><u>Apologies and Declarations of Interest</u> Apologies received from Justin Reid, Cllrs Aitchison and McKelvie No Declarations of Interest</p>
3	<p><u>Approval of Minutes of Meeting 14th October 2021</u> The minutes were approved, with correction to the approvers for the September meeting minutes Proposed: Audrey Findlay. Seconded: Gordon Prentice</p>
4	<p><u>Police Report</u> Sgt Graeme Allen attended the meeting. He had only completed the October Police report today and hadn't sent it to secretary yet. The report is appended to these minutes. Sgt Allen went over the Police report. Main point is that the number of Public Nuisance incidents are reducing. CLlr Mckail advised Sgt Allen that the speed monitoring device has been repaired by the Men Shed and can be picked up and tested. Chair thanked Sgt Allen for attending and giving a comprehensive and informative presentation.</p>
5	<p><u>Christmas Event- 4th December</u> Ben emphasised that the Santa grotto will be organised and run by the primary PTAs. They may also have some stalls, but won't be serving food. If weather too bad for the grotto outside, Ben has decorated part of the old vets building with backdrops. As we will now be decorating two trees, David will purchase another pack of lights from Blachere. Ben has</p>

APPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, 11TH NOVEMBER 2021 AT HOLIDAY INN

	<p>bought lights for the quadrangle at M&S. Ken will buy lights for the green wall. Ben will arrange the power supply on a timer for the tree and green wall lights. Budget of £1000 agreed for WECC costs. Holiday Inn confirmed supply of hot chocolate. Heather will put letter to shops asking for food donations. The Granite City Brass band not available so David will arrange piped music to be played through the Round Table Santa sleigh van. Heather has contacted the churches to send their choirs. Cllr Walker will check Council minutes for a worthy resident to do the switch-on.</p>
<p>6</p>	<p>Matters Arising/ Actions Update</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. File Share Options - Malcolm confirmed that David had created a Micro-soft One-Drive and put 2 docs into it. Gordon has an issue with accessing it which will be looked at. 2. Seating for Denman Park – Ian Mitchell has not yet confirmed that he has placed the order and there are other projects that he has actions to follow-up. Cllr Mckail offered to contact him if we have issues getting a response. 3. Sclattiebrae issue-Mervyn has been in correspondence with Inspector Hannan re the complaints of harassment to walkers at Sclattiebrae. A resident there has been charged with ‘hate crime’ but no action will be taken unless there is further incidents. <p>Aberdeenshire Council’s Local Outdoor Access Officer as Access Authority has assessed access at Sclattiebrae and has determined that there is a right of responsible non-motorised access to pass through Sclattiebrae in accordance with the provisions of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 and the Scottish Outdoor Access Code. The full text of the Council Officer’s clarification was published on 4th November 2021.</p> <p>An anonymous sign has been added to the gate recently, warning of a dangerous dog. It was agreed that we should not remove the sign and to leave the matter to the Access Officer.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Toilets at Shopping Centre- Ben has been speaking to Healthmatics who had quoted £70k for the whole job of new pods etc. If they only did the access work it would only be £12k. Another local company have quoted a rough £30k for the internal works. This would all need to be approved by MAPP. Feasibility of a ‘Comfort Partnership’ has been looked into before and was deemed not to be feasible. Cllr Walker will request Council officials to look into this again. 5. Westdyke Park- Malcolm Collie advised that the sub-group are looking into running a survey to nearby residents on why they don’t use the park, suggestions for improvements etc.
<p>7</p>	<p><u>Correspondence</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of October correspondence log- Nothing on it to be discussed that isn’t already on agenda.

8	<p><u>Co-option of Elaine Manley</u></p> <p>Elaine could not attend tonight but had requested to join WECC at last meeting, The co-option was approved unanimously.</p>
9	<p><u>Environmental Group Update</u></p> <p>Report from Raymond has been circulated, as below in italics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Our twice monthly organised Litter Picks have continued as planned and have been well attended.</i> • <i>I have now purchased the additional six Litter Grabbers, bringing us back to full strength.</i> • <i>We plan to have a break in December, January and February, restarting in Spring, although the Rotary group plan to attempt occasional picks where the weather permits.</i> • <i>Littering at the Academy Playing Field has continued, and I have had no update from Nicola Christie, the Cluster Business Manager, as to who they suggest are responsible for the clearing. However I have obtained from a retired Aberdeenshire School Head a job description from 2017 that suggests that Janitors would be responsible.</i> <p>Litter bins could be installed around the perimeters but not sure how the Waste dept. would be able to access them easily to empty them.</p>
10	<p><u>Orbital Trail Project Update</u></p> <p>Report from Gordon has been circulated, as below in italics:</p> <p><i>Although the WOT is now officially open and complete, this report will focus on ongoing commitments.</i></p> <p><i>Town Centre Information Board/s</i> <i>No progress this month; awaiting decision from Scout Leader.</i></p> <p><i>Bulb Planting</i> <i>All bulbs, barring a few, distributed to 7 volunteers, including the local scouts. Planting began on Monday, 1st November with the aim of completing mid-month, weather and health allowing. Update- 730 of 1000 planted.</i></p> <p><i>Landowner Activity</i> <i>I'm still waiting on consent for our contractors to work on the northern entrance of Lawsondale Woods. Update- Landowner consent received on 9th November, and contractor [CRC] hopes to start in December</i> <i>Access to Hill of Keir: Scottish Water's contractor is still on site, so the stile has yet to be commissioned from The Men's Shed.</i></p> <p><i>Correspondence since last month's meeting</i> <i>None, but Chair is seeking confirmation of reports that the local Outdoor Access Officer has decreed that the public has the right of responsible access through Sclattiebrae. (see Matters Arising item 3)</i> <i>Also pending is Chair's request to Area Manager to have a debrief meeting with relevant council officials to discuss lessons learned.</i></p> <p><i>Ongoing Maintenance</i></p>

APPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, 11TH NOVEMBER 2021 AT HOLIDAY INN

	<p><i>Further to my meeting with Mike Rawlins of the Community Payback Team on 13th October, 100m of the overgrown path on the south side of the Brodiach Burn at Lawsondale was trimmed on the 16th. Further work at Lawsondale and Broadshades is promised, subject to resources [i.e. clients] being available and willing.</i></p> <p><i>I plan to trim a wider path on the western border of the golf course on the next dry day.</i></p> <p><i>The additional waymarker post installation near the eastern entrance to Carnie Woods is still pending. (now installed)</i></p> <p>Funding Update</p> <p><i>As per the Project report, £1,589 of the £14,000 funding is uncommitted and deployable on stiles, benches, bulbs and possibly a new strimmer for ongoing Trail clearing.</i></p> <p>Re the boardwalk replacement at Carnie Woods, the Council have got a budget of £20k to spend on this before end of March. Info can be put in next Bulletin on the work being done and plans for future work.</p>
11	<p>Planning Matters (Diane Priestly)</p> <p>Report from Diane has been circulated, as below in italics:</p> <p>Planning applications</p> <p><i>Noticeably quiet again this month.</i></p> <p><i>Screwfix are moving into the building behind petrol station, it will be interesting to keep an eye on the parking situation as three units will now be occupied.</i></p> <p><i>A planning application that I have been following is the allocated site for seven dwelling houses and fifty-six flats on the former Blockworks Site, Straik road. The planning application was submitted a year ago and as it was not determined an appeal was lodged by April of this year but according to the application summary the appeal decision is still not available.</i></p> <p>Community resilience plan</p> <p><i>The subgroup are currently working on this document based on the Guide to Emergency Planning for community groups provided by the Scottish government. Echt and Skene Community Council have already completed the task and the document can be viewed online.</i></p> <p>Diane added that it is more work than first thought, but the general principle is that our Plan would slot into the existing Council Emergency Planning. Need to assess what resources are available from other groups like Rotary etc.</p> <p>Community Action Plan</p> <p><i>No response from Caroline Smith so far.</i></p> <p>Planning Democracy</p> <p><i>This is a voluntary organisation, based in Fife, who provide informal advice and support for communities who are struggling to understand the planning system</i></p> <p><i>They are organising an online meeting in December to discuss how they and other organisations can influence the future planning decisions on the National Planning Framework 4 plus the Scottish Planning Policies which are likely to be produced for public consultation sometime before Christmas. Suggested that a separate WECC meeting be arranged in the new year to look at this. Caroline Smith could be invited</i></p>

APPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, 11TH NOVEMBER 2021 AT HOLIDAY INN

Plant order for Summer 22 submitted to Council Landscape Officer (Ian Mitchell). Numbers and choice seriously restricted. Additional plants to be ordered (tbc) for next spring to compensate for reduced range – i.e. peach coloured cascading begonias. Estimated cost £ 200-250

Future

Ben is planning an additional 8 planters for the town centre to sit alongside the covered walkway along the shop fronts. Planter costs to MAPP. WECC/Rotary to help with refurbishment (painting) and installation (securing bands) – Est. cost £100.

Ben also investigating feasibility of installing hanging baskets on the shopfront wall/arches. Plumbed in water supply to be provided. Installation costs brackets/water to MAPP. WECC to lend 6/8 baskets? – approx. 30 already in stock and unused. Exact details tbc. Est costs £0

Proposal

Good feedback received on hanging baskets from Costa to compound entrance – proposed in principle to extend water supply and fit additional (spare) hanging brackets on next section from compound gate to where the Green Wall intersects the pavement opposite the Holiday Inn. Exact details to be confirmed. Est. costs <£100 to cover compost and clips.

Proposal – repeat planter exercise at roundabout and near sculpture. Add in 3-tiered planter as major centrepiece. Est. cost of purchase, delivery (950) and installation (50) < or = £1000

It was suggested we should consider enhancing other roundabouts as well, like the one at Broadshade. Would need volunteers to water and maintain them. Need a longer term strategic plan and involve other groups like Rotary. To be followed up.

We will be losing access to the basket storage/workspace at Broomfold as the farm is going on the market next spring. Rotary will be similarly affected and we hope to work with them to secure an alternative facility free of charge. Any/all contacts/suggestions welcome. We could consider building a bespoke storage shed or shelter in the space behind the Green Wall. MAPP fully supportive. Options and costs to be fully discussed.

DENMAN PARK PONDS

Post meeting at Arnhall Moss (8th Sept).

It was agreed that an upper treatment pond would be the best longer-term solution to the problems at the lower ponds, and to improve the quality of the habitat generally. Estimated cost £10k.

Sum to be applied for via Town Centre's/Places Fund. Deadline for Applications – March 22 – exact date tbc. To support this application we need a two-part Technical/Engineering (TE) Report, to set out the specifications for the treatment process alongside the engineering assessment for construction of the pond, both to be costed, with expectation that the project cost would be no more than £10K – excluding consultancy fee for the TE report. To cover this WECC (Ken) to ask Arnhall Moss Group (AMG) to cover estimated £2k cost of producing TE Report. Completed.

MB has spoken to Tamsin of Walking the Talk and she has confirmed that she can organize production of the report for £2k.

Steve Gray has offered to Project Lead the exercise once the Report is available. Steve's contribution will be especially useful when navigating council processes.

Next actions –

Volunteers?? - in AMG?

Confirm date for submission of Application.

Get written confirmation from AMG to confirm money will be made available. This has been received.

APPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, 11TH NOVEMBER 2021 AT HOLIDAY INN

	<p><i>Draft basic proposal for Tamsin's Report. Priority! – due to lead time need to get this underway asap.</i></p> <p><i>Cautionary Note – we have been advised that the Ponds and Paths (next item) may not qualify as a big enough project to qualify for Funding. Cllr Walker offered seek clarification from relevant Council Officers. Other actions on hold until this is received.</i></p> <p><u>DENMAN PARK PATHS</u></p> <p><i>Also agreed that paths should be extended, refurbished to provide a circular route around the ponds and introduce a formal spur from the direction of the Tesco roundabout. Details available on request. Ian Mitchell volunteered to provide a scope and cost estimate, to cover both. TBA. Gordon has contacted him this week to gauge progress. MB has sourced large scale plans of Denman from Green Spaces Officer (Tajana Susic) Next actions and other remarks as above under PONDS</i></p> <p><u>GREEN CANOPY (GC)</u></p> <p><i>First distribution of trees has occurred in October – next and final? distribution in March 22. Proposal so far - Name A944 Road between Tesco and Brodiach Burn 'Jubilee Drive? Plant native species (mix) alongside both sides of the road – as recommended by Tajana (soil quality and underground service lines permitting). Actions -Before this we need landowner permission and maybe to do some soil sampling. Denman Park – check out suitable sites for planting Hazel groves. Notify Landscape Services. Order trees.</i></p> <p><u>A944 Verge planting near Tedexo/Rotary Stone</u></p> <p><i>Tajana was the architect of the original scheme and she and her manager are very supportive of resurrecting it. Interface between this and the Green Canopy proposal needs to be established. Scope and fundraising to be established - suggest this goes on the back burner until GC completed?</i></p>
14	<p><u>Ward 13 Councillors updates</u></p> <p>Cllr Mckelvie submitted a report on the Westhill Schools Cluster which has been circulated. This mainly covers Covid measures. Teacher shortages is less of an issue in Westhill compared to other parts of the Shire. School Nativities & Music Events will be allowed to go ahead, but without public/parents in attendance</p> <p>Cllr Walker- Re the projects that Ian Mitchell has actions that need to be progressed, it was proposed that he be invited to attend our next meeting. Instead, Mervyn offered to contact Ian with a list of the items. Re the Sports Hub (WDCSH)- Gordon and Tim will contact members of WDCSH find out more about it.</p>
15	<p><u>Succession Planning</u></p> <p>Mervyn confirmed he intends to step down as Chair in March 2022 to spend more time with his family, but intends to remain a member and an active volunteer.</p>
16	<p><u>Close of Meeting</u> Meeting closed at 10.15pm <u>Date of Next Meeting-</u> 9th December at 7pm, at Holiday Inn and via Zoom</p>

APPENDIX



**GARIOCH COMMUNITY POLICING TEAM
VISIBLE, ACCESSIBLE AND EFFECTIVE**

**Community Council: Westhill and Elrick
Reporting Period: October 2021
Previous Reporting Period: September 2021**

Current Policing Priorities:

Following review of our priorities, they have been amended for the next quarter to reflect community concerns and emerging crime patterns. The addition of Acquisitive Crime is due to a small rise in thefts in rural properties, not linked to Inverurie.

1. ASB – Proactive patrols to provide community reassurance and to deter/detect instances of ASB and Vandalism. To reduce instances of ASB as a result of the re-opening of Licensed Premises.
2. AQUISITIVE CRIME – Proactive patrols to deter and detect instances of theft.
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	2 crimefiles	3 Crimefile
House Breaking	0	2
Public Nuisance	6 incidents	8 incidents
Road Traffic	7 crimefile, 13 incidents	3 crimefiles 6 incidents
Drugs	1	0

Assault – Includes all recorded instances of violence.

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.

APPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, 11TH NOVEMBER 2021 AT HOLIDAY INN

This reporting period has seen:-

Assaults – One of the assaults was a child on child at school and the other one was another child being assaulted by a child outwith school. There were no serious injuries.

Housebreaking – 0

Public Nuisance – Slight reduction again in numbers with only 5 reports regarding youth disorder. The other call was for a minor disturbance in a hotel. The 5 reports were of youths gathering in different areas of Westhill with most reported on a Friday or Saturday evenings.

Road Traffic Offences – 5 of the crimefiles relates to failing to stop after an accident, 1 for speeding and 1 for careless driving.

There were 6 minor road collisions reported where drivers exchanged details. There were 7 other incidents about sheep on road, abnormal loads and cars causing obstructions

Drugs

The crimefile was for an adult found in possession of Cannabis

Significant crime/issues within your community:

There were 3 Thefts by Shopliftings at Aldi's over one week where the same male stole 2 x bottles of whisky. There was another 2 x Thefts in early November in the Co-op. This male has been identified and will be dealt with soon and it is expected that both males may be linked. Full report in next month's report.

There were 2 Wilful Fireraisings. One was caused by a firework and the second was a youth setting fire to laces which was seen by a member of the public and extinguished by them. One youth has been charged.

Planned Community Policing Activity/Advice:

It's excellent to see the number of Public Nuisance calls falling every month, but we will continue to patrol the Westhill community tackling youth annoyance. We try and have a dedicated unit for Westhill on a Friday and Saturday evening. 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.

There were no speed checks done in Westhill during October.

Conclusion:

Overall no serious crime was committed in Westhill but it is good to see the number of Public Nuisance calls are still coming down.