

## DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, 9TH JUNE 2022, AT HOLIDAY INN, AFTER THE AGM

Community Council		
Name	Position	Present
Mervyn Barr	Chair	✓ via zoom
Malcolm Collie	Member	✓ via zoom
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	✓
Elaine Manley	Member	✓
William Munro	Vice-Chair	x
Gordon Prentice	Treasurer	✓
Diane Priestley	Member	✓
David Ritchie	Secretary	✓
Ken Stewart	Member	x
Raymond Swaffield	Member	✓
Tim Yeomans	Member	✓
Cllr Iris Walker	Ward 13 Councillor	✓
Cllr Ron McKail	Ward 13 Councillor	x
Cllr Craig Miller	Ward 13 Councillor	x
Cllr Fatima Joji	Ward 13 Councillor	✓ via zoom

**Members of Public:** David Dent, Louise Gray (via Zoom)

<b>1</b>	<p><b><u>Welcome and opening remarks</u></b> The meeting was chaired by Gordon Prentice as Mervyn Barr was only attending by Zoom</p>
<b>2</b>	<p><b><u>Apologies and Declarations of Interest</u></b> Apologies received from Heather Cook, Willie Munro, Ken Stewart, Cllr McKail, Cllr Miller No Declarations of Interest</p>
<b>3</b>	<p><b><u>Approval of Minutes of Meeting 12th May 2022</u></b> Minutes were approved, with no changes. Proposed Raymond, seconded Kate</p>
<b>4</b>	<p><b><u>Shopping Centre Update- Centre Manager Ben Horsburgh</u></b> Things going well. Good feedback re the bunting for the Platinum Jubilee. Looking into putting up summer bunting at the Centre which would be put up each year. WECC could perhaps also put some up on part of Westhill Drive and Old Skene Rd. Hanging baskets are in place at the Centre. Re the car-park resurfacing, quotes for the initial work are being sought. A pet shop may be opening up in the old vets unit. Granite City Brass band may be playing a few times at the Centre Car parking outside the vets will be stopped, the area will be a loading bay. The old toilets are going to be converted to a storage area.</p>

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	<p>At this point David Dent was asked for his views on the Jubilee /Lazy Sunday Afternoon Picnic on 5th June He said the feedback had been very good. A great family day, without the distraction of a beer tent, which helped to create the relaxed family – focused atmosphere.</p>
<b>5</b>	<p><b>Matters Arising/ Actions Update</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>File Share Options</b> (Malcolm) – a sub-group meeting will be arranged to review the draft user guide. He will advise us how to create a 2nd one drive account if we already have one.</li> <li>2. <b>Larg/Broadstraik Park</b> (Malcolm) –A meeting of residents who showed an interest in the Park from the survey was held yesterday at Community Church. The complicated Park ownership details are being established. Possible improvements to the Park, like lighting and flowers (bulbs), were discussed. Could organise a competition to name the Park and one for drawings of what the Park could look like. A meeting in the Park has been arranged for 3<sup>rd</sup> July</li> <li>3. <b>Safety barriers on path to Kirkton of Skene-</b> Brian Strachan of Roads dept. has still not responded to the site meeting request. The Path flooding issues are complicated and it was agreed that it would now be better not to also discuss that at same site meeting,</li> </ol>
<b>6</b>	<p><b>Police Report</b></p> <p>Police report for May not yet received. The 2 local Community officers have added some details on youth disorder to the April report- there was 10 crimefiles, all involving same group of youths, who will be reported to the Children’s reporter and Procurator Fiscal.</p>
<b>7</b>	<p><b>Correspondence</b></p> <p><b>Review of correspondence log for last 4 weeks.</b> (circulated)</p> <p>Re the Westhill to Aberdeen Multi-modal Transport Study- Diane, Raymond &amp; Gordon will look at this. Mervyn advised that Ian Mitchell has told us that the new benches for Denman Park are in the Council depot so Ian should be arranging for them to be installed soon.</p>
<b>8</b>	<p><b>Ward 13 Councillors updates</b></p> <p><b>Cllr Walker</b></p> <p>Lot of complaints re the lack of grass cutting in public areas. Issue is shortage of staff and difficult to recruit more. There should be 10 in the Westhill team but currently only 3. In the new Council, Iris is back on the Communities Committee and will be involved with the Outdoor Access Forum</p>
<b>9</b>	<p><b>Environmental Group Update</b></p> <p>Report from Raymond &amp; Ken has been circulated, as below in italics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Our fortnightly Litter Picks have continued and have been well supported by our volunteers.</i></li> <li>• <i>The Academy Playing Field is still the greatest source of litter in Westhill.</i></li> <li>• <i>No further contact from Shellie Stewart, the Executive Assistant of ROVOP.</i></li> <li>• <i>At the most recent Litter Pick, we were surprised to find that there was a definite decrease in litter. This</i></li> </ul>

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*seemed to be the case wherever we picked. We are unsure whether it may be the result of poor weather preceding the pick or indeed better behaviour by litterers. We can but hope. An unexpected side effect was that some volunteers came back at the end of the pick rather disappointed that they had only collected half a bag rather than the full bag they normally collected!*

- *We had complaints from a resident regarding one of the new bins in the park being overfilled and not emptied. I took this up with the Council and they quickly resolved the problem. For technical reasons, they had difficulty emptying this bin.*
- *We have since had further complaints re the unsuitability of the bin at the Tennis Courts (see Pic). My understanding is that a larger bin is to be installed at the tennis courts to solve the problem. I have contacted the Council to confirm and request a possible date for the work*



### 10 **Orbital Trail + Links Project Update**

Circulated report in italics

#### **Town Centre Information Board/s**

*No change since last month. A reminder has been sent to Council's Officer, Sally Davis. (Update is that this will be installed soon). In the meantime, I discovered that there's a map of the WOT on Tesco's Community Notice Board.*

#### **Ongoing Maintenance / Upgrades**

*A small group of volunteers completed upgrade work at **Lawsondale** and moved some of the coarser material from the north entrance to the Sports Centre compound for future use. Future reinforcement work will be dependent on how much rainfall we get and how much the burn floods. No strimming has been done on any of the sectors as yet, but I remain hopeful of agreeing a plan with the local Community Payback Task Supervisor who is back from leave on the 8<sup>th</sup>. (meeting him tomorrow)*

*Meanwhile, the **Gateway Sculpture** heather garden was weeded, and then the volunteers agreed to set about clearing the jungle that was once the "**Secret Garden**" [on the other side of Endeavour Drive from Tesco's]. Branches were overhanging the benches, shrubs had squeezed up through the block paving, and the paving itself was covered in a layer of dirt and moss. Eight of us spent 32 hours over three mornings restoring it to something like its original state. The entrance now needs to be less intimidating / more welcoming, and for that, we hope to persuade the donor, Bert McIntosh to reconfigure the boulders at the entrance. The plan then is to see how the community responds to the space over the next few months. We also need to think of a name for this space, e.g. "Community Garden" or "Community Rest Area", etc., etc. [Thoughts please]*

*Update today is that Bert McIntosh has agreed to move the boulders at entrance*

*Tesco kindly donated 2 litres of weed killer for us to use in the area that we cleared and have been duly thanked.*

*Since the start of the project, we have now reached the significant milestone of 500 hours of recorded voluntary outdoor work.*

*Another set of photos with a story board needs to be added to the website.*

*Gordon also reported an issue caused by new development on Silvertrees Drive: a waymarker post was removed during construction and has since been temporarily restored. Will need to negotiate permanent reinstatement with landowner SVS.*

	<p><b>Link to Denman Park</b> <i>No change. No contact.</i></p> <p><b>Link to Hill of Keir</b> <i>No change. Awaiting news from the Scottish Government Reporter on surrounding land before taking next steps on the western flank.</i></p> <p><b>Correspondence since last month's meeting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Letter from Mr Simon Cheyne, Burnside [re: cross country sign from Mason Lodge to Garlogie]. Met with Mr Cheyne on Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup> June to agree wording and positions of signs.</i></li> <li>• <i>ALOAF: I've signed up for a course on mediation on 14<sup>th</sup> June. The course is run by the Scottish Mediation Service.</i></li> </ul> <p><i>Gordon also reported that another complaint on the Springhill section had been received through ESCC, and he has promised to investigate this further</i></p> <p><b>Funding Update</b> <i>As per the Project report, £617 is uncommitted. Remaining funds must be spent by Sept 22. Ideas welcome.</i></p>
11	<p><b>Planning Matters</b> (Diane Priestly) Report from Diane has been circulated, as below in italics:</p> <p><b>Planning applications</b> <i>APP/2022/1069 Duncanos</i> <i>Comments were emailed across -they included concerns over the decking being close to the flats, noise and vandalism, lack of disability access to the decking, problems with the planned decking being so close to an existing public path which could result in issues with the serving staff.</i> <i>Diane noted that there had been no objections submitted from the nearby flats residents</i></p> <p><i>APP/2022/1062 Cala at Burnland</i> <i>We have had an extension granted for this application however I will be collating our comments on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> June, I would like to thank those members that have already forwarded their concerns to me about this development. The Roads dept. will not allow the access road to be directly off the A944</i></p> <p><b>Community Action Plan</b> <i>Disappointing response re the appeal for the steering group appeal in the Westhill Bulletin however discussions have been ongoing with the Larg Park group to look at how any developments there could link into the CAP.</i></p> <p><b>Local Development Plan changes</b> <i>I attended a meeting for Community Councils by the team leader of Planning Policy for Aberdeenshire Council who confirmed that the LDP 2022 has still not been confirmed due to a number of delays and it is likely that approval will not now be until September. However, Aberdeenshire Council are now preparing for the next LDP for 2027, this plan will last for 10 years unlike the previous ones which have been for five years.</i> <i>The next LDP will be very different from the previous LDPs and will be about modernising the planning system: it will embrace climate change, biodiversity plus the themes that we discussed during the National Planning Framework (NPF) 4 meeting such as sustainable places, liveable places, productive places and distinctive places. Guidance and plans will be produced later this year by the Scottish government.</i> <i>Changes are to be replaced by evidence reports from a range of sources. As you can imagine this new approach will involve a lot of work and calling for new ideas and community engagement with all stakeholders.</i></p>

