

APPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 13TH JANUARY 2022, VIA ZOOM

Community Council		
Name	Position	Present
Mervyn Barr	Chair	✓
Malcolm Collie	Member	✓
Heather Cook	Member	✓
Donald Davidson	Member	✓
Becky Ferguson	Member	✗
Audrey Findlay	Member	✓
Ben Horsburgh	Associate Member	✗
Kate Lumsden	Member	✓
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	✓
CLlr Iris Walker	Ward 13 Councillor	✓
CLlr Ron McKail	Ward 13 Councillor	✓
CLlr Alistair McKelvie	Ward 13 Councillor	✗

Members of Public David Dent, Freda Imrie, Felix Tabenda

1	<p><u>Welcome and opening remarks</u></p> <p>Chair Mervyn Barr opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. He advised that Justin Reid has resigned from WECC. Our thanks to Justin for his contributions during his 8 months of membership. We need to find ways of recruiting members of Justin's generation to try to ensure that the balance of the CC reflects the community we represent.</p>
2	<p><u>Apologies and Declarations of Interest</u></p> <p>Apologies received from Becky Ferguson & CLlr Mckelvie. No Declarations of Interest</p>
3	<p><u>Cala development at Burnland Farm- Ross MacLennan</u></p> <p>Ross MacLennan from Cala Homes attended to tell us about the development proposal they have for Burnland Farm.</p> <p>Ross explained that this will be the final phase of development at Burnland. Details will be available on the Cala website on 20th January and a public consultation will go live on 27th January. It closes on 11th February. Timing of the planning application will partly depend on points raised at the consultation.</p> <p>The development will be for 50 homes- a mixture of 2 to 5 bed detached and terraced houses, no flats. No bungalows, Circa 12 houses are required to be "Affordable"</p> <p>Details of the proposal and the consultation are at: https://calaplanning.co.uk/burnland/the-proposals/Proposed%20development/</p>

APPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 13TH JANUARY 2022, VIA ZOOM

	<p>It is hoped that building work could start late 2022 or early 2023 and Ross can speak to us again after the consultation if we wish.</p> <p>The original design concept for this site included a retail unit. He said that since a retail unit now has planning permission on the site opposite, that requirement is considered to be fulfilled</p>
4	<p><u>Resilience Planning -Neil Cameron, Emergency Planning Officer for AC</u></p> <p>Neil clarified he was here to discuss our Resilience Plan project with us, rather than giving us a presentation. We have to identify what risks we need to be resilient against as our Plan will be very different from the likes of Ballater & Braemar. For example extensive flooding is unlikely in Westhill. Also we are not likely to have prolonged periods of power outages. For information on what risks we are likely to face and how we can mitigate against them, we should look at the North of Scotland Community Risk Register at https://www.firescotland.gov.uk/media/864538/north_crr_version_1.2.pdf .</p> <p>Willie Munro commented that 2 significant risks we could face are major snow falls and possible safety issues with the gas pipelines in the area. Re the recent Storm Arwen, Willie reckoned there was plenty of willing voluntary assistance but perhaps there was a lack of overall co-ordination of the groups that were involved in helping residents.</p> <p>Neil recommended that we should do an audit of the assets/resources available in our town and who is responsible for them. Then engage with these groups to check if they are prepared to be involved. We can also think about promoting individual/family resilience. Neil advised it is unlikely that in event of a major incident that residents would have to sleep in local halls as Aberdeenshire Council would more likely provide accommodation in local hotels.</p> <p>Cllr Mckail recommended that in event of loss of communications we need a focal point where people can go to for information and help. Neil advised that the Council are looking at this.</p> <p>Gordon Prentice said that the Bulletin magazine could have permanent info on resilience planning that would be updated regularly.</p> <p>Neil advised he can help to review a Resilience Plan as it is developed.</p> <p>Mervyn thanked Neil for attending and we look forward to working with him in future.</p>
5	<p><u>Approval of Minutes of Meeting 9th December 2021</u></p> <p>Minutes were approved, with one small change to Cllr Walker's update (item 12) Proposed: Gordon, Seconded: Ken</p>
6	<p><u>Police Report</u></p> <p>The Police report for November wasn't received till after the December meeting but has been appended to the December minutes. Mervyn commented on the rise in number of Public Nuisance incidents (from 6 in October to 11 in November). The December report has been received and it is good to see that the Public Nuisance incidents have reduced again to 4.</p> <p>We would appreciate a police attendance at our meeting around once every 3 months and a quarterly report instead of monthly would be sufficient. Mervyn will contact Inspector Hannan to suggest this.</p>
7	<p><u>Matters Arising/ Actions Update</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. File Share Options (Malcolm) – No further progress but will pick it up with Gordon & David 2. Westdyke Park (Malcolm) - The survey has been reduced to 5 questions. Malcolm is checking that he can use his work resources. He is creating a google street view file of the park area and that will be available on a website for residents doing the survey. The survey will be available in the Westhill Bulletin and WECC website.

APPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 13TH JANUARY 2022, VIA ZOOM

	<p>Malcolm advised that a Police CCTV van was at the park for 5 weeks and that helped to reduce the number of youths congregating at it.</p> <p>3. Christmas event reviews on social media – Mervyn commented that while the Xmas event was very well received overall, the social media posts after the event didn't include any reference to the work done by WECC. These posts were on Westhill News & Events facebook page and a private Linked-In page. Following discussion with the custodian of these pages, the Westhill News & Events post was revised to include praise for WECCs' involvement.</p> <p>Regarding the Linked-In post, the intention of it was to demonstrate to MAPP management what had been achieved with little budget. Since then Mapp have intimated they may be prepared to offer financial support in 2023 so we can hopefully enjoy an even bigger and better event.</p>
8	<p>Correspondence Review of December correspondence log.</p> <p>Mervyn referred to the December AVA Newsletter which has details of a new Funding search engine they have developed by teaming up with Funding Scotland. This could be useful to us for future projects. This Newsletter also has news of a £200,000 National Lottery award to SensationALL which will enable them to expand their services. Our congratulations too the team at SensationAll.</p> <p>Mervyn requested that David changes the Correspondence log from a calendar month basis to one that runs from a few days before our previous meeting to a few days before current month meeting. If it is possible, it would be good if the correspondence listed can go into the shared drive when it is up & running. This should be achievable and will be looked at as soon as this drive is available.</p>
9	<p><u>Environmental Group Update</u></p> <p>Report from Raymond & Ken has been circulated, as below in italics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Our regular organised litter picks are not carried out in the Winter months because of Safety and practical problems with frosts.</i> • <i>Some individuals continue to pick when weather conditions are suitable.</i> • <i>One volunteer has been picking at Carnie and Peregrine Road. He suggested that we contact Stewart Milne Construction and request that they ask their drivers to refrain from littering the verge at Peregrine Road and to please stop dumping timber planks down the bank. These seem to be spare load packing pieces. The volunteer said that he did not mind continuing to collect general litter from the area but the lengths of timber were beyond his abilities.</i> • <i>I e-mailed Stuart Milne Construction with the request just after Christmas but so far have had no response.</i> • <i>There have been enquiries from new residents about joining our volunteers and these have been responded to</i> <p>Cllr Walker commented on the few new bins in Denman Park. The one that has been put at the entrance on Westhill Drive would be better located at the tennis courts. She will arrange for it to be moved.</p>
10	<p><u>Orbital Trail + Links Project Update</u></p> <p>Report from Gordon has been circulated, as below in italics:</p>

APPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 13TH JANUARY 2022, VIA ZOOM

Ongoing commitments:

Storm Arwen update:

Carnie Woods: *I have been in correspondence with Aberdeen City Council Ranger Service since I spotted new signs at Carnie saying: "No Access to Woodland PathsPlease stay out of the woodland." I asked if we could sign a temporary safe route that bypasses the devastated middle section but the Ranger advised that "No access" will remain ACC policy until the arboriculture team has assessed and cleared some of the dangerous obstacles.*

Lawsondale Woods: *thanks to Tom Cook and his chainsaw all fallen trees, bar one, were cleared on 15th December. George Ellis [+ chainsaw] has offered to clear the remaining one.*

Town Centre Information Board/s

No progress this month; but have asked Council Officer Sally Davis to proceed without orienteering routes.

Lawsondale Woods

Contractor CRC completed the 50m section of raised path at the northern entrance today, 10th. The new path cuts through the badly drained wet area. There are a few tons of excess material which I would like to use in some of the other wetter sections, but only if I can find volunteers.

Gordon advised that the contractor had been called back in to do some finessing of the original work, which was completed on the 12th.

Correspondence since last month's meeting

None other than a number of exchanges with Carnie Ranger

Also 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

No change: other than post-storm clearing activities described above. There is no evidence of further activity from the Community Payback Team at Lawsondale or Broadshades although that may be down to inclement winter weather and underfoot conditions at weekends.

Funding Update

No change: As per the Project report, £1,454 of the £14,000 funding is uncommitted and deployable on stiles, benches, path reinforcement [sections prone to flooding and mud], and possibly a new strimmer for ongoing Trail clearing.

Link to Denman Park

No change: Steve Gray at AC has confirmed that the Council has sought quotes from contractors for the following works and had hoped [prior to Storm Arwen] to provide feedback for our December meeting:

- *Arnhall Moss Paths upgrade*
- *Denman Ponds vegetation clearance*
- *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].*

We have asked for confirmation as to whether the quotes include paths and bridges at Denman. Chair also asked more recently about possible funding alternatives to the Town Centres Fund.

Link to Hill of Keir

APPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 13TH JANUARY 2022, VIA ZOOM

	<p><i>Scottish Water's contractor is no longer on site and landscaping reinstatement works appear to be nearing completion. The stile, which will provide access from the east, has yet to be commissioned from The Men's Shed.</i></p> <p><i>Two access routes from the west end of the Core Path to the top of the hill have been identified. As they involve privately owned field margins and gates we intend to consult with AC officials before proceeding further with the landowner. Chair has been advised by the Council's Outdoor Access Officer that there may be funding that we could apply for fencing off field margins which could facilitate less contentious access at Slattiebrae and Hill of Keir. Details awaited.</i></p> <p><i>Gordon [on behalf of the sub-group]</i></p> <p>Mervyn would like to minute thanks to Tom Cook and George Ellis (and their trusty chainsaws) for their help in clearing the fallen trees at Lawsondale.</p>
11	<p>Planning Matters (Diane Priestly) Report from Diane has been circulated, as below in italics:</p> <p>Resilience plan <i>The planning group have been working on this document and will be forwarding you a draft copy for your comments. Neil Cameron who is the Emergency Planning Officer for Aberdeenshire Council has agreed to come to our January meeting to discuss how we can take this plan forward From the work that we have already done on this document it is clear that WECC will need to look at setting up steering groups for both the resilience plan and the Community Action Plan. If you have any suggestions as to which groups/people would be suitable can you let the planning group know. Just to remind you that the planning group comprises of myself, Alan McCue and Willie Munro. Diane would appreciate if another member could join the Planning group. Elaine Manley volunteered to join the group with immediate effect.</i></p> <p>Community Action Plan <i>I will be forwarding four Community Action Plans that the planning group have received from their meeting with Mike Duncan from the Stonehaven Community Council who are currently going through this process; they make for interesting reading. In the meantime, the planning group are in the process of developing a Project Plan and investigating how we can use The Place Standard Tool; this provides a simple framework to structure conversations/questionnaires about a place with the results leading to agreeing priorities and actions.</i></p> <p>National planning framework 4 (NPF4) <i>This is planned to be discussed in February, date to be confirmed, all relevant documents will be forwarded to you prior to the meeting. The consultation has to be completed by the 31st March.</i></p> <p>Audrey Findlay queried if the development bid for 250 houses on land at Sunnybrae across to Hill of Keir road would breach the Westhill settlement boundary. Willie reckoned it would be outside the boundary so is not likely to go ahead till some years in the future and subject to future changes in the LDP.</p>
12	<p>Financials (Gordon Prentice) Circulated report in italics:-</p> <p>Matters Arising 9 December:</p>

APPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 13TH JANUARY 2022, VIA ZOOM

- **Community Support Fund [CSF]:** one vacancy remaining [2-3 hours, 3 times a year]. See additional paper and recommendation re Echt & Skene CC application.

The Echt & Skene CC query re if they could apply for contribution towards installing play park equipment at Echt park that has been purchased from Developer Obligations was discussed. The recommendations from the office bearers is to allow this application to be made, and to clarify the Terms of Award for CSF donations. This was agreed unanimously. The addition to terms for applications is to add 'For applications coming from outside the footprint of WECC, awards will be made at the discretion of the members and subject to an annual limit of £500'

Gordon will revise the CSF Application Form for publication on our website.

- **Cashflow Forecast:** on hold – will be added as part of 2022/23 Budget.
- **Change of Bank Account:** application for an online Community Bank Account has been approved – awaiting visibility online.

Financial Transactions – December:

Income: £4,041, comprising £50 ring-fenced donation from Vinespring Church plus £3,988 Bulletin advertising income, plus £3 bank interest.

Expenditure: £7,168, clearing expenses approved last month plus Bulletin printing invoice.

Outstanding Commitments: £1,474, comprising three month's honorarium payments to D Ritchie [Oct - Dec + Winter Issue of the Bulletin] plus related expenses. In addition, David incurred a further £324 expenditure on the Christmas Event. These expenses were approved.

Bank Balances at Month End: £19,519 [after cheques cleared]

Main Account: £8,207

Bulletin Account: £11,312

Bulletin – Winter Issue Contribution: expected to be circa £3,000, well in excess of budgeted contribution of £2,500, subject to all invoices being paid. £995 was unpaid at time of writing and two invoices from earlier issues remain unpaid totalling £360.

David requested a donation of £80 to the Men's Shed for the help they provided in Pat Testing the Christmas street lights. It involved around 10 man-hours work. The £80 donation was approved.

13 Planting Scheme/Denman Park ponds/ Green Canopy project

(Mervyn Barr)

Mervyn and Ken are meeting up with Green Spaces Officer Tajana Sosic at Hillside Road on 14th January. The Council are planting trees there. Tajana will discuss the planting plans for the A944 banks from Tesco roundabout up to Brodiach burn.

The Roads dept. have been contacted re our desire for the road to be named as Jubilee Drive.

Our proposal for planting trees on the A944 is on hold pending further research, but we will apply to the Green Canopy Project for planting hazel groves in Denman Park around November.

Raymond pointed out that the trees at AWRP roundabout appear to be growing well so it would be worth finding out what species they are.

APPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 13TH JANUARY 2022, VIA ZOOM

14	<p><u>Ward 13 Councillors updates</u></p> <p><u>Cllr Mckail</u></p> <p>Still trying to find out if the speed monitoring device which has been refurbished by the Men Shed can now be used by the Police.</p> <p>Waste collection services are facing some disruption just now due to staff covid absences.</p> <p>Waste collections will be changing to a 3 week cycle</p> <p>Ashdale Hall has received a £2720 Energy Efficiency grant</p> <p>Straik Rd will be closed from Wellgrove Rd to Broadstraik Rd for road repairs from 31st January for 3 weeks.</p> <p><u>Cllr Walker</u></p> <p>The safety barriers at the junctions on path from Broadshades to Kirkton of Skene have been removed. This followed a cyclist complaint re their visibility in the dark. Roads dept. have advised that the 'Cycling By Design' guidelines advises against the provision of this type of baffle fence. Iris has raised a few queries on the barriers removal. There was no consultation on it. There is now concerns about safety of children on bicycles on the path. Mervyn will contact Brain Strachan in Roads dept.</p> <p>Council officers will be preparing a business case for a chargeable garden waste collection service.</p> <p>The Council have intimated that they are planning to upgrade the pavilions at tennis courts and Lawsondale pitches in 2027/28. Iris suggested that this work could be brought forward if there was some local fundraising for it.</p>
15	<p><u>Close of Meeting</u></p> <p>Meeting closed at 10.10pm</p> <p><u>Date of Next Meeting- 10th</u> February at 7pm, at Holiday Inn in person with Zoom facility for those who prefer that option.</p> <p>Please note WECC Members and members of the public are strongly encouraged to attend in person if they are able to, as overall less reliance on Zoom in a hybrid meeting will provide a better experience for all participants.</p>

APPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 13TH JANUARY 2022, VIA ZOOM

APPENDIX



GARIOCH COMMUNITY POLICING TEAM VISIBLE, ACCESSIBLE AND EFFECTIVE

Community Council: Westhill and Elrick

Reporting Period: December 2021

Previous Reporting Period: November 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 small rise in thefts in rural properties.

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	1 crimefile	0 crimefiles 1 incident
House Breaking	0	0
Public Nuisance	4 incidents	11 incidents
Road Traffic	9 crimefile, 10 incidents	4 crimefiles 9 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.

APPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 13TH JANUARY 2022, VIA ZOOM

*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 (NEW) – all different types of Frauds reported*

This reporting period has seen:

Assaults – The one assault was a domestic incident and there were no serious injuries.

Housebreaking – 0

Public Nuisance – A significant decrease in numbers. Three of them were youths gathering in different areas of Westhill and the other one was a covid breach where a work colleague reported someone for turning up at work after her son tested positive.

Road Traffic Offences – 3 of the crimefiles were for hit and run incidents, 4 were for driving with no insurance and the other 1 was for Careless driving and other minor offences.

There were 7 minor road collisions reported where drivers exchanged details including a slow speed accident involving a pedestrian who walked in front of a car. There were 3 reports of cars causing an obstruction.

Drugs

The crimefile was for an adult driver stopped and found in possession of Cannabis

Significant crime/issues within your community:

Between the 8 and 12 December a well-known shoplifter from Aberdeen committed 5 Theft by Shopliftings at Aldi, Westhill. This was part of a crime series where she committed several other shopliftings in other places.

On 27 December in the early evening a wheelie bin was set fire to behind the Trinity Church in Westhill. Enquiries are still ongoing into this incident.

Planned Community Policing Activity/Advice:

It's good to see the fall in the number of Public Nuisance calls reported this 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 December.

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.