

APPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, 10TH MARCH 2022, AT HOLIDAY INN

Community Council		
Name	Position	Present
Mervyn Barr	Chair	✓
Malcolm Collie	Member	✓
Heather Cook	Member	✓ via zoom
Donald Davidson	Member	✓
Becky Ferguson	Member	✓
Audrey Findlay	Member	✓
Ben Horsburgh	Associate Member	✓ via zoom
Kate Lumsden	Member	x
Alan McCue	Member	✓
Elaine Manley	Member	✓
William Munro	Vice-Chair	✓
Gordon Prentice	Treasurer	✓
Diane Priestley	Member	✓
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	✓ via zoom
Cllr Ron McKail	Ward 13 Councillor	x
Cllr Alistair McKelvie	Ward 13 Councillor	x

Members of Public Alison Cumming (Area Office)

1	<p><u>Welcome and opening remarks</u> Chair Mervyn Barr opened the meeting and welcomed everyone, including Alison Cumming from the Area Office who is attending as an observer.</p> <p>Cllr Mckelvie will not be standing at the local council elections in May. Mervyn expressed thanks to Alistair for his assistance to the community and WECC and wished him well in his retirement.</p>
2	<p><u>Apologies and Declarations of Interest</u> Apologies received from Kate Lumsden and Cllr McKail. No Declarations of Interest</p>
3	<p><u>Approval of Minutes of Meeting 10th February 2022</u> Minutes were approved, with no changes Proposed: Audrey, Seconded: Gordon</p>
4	<p><u>Matters Arising/ Actions Update</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. File Share Options (Malcolm) –Gordon has drafted a file structure. Guidance notes will now be drafted. 2. Larg/Broadstraik Park (Malcolm) – A pre-read from Malcolm of the survey results from the 80 responses so far, mainly accessed from the QR code in spring Bulletin article (page 68). David will

APPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, 10TH MARCH 2022, AT HOLIDAY INN

	<p>put the survey on WECC website. There is some issues with ownership of the park which are being looked at.</p> <p>3. Safety barriers on path to Kirkton of Skene- Brian Strachan’s response to Mervyn’s email has been circulated. Becky queried why the Hill of Keir road has a 60 mph speed limit. Cllr Walker explained it is because there is no housing directly on either side of it. Mervyn will contact Brian Strachan to propose a site meeting so that we can clarify our concerns and facilitate resolution of them.</p> <p>4. Academy Outreach- Mervyn will contact the Academy to see if he can arrange a meeting with the Head Teacher.</p>
5	<p><u>Police Report</u></p> <p>No report received for January or February from Sgt Allan. David will contact him.</p>
6	<p><u>Correspondence</u></p> <p>Review of correspondence log for last 4 weeks. (circulated)</p> <p>Mervyn agreed to attend the Garioch Storm Forum on 15th March</p> <p>Mervyn advised that shortly after last meeting Susan Adams contacted him to suggest he puts in an application to the Aberdeenshire Place Based Investment Programme (PBIP) for the planting scheme on the A944. The application was not successful but it has been a useful learning experience. The project will still be progressed in due course.</p>
7	<p><u>Ward 13 Councillors updates</u></p> <p><u>Cllr Walker</u></p> <p>No written report as going on leave shortly and case work has been the priority.</p> <p>Donald Davidson thanked Iris for helping to arrange for the road to Lawsondale pitches to get retarred. It now needs speed signs to discourage speeding on the road.</p> <p>Mervyn also thanked Iris for helping in the discussions with Brian Strachan re the safety barriers on path to Kirkton of Skene. She will attend the site meeting to be arranged after her return from holiday.</p>
8	<p><u>Jubilee Events 4th-5th June</u></p> <p>Mervyn had meeting with David Dent in Rotary. The draft events to be planned are</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jubilee Dance at Holiday Inn on the Saturday evening, which would be run by the hotel. • Encourage residents to have street parties on the Saturday afternoon • Event at Ashdale Hall on the Sunday afternoon. Hall would be decorated. Band to play on Hall stage, playing music from the 7 decades. Theme would be ‘Lazy Sunday Afternoon’. Bouncy castles etc. for kids outside; Refreshments tent; Tables provided outside for residents to have picnics. All facilities would be free
9	<p><u>Environmental Group Update</u></p> <p>Report from Raymond & Ken has been circulated, as below in italics:</p>

APPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, 10TH MARCH 2022, AT HOLIDAY INN

- *We hold our first organised Litter Pick for this year on Saturday (12th March).*
- *All our volunteers have been notified by email, so we hope to get a good turnout.*
- *We had a reply from Stephen Mitchell, the new manager at the Stewart Milne Wood Yard on behalf of Donaldsons. He gave us an encouraging promise to speak to his truck drivers to reduce the litter problem in Peregrine Road.*
- *The Rotary Group volunteers will be joining the Litter Pick but starting from a different point to widen our reach.*

Raymond commented that the town centre streets are cleaner than they used to be. The Council are clearing litter more regularly there now. Ben is arranging for a cleaner to do an hour each day after lunch at shopping centre

10 **Orbital Trail + Links Project Update**

Report from Gordon has been circulated, as below in italics:

Storm damage update:

***Carnie Woods:** No change, as requested in the bulletin by ACC's Countryside Ranger.*

***Golf Club:** further clearing up has taken place leaving a short detour of only 20m or so to bridge the impassable stretch.*

Town Centre Information Board/s

An update was requested from the Council's Officer Sally Davis, but no reply at time of writing. Sally Davies has now updated that a size A0 board is being prepared.

Correspondence since last month's meeting

- *Chair received a request for clarification of the Sclattiebrae situation from a resident and responded by sending a copy of the Local Outdoor Access Officer's recent determination.*
- *Update on ALOAF [Aberdeenshire Local Outdoor Access Forum] membership: membership posts were oversubscribed. I have been invited to be a reserve and have offered to carry out a survey of Core Paths in the local area.*
- *Still pending is Chair's request of Area Manager to have a debrief meeting with relevant council officials to discuss lessons learned on the project.*

Ongoing Maintenance

It's great to see the spring bulb shoots popping through beside all the waymarker posts and disks. Volunteers have been invited to an outdoor meeting at Lawsondale on Thursday 10th to draw up a plan for implementing in the next few weeks. The plan is expected to feature laying more path aggregate at Lawsondale, Broadshades and the Golf Course. A reply is still awaited from the head of the Community Payback Team to ask about their ongoing commitment to Westhill and the Orbital Trail in particular.

Gordon will update the sub-group with details of the spring upgrade programme.

Funding Update

As per the Project report, £1,114 is now uncommitted, but we have at least had clarification that it can be spent on stiles, fencing, path reinforcement and benches. Remaining funds must be spent by Sept 22.

Link to Denman Park

APPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, 10TH MARCH 2022, AT HOLIDAY INN

	<p><i>No change: still awaiting word from Steve Gray at AC on quotes from contractors for the following:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Arnhall Moss Paths upgrade</i> • <i>Denman Ponds vegetation clearance</i> • <i>Feasibility and design study for Denman Ponds reedbed treatment pond for the surface water pipeline into the ponds [using funds kindly donated by Arnhall Moss Group].</i> <p><i>Also still awaiting confirmation as to whether the quotes include paths and bridges at Denman.</i></p> <p><i>Links to Hill of Keir</i></p> <p>Mervyn met with Mr George Bruce recently, to discuss the preferred location for the installation of a stile to bypass the reservoir compound and allow access to the Hill, without having to climb over wire fences or stone dykes. Mr Bruce agreed with the proposal and gave his consent to the proposed location of the stile, but he also expressed strong concerns about irresponsible behaviour from the usual anti-social minority, and asked that walkers are reminded that it's a working farm and they should be wary of animals and keep dogs well under control.</p> <p>If the stile proves to be a success we intend to consult with Steve Gray on what options may be available to us to establish an access route to the top of the hill from the west side of Berryhill Farm, subject of course to landowner consent.</p> <p>Historic Environment Scotland and AC's Archaeologist, Bruce Mann, are both supportive of our ambition. This is a work in progress. Meantime, I am preparing a funding application via the Scottish Rural Network's "Improving Public Access" fund to fund the purchase of fencing to create a 250m access route and stile. The closing date is 29th April</p>
11	<p><u>Planning Matters</u> (Diane Priestly)</p> <p>Report from Diane has been circulated, as below in italics:</p> <p><i>Email re Cala proposed development at Burnland-reply indicates that the planning application will be lodged this month.</i></p> <p><i>National planning framework 4 consultation -to be completed this month.</i> Audrey thanked Diane for taking us through the NPF4 document last week and for putting our input into the consultation.</p> <p><i>Community Action plan -the planning group will start to look at completing the questionnaire using the Place Standard Tool questionnaire.</i> Hope to put questionnaire in Summer Bulletin via a QR code, similar to what was done for the park survey in spring Bulletin. Diane will contact Jackie Niven in AC to check when she may be available to help us with our CAP.</p> <p><i>Resilience plan -discussion/ the way forward.</i> The draft plan has been circulated. A Resilience group now needs to be formed, with a leader. It would be useful to have a councillor rep on it.</p>
12	<p><u>Financials</u> (Gordon Prentice) Circulated report in italics:-</p> <p><i>Matters Arising 10 February:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Community Support Fund [CSF]: three donations totalling £1,225 made as agreed.</i> <p><i>Financial Transactions – February</i></p> <p><i>Income: £17,865.53 comprising £15,175 Bulletin advertising income plus £50 ring-fenced donation from Vinespring Church, plus £2,640.53 WOT expense claim reimbursement from Aberdeenshire Council.</i></p> <p><i>Expenditure: £1,302, being £1,225 CSF donations agreed last month plus members social evening paid by WECC debit card ** [see below].</i></p>

