



Westhill & Elrick  
Community Council

## DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, 11TH AUGUST 2022, AT HOLIDAY INN

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	✓ via zoom
Kate Lumsden	Member	✓
Alan McCue	Member	✓ via zoom
Elaine Manley	Member	✓
William Munro	Vice-Chair	✓
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	✓ via zoom
Cllr Ron McKail	Ward 13 Councillor	x
Cllr Craig Miller	Ward 13 Councillor	✓
Cllr Fatima Joji	Ward 13 Councillor	✓ via zoom

**Members of Public:** David Dent, Rachid Meghezzi

<b>1</b>	<p><b><u>Welcome and opening remarks</u></b> Chair Mervyn Barr welcomed everyone and introduced Rachid Meghezzi who has been helping with the planting scheme and watering the planters.</p>
<b>2</b>	<p><b><u>Apologies and Declarations of Interest</u></b> Apologies received from Heather Cook, Ken Stewart, Donald Davidson, Cllr Mckail No Declarations of Interest</p>
<b>3</b>	<p><b><u>Approval of Minutes of Meeting 9th June 2022</u></b> Minutes were approved, with no changes. Proposed Gordon, seconded Raymond</p>
<b>4</b>	<p><b><u>Shopping Centre Update- Centre Manager Ben Horsburgh</u></b> Hoping that the issues re queuing at Lloyds Chemists will be resolved soon. Cllr Walker asked if they are still closing at lunch times and said that the stipulation from NHS Grampian is that the closure of the Arnhall branch during August would mean the shopping centre one would not close at lunch time. Costa Coffee had been letting Lloyds customers use their toilets but this has now been stopped for operational reasons.</p> <p>Youths had been up on shopping centre roof on the previous Sunday, police took a long time to arrive. Mervyn will speak to Ben about getting the Police to do more regular patrols at shopping centre. Holiday Inn are using the living wall as backdrop for wedding photos.</p>

	<p>The worst pot holes in car par will be sorted when contractors are available – work expected to commence in Sept.</p> <p>Mervyn offered congratulations to Ben who has been nominated for an industry award, largely thanks to the completion of joint MAPP/WECC/Rotary projects</p>
<p><b>5</b></p>	<p><b>Matters Arising/ Actions Update</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. File Share Options</b> (Malcolm) – Malcolm has advised Gordon &amp; David how to create another One-Drive account if already got one, so they will test this.</li> <li><b>2. Larg/Broadstraik Park</b> (Malcolm) – The meeting in the Park planned for 3<sup>rd</sup> July was postponed. Some of the title deeds for residents adjacent to the park state that they own part of the Park but it is to be adopted by the Council. The grass is being cut by Council and residents.</li> <li><b>3. Safety barriers on path to Kirkton of Skene-</b> The request for a site meeting with Brian Strachan of Roads dept. will be re-issued. Cllr Walker advised that some safety measures have been authorised. Mervyn will contact Ann Overton to get details of this. He will also update Fiona Bick that the site visit will not also now include looking at the flooding issue.</li> <li><b>4. Academy Outreach-</b> below notes from Mervyn were circulated</li> </ol> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><i>Rough Notes re Meeting with Academy Representative 21/6/22</i></b></p> <p><i>Elaine and I met with Malcolm McMillan at the Academy. We didn't get to speak to the head teacher at this time but hope to do so in future.</i></p> <p><i>Malcolm is an Employer School Co-ordinator. There are 23 of these persons appointed across Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire, all school based.</i></p> <p><i>Malcolm and his colleagues have recently been appointed to post (approx. 1- year ago) and his role is still developing. He very much welcomed our initiative and outlined some of his key aims activities.</i></p> <p><i>In wider education the focus has been on 16-24 yr. olds to ensure that they take up roles – in jobs, apprenticeships, Uni/College, other training or working in the voluntary sector. (all regarded as five "Positive Destinations" (PDs). In Westhill approximately 66% of leavers go to Uni or College, while 25% got into the other three options. This leaves about 9% possibly adrift (tbc)</i></p> <p><i>As expected Malcolm's role is concerned with the earlier 16-18 year olds.</i></p> <p><i>With regard to them his aim is to Improve Pupil Awareness generally - of options, and processes to transfer into the 5 PDS and to help identify and improve their "Employability Skills".</i></p> <p><i>He is keen to establish a resource pool of people who can:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Take part in mock recruitment interviews</i></li> <li>• <i>Give a personal account of their journey from school to where they are now. The preference here would be for under 40's to reflect recent/.current experience but this is not to exclude anyone who feels that they have value to add by recounting their story.</i></li> <li>• <i>Can facilitate work experience or a job placement</i></li> </ul> <p><i>Malcolm provided us with this list of Growth (priority) and Other Sectors where he and his colleagues are keen to get volunteers.</i></p> <p><u><i>Growth Sectors</i></u> <i>Health &amp; Social Care</i></p>

	<p><i>Digital/IT/AI</i> <i>Construction</i> <i>Energy</i> <i>Tourism/Hospitality</i> <i>Life Sciences</i></p> <p><u><i>Other Sectors</i></u> <i>Food &amp; Drink</i> <i>Wholesale/Retail</i> <i>Agriculture</i> <i>Finance</i> <i>Legal &amp; Property</i> <i>Creative/Entertainment</i></p> <p><i>Would you or anyone you know be happy to help out with a classroom talk to selected groups of pupils or to take part in a mock interview? If so please let Elaine and myself know.</i></p> <p><i>We plan to meet Malcolm again after school reconvenes – probably in Sept or October. It will be good to have some names for him.</i></p>
6	<p><b><u>Police Report</u></b></p> <p>The circulated Police report for May &amp; June was received in July. July report. Concerns were raised about the tardiness or absence of issue of Police Reports; also about the lack of Police officer attendance at our regular meetings. Issue to be raised at the next CC forum. Sgt Graeme Allan is moving on, we don't know yet who his replacement is.</p>
7	<p><b><u>Correspondence</u></b></p> <p><b>Review of correspondence log for last 4 weeks.</b> (circulated) Re the new Pharmacy consultation, it was recommended that we respond individually. Re the LDP Examination report, Diane will give an overview of this at the October meeting. Gordon has applied for plants, trees &amp; shrubs as offered by the Growing Living Greenspace Initiative.</p>
8	<p><b><u>Ward 13 Councillors updates</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Cllr Miller</u></b> Main issues just now are the Lloyds Pharmacy problems, grass cutting and potholes. MP Andrew Bowie will be writing to every resident about Lloyds Pharmacy and the proposed new one.</p> <p><b><u>Cllr Joji</u></b> Fatima asked if WECC are aware of the 'Impactive' initiative, encouraging residents to get more physical exercise. WECC are not aware of this. Gordon will touch base with Fatima about it.</p>
9.	<p><b><u>Proposed New Pharmacy Consultation</u></b></p> <p>Andrew &amp; Lynne Porter attended to tell us about their proposal for a new pharmacy, which would be built across the road from McDonalds. They handed out leaflets and copies of the consultation questionnaires, and showed mock-up photos. The Porters operate 5 community pharmacies in Aberdeen. They wish to open a new Pharmacy and the NHS consultation period runs till 26<sup>th</sup> October. A NHS hearing will then determine if it can go</p>

ahead. The response so far has been very positive.

There is no suitable piece of land near centre of Westhill so it would be built behind McDonalds. The planning application is being prepared now to save a delay if/when the licence is granted.

The building will have NHS consulting rooms for minor ailments. Also robotic dispensing which will speed up the issuing process. It will also be the first drive-thru pharmacy in Scotland. They will employ a full-time delivery driver which anyone can utilise. They will be open 8am to 7pm Mon-Friday, 9am to 5pm Saturday, and 10am to 3pm Sunday. There will also be a 'Pharma24' locker outside where prescriptions can be collected using a 6 digit code.

Westhill has 2 pharmacies just now. Other communities in the shire of similar size to Westhill have at least 3 pharmacies. Porters employ enough pharmacists to be able to cover all their pharmacies, including the new one. RGU pharmacy students get work experience with them, some who join them after graduating.

It is evident that many residents are choosing to get prescriptions from chemists outwith Westhill due to the poor level of service from Lloyds.

It is hoped that building work could start in early 2023, so that it would open by summer 2023.

Mervyn thanked the Porters for a very informative presentation.

The Porters then left and WECC discussed the proposal and agreed that WECC members should complete the questionnaire individually. A letter of support from WECC would help a lot. Willie & Becky will draft the letter.

Re the Lloyds Pharmacies issues, Willie will draft letters to send to Lloyds, NHS Grampian, Scottish Gov., and MP Andrew Bowie.

**10 Environmental Group Update**

Report from Raymond & Ken has been circulated, as below in italics:

- *Our fortnightly Litter Picks have continued as planned and have been well supported considering that many of our volunteers have been away on holiday. Once again, the general opinion was that there was slightly less litter about, so we hope this is a trend that continues.*
- *During the last Litter Pick, I was approached by two men. It transpired that they were Rentokil Employees and had driven up from the Glasgow area that morning on a Scottish Water contract to clean up Sewage at our ponds. They wanted me to tell them where the sewage was. I explained that the pond was still cloudy but had no sign of actual sewage. They stated that they were only concerned with solid material, and none was apparent in the ponds. I then directed them to the burn to the East, as it passed Lawsondale, where I had previously seen sewage spilling from a pipe into the burn. I later met*



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	<p><i>them again and they said that they had found this spot and cleared away sewage and sanitary products. They said that the stones in the burn at the area had a red stain coating but that they would not attempt to clear that.</i></p> <p>Ken will contact Steve Gray to ask if sewage is likely to continue to pollute the burn occasionally, or if it can be sorted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>For reasons of personal holidays, I will not be able to conduct the Litter Picks in August, but I hope to get a volunteer to stand in for me.</i></li> <li>• <i>New bins have finally been installed in Denman Park so hopefully this will help with litter being pulled out by birds.</i></li> <li>• <i>I had a request to report that the bins in the Play Park just off Broadstraik Avenue were not being emptied. The Council Officer promptly reported back that this was now being attended to.</i></li> </ul> <p>Audrey commented that the grass at the Kirkton of Skene cemetery is not being cut/strimmed properly, and the bins are overflowing. She was advised by an operative on site that he Council prioritises burials. Cllr Miller will clarify the situation and if there has been any change of policy.</p> <p>Malcolm also commented that this week was first time this year that Council had done any strimming in his local park, residents had been doing it themselves. Willie suggested that as part of the CAP we could ask residents which grass areas they would like to see getting cut regularly and which areas they wouldn't mind being left.</p> <p>Mervyn commented that Ian Mitchell of Landscape Services hasn't yet arranged installation of the new benches for Denman Park that were delivered by Glasdon in May. Mervyn will contact Ian to arrange a site visit to agree where the benches will go.</p>
11	<p><b><u>Orbital Trail + Links Project Update</u></b> Circulated report in italics</p> <p><b><i>Matters Arising Since Last Meeting</i></b></p> <p><b><i>Town Centre Information Board/s</i></b> <i>An A0 sized map of the town showing the WOT and other walking/orienteering routes was installed on the wall between the entrance to CAB and Nisa on 29<sup>th</sup> June. Another may follow for a location to be agreed.</i></p> <p><b><i>Ongoing Maintenance / Upgrades</i></b> <i>The Community Payback team was true to its name in June, completing three very productive sessions of strimming, one at Lawsondale and two at Broadshades and Golf club sector. A return visit to Lawsondale has been requested. This summer work is so important to the integrity of some sections of the trail that it has prompted me to think about putting together an annual maintenance and upgrade plan for the long term sustainability of the Trail. An outline of what that might look like follows below.</i></p>

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WOT Annual Maintenance Schedule [requiring volunteers, apart from Note 2]													
Task	Note	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Pruning	1												
Strimming Undergrowth	2												
Weeding	3												
Clear drainage channels	4												
Check signs/signposts	5												
Restore damaged areas	5												
<b>Notes:</b>	<b>1</b>	Lawsondale, Broadshades, Golf Course, Meadowlands lane, Hidden Garden											
	<b>2</b>	Lawsondale, Broadshades, Golf Course [by Community Payback team]											
	<b>3</b>	Gateway Sculpture, Hidden Garden											
	<b>4</b>	Meadowlands farm track											
	<b>5</b>	All sectors, especially after storms / heavy rainfall											

*Other work included weeding of the Gateway Sculpture, applying weedkiller to the "Secret / Hidden Garden", scything overhanging weeds and ongoing pruning of the tree / shrub canopy. Our thanks to Gordon for organising this work.*

*Chair was on hand in my absence to supervise improved access to the Hidden Garden by one of Bert McIntosh's JCB's. Mervyn will write to Bert to thank him for doing this, and also thank him for all the support he has given to WECC and the Westhill community over the years.*

*A set of photos showing this year's upgrades to Lawsondale and Broadshades sectors will soon appear on the website.*

### **Link to Denman Park**

*No change. No contact.*

### **Link to Hill of Keir**

*No change. Awaiting news from the Scottish Governments Reporter on surrounding land before taking next steps on the western flank.*

### **Correspondence since last month's meeting**

- *Issues with lack of signage on the track leading from the B979 [Mason lodge to Peterculter/Garlogie road] to Garlogie have been resolved with Mr Cheyne, Dunecht Estate, DE's tenant farmer and Fiona Bick of ESCC.*
- *Westhill GC is hosting a Par for Parkinson's charity fundraiser on Saturday, 3<sup>rd</sup> September and have decided to promote a sponsored walk for social members using the WOT. I am liaising with Karen Templeton regarding progress of the works at Carnie Woods and the possible need to use the temporary alternative route.*
- *Re end of project funding, I wrote to Landscape Services asking for a quotation and consent to locate a picnic bench at either Mains of Kinmundy Hill or NW corner of Broadshades. Reply awaited. Update-Ian Mitchell has now quoted £800 for this*
- *I wrote to Burns Construction on 28<sup>th</sup> June requesting permanent reinstatement of the waymarker post on Silvertrees Drive on completion of the development. Reply awaited.*



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- *I am in correspondence with Scottish Rights of Way Society to understand the City Council's obligations to restore the Right of Way through Carnie Woods as part of the clearing works.*

### **Funding Update**

*As per the Project report, a penultimate claim for £1,073 was submitted to AC in June and settled in July. £550 is uncommitted. Remaining funds must be spent by Sept 22. Benches or a picnic table are being considered, but the favourite is a stone cairn on the top of Mains of Kinmundy Hill showing distance and direction to surrounding hills and features. I have written to Landscape Services seeking permission to erect a cairn at the top of the hill beside the picnic bench.*

*I am in discussions with the Community Payback team to construct the cairn.*

Gordon commented that some of the cycle lanes in Westhill have never been extended since they were put in but the town has expanded since then. He has contacted the Council about this.

'Paths for All' has funding available for path upgrading (projects in the £10k to £100k range). At moment we have no plans for any additional paths.

### **12 Planning Matters (Diane Priestly)**

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

#### **Planning applications**

*Planning application APP/2022/1069 Duncanos decking*

*I had confirmation from the case officer that the residents of 1-13 Cairnton Court, the block within 20m of the application site, were notified of this planning application*

*Planning application APP/2022/1062 proposed Cala development at Burnland has been completed.*

*Drive Thru Gregg's planning application APP/2022/1236 - our comments to be forwarded to the planning officer this week. Having checked this application it is interesting to note that there are no public comments recorded for this proposed development. The comments from WECC will include the apparent lack of litter bins in the application and that pedestrian crossings should now be installed on the nearby roads.*

**NHS Grampian** *is carrying out a joint consultation with A and L Porter for a proposed new drive thru pharmacy to assess the demand for such a service. The consultation finishes at midnight on the 26<sup>th</sup> October and you can complete the NHS consultation by visiting [www.westhillpharmacy.co.uk](http://www.westhillpharmacy.co.uk)*

**LDP examination process** *has now been completed but it is clear from the examination process that it is likely that there will be an argument for both housing and business land in the future for Westhill. By 2024 WECC will need to start looking at developing a Local Place Plan which will dovetail into our Community Action Plan. Aberdeenshire Council are currently developing a strategy for Local Place Plans and once this has been completed WECC will be contacted.*

#### **Community Action Plan**

*We are in the process of developing the questionnaire to go in the winter Bulletin. Mervyn has also mentioned the CAP link in the summer Bulletin. Jacky Niven has been contacted to arrange another meeting to discuss the type of questionnaire that we need to use and this will also help us to provide evidence for the next LDP.*

Willie commented that another town was running their CAP questionnaire via the Council website. This option will be discussed with Jacky Niven. Public meetings will also be required.

**13** **Financials** (Gordon Prentice) Circulated report in italics:-

**Matters Arising 9 June:**

- **2021/22 Accounts:** a copy of signed Accounts and Treasurer's Annual Report sent to Area Manager.
- **CSF Donations:** Donation made to Crombie PTA

**Financial Transactions – June & July**

**Income:** £5,306, comprising £4,128 Bulletin advertising income plus £1,073 reimbursing expenses incurred on WOT plus £100 [two months] ring-fenced donation from Vinespring Church, plus £5 bank interest.

**Expenditure:** £9,718.20, comprising £7,182 from the Bulletin A/c [printer + DR expenses approved last moth] plus £2,536 from the Main A/c as detailed below [see bank statement].

**Outstanding Commitments:** David Ritchie will be due £183 as honoraria payments for July. Mervyn has submitted expenses of around £300 on Greening Westhill items,

We have also agreed to support SensationAll's expenditure of roughly £300 on CCTV upgrade following the vandalism they experienced at the beginning of last month. They are submitting a CSF application and we may approve this in advance of the October applications round.

It was agreed that the unused budget funds of £1500 for the Lazy Sunday Jubilee party could be allocated back to General Reserves.

**Bank Balances at Month End:** £29,830

Main Account: £11,275 [see Appendix 1]

Bulletin Account: £18,554

**Bulletin – Summer Issue Contribution:** expected to be circa £3,000; this is also well in excess of budgeted contribution of £2,500, with only one invoice of £57 unpaid at time of writing.

**14** **Green Westhill** (Mervyn Barr) Circulated report in italics:-

Item	Comment
<b>Basket watering system</b>	Working well and coping with the additional 20 baskets.
<b>Barrel Planter watering system</b>	Part installed – to be completed by mid-August. In the meantime Rachid has been watering by hose. Our thanks to him for his diligent work.
<b>Roundabout Planter Watering</b>	The Perfectshine service has not yet been started (has been discussed with Ben who will take it up with them). In the meantime Rachid is continuing watering regularly by hose. This combined with the reservoirs seems to be working okay. Hose has developed a hole possibly due to being run over by cars so often. A more robust type will likely have to be sourced.
<b>The "Tesco" Pocket/Secret Garden</b>	Gordon and some volunteers have cleared the weeds from the paved area and it looks very good. However as may be expected a lot of them have come back again so he has now sprayed them with a domestic weedkiller. I have been recommended a commercial weed killer (as used by farmers and local councils) which I have now purchased. It's a two-part mix (both expensive (combined cost approx £150) but reckoned to be very effective). One part can be used anytime and the other is best used in spring. Plan is to re-spray the paved area again by end of August.
<b>HI R'about</b>	Again Gordon has weeded/sprayed this – many thanks to him for his ongoing efforts. See also suggestion (2) overleaf.



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	<p><b>Composting</b></p> <p><i>We have been buying top quality enriched compost for £7-50 per 60l bag. Our intention is to reuse as much of this as possible for environmental and economic reasons. Intent is to have two “composter” bins to deal with three batches (1) Current/new/in use 2023 (2) Season 2 2022 - Bin 2 (3) Season 1 2021 – Bin 1. These bins need to be of a good capacity and the right shape to fit into the available space. Have ordered 2 at approx. £200 Inc. delivery. In the autumn we will also have to buy an “accelerator” fluid that breaks down the compost more quickly.</i></p>
	<p><b>Texo Bank Planting Scheme</b></p> <p><i>Tajana Susic has advised that in her new role as Greenspaces Project Officer she may not be able to help with the Texo Bank Planting. To be discussed further with her to identify options.</i></p>
	<p><b>Growing Green Spaces</b></p> <p><i>This Project is for anyone who is interested in planning and / or participating in a green space project in their local environment, on land maintained by Aberdeenshire Council. Please see further details</i>  <a href="https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/environment/greenspace/growing-living-greenspaces/">https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/environment/greenspace/growing-living-greenspaces/</a>  <i>Gordon has submitted an Application for a range of plants.</i></p>
	<p><b>Sculpture</b></p> <p><i>Sculpture has been weeded twice this summer – again by Gordon. Original plan was that it should be self-maintaining and heathers would smother weeds. Main problem is with deep-rooted dandelions – which hopefully will succumb to strong weed killer next spring.</i></p>
	<p><b>Autumn Planting</b></p> <p><i>Just placed an order for 200 winter pansies to refill the planters at the end of the season. Will probably be planted in early Oct depending on weather and how well existing plants survive.</i>  <b>Queen’s Green Canopy</b> – expecting some 100 trees to arrive in Sept/Oct for planting in Denman park – as per Application. More info will be available as it arrives.</p>
	<p><b>Hanging Basket removal</b></p> <p><i>Again these will be removed, contents composted and stored in early /mid October.</i></p>
	<p><b>Storage Unit</b></p> <p><i>For Xmas lights, gardening tools and equipment still needs to be sourced. 20’ container won’t fit. 10’ will fit but may be too small overall. Best bet might be a wooden shed? To be discussed further – any other ideas welcome in the meantime.</i></p>
	<p><b>Suggestion (1)</b></p> <p><i>Holiday Inn marriage couples are using the Green Wall/Floral displays as a backdrop for photos. It’s been suggested that we build in a “wedding arch” as an extension of the basket display, probably on the paved area by the entrance gate. Supports business and adds something to the display? Thoughts please.</i></p>
	<p><b>Suggestion (2)</b></p> <p><i>Gordon has proposed that we put together a task list of all routine activities associated with the Greening of Westhill. This can then be used to organise tasks and volunteers. Further details via Gordon. To be discussed further.</i></p>
15	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <p>Mervyn thanked David Dent and Rotary for organising the very successful Jubilee ‘Lazy Afternoon’ event on 5<sup>th</sup> June. WECC contributed £500 to cost of it. There was good collaboration. Mervyn suggested that David Dent be an Associate Member of WECC and this was approved. A warm welcome to David. David advised that Rotary are planning to run a Christmas Party for Senior Citizens again this year. To raise funds for it they are organising a Race Night at the Ashvale in Aberdeen, he will send us details of it. Rotary are also running the annual Last Night of the Proms event in Ashdale Hall.</p>
16	<p><b>Close of Meeting</b></p> <p>Meeting closed at 10.10pm</p>



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<b><u>Date of Next Meeting</u></b> - 8 <sup>th</sup> September at Holiday Inn, with Zoom option.
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