



Westhill & Elrick
Community Council

APPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, 8TH SEPTEMBER 2022, AT HOLIDAY INN

Community Council		
Name	Position	Present
Mervyn Barr	Chair	✓
Malcolm Collie	Member	✓
Heather Cook	Member	✓
Donald Davidson	Member	✓ via zoom
David Dent	Associate Member	x
Becky Ferguson	Member	✓ via zoom
Audrey Findlay	Member	✓
Ben Horsburgh	Associate Member	x
Kate Lumsden	Member	x
Elaine Manley	Member	x
William Munro	Vice-Chair	✓
Gordon Prentice	Treasurer	✓
Diane Priestley	Member	x
David Ritchie	Secretary	✓
Ken Stewart	Member	x
Raymond Swaffield	Member	✓
Tim Yeomans	Member	✓ via zoom
Cllr Iris Walker	Ward 13 Councillor	✓
Cllr Ron McKail	Ward 13 Councillor	x
Cllr Craig Miller	Ward 13 Councillor	✓ via zoom
Cllr Fatima Joji	Ward 13 Councillor	x

Members of Public: Ian McCombie (Rotary)

Permission was given for meeting to be recorded

1	<p><u>Welcome and opening remarks</u> Chair Mervyn Barr welcomed everyone and commented on this evening's news of the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. There was general consensus that the meeting should still proceed. WECC extend our sincere condolences to the Royal Family at this sad time. Suggested that we send letter to the Lord Lieutenant.</p>
2	<p><u>Apologies and Declarations of Interest</u> Apologies received from Kate Lumsden, Elaine Manley, Diane Priestley, Ken Stewart, Cllr Mckail, Cllr Joji, David Dent Mervyn declared an Interest in a planning application for Kingswells View, so will leave the room and Willie will chair when that item is discussed.</p>
3	<p><u>Approval of Minutes of Meeting 11th August 2022</u> Minutes were approved, with no changes. Proposed Gordon, seconded Audrey</p>
4	<p><u>Shopping Centre Update- Centre Manager Ben Horsburgh</u> - Ben not present. Mervyn was speaking to Ben a few weeks ago and plan is still to fix the worst pot holes this month.</p>
5	<p><u>Matters Arising/ Actions Update</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> File Share Options (Malcolm) – Malcolm, Gordon and David had meeting this week. The issue on how to create another One-Drive account if already got one has been resolved. Now looking at the file structure. A user guide has been drafted so looking for a few volunteers to test the process for getting set up etc. Raymond, Heather & Becky offered to help.

	<p>2. Larg/Broadstraik Park (Malcolm) – Planning to run a competition for drawings of ideas of what the park should look like. A work colleague at the James Hutton Institute would like to use the Park as part of a study into how teenage girls use green spaces in Scotland.</p> <p>3. Safety barriers on path to Kirkton of Skene- Cllr Walker advised that white lines have been painted on the path at its junction with Hill of Keir road and warning signs for cyclists have been put up. There was no prior consultation on this with us. Mervyn would still like a site meeting with Brian Strachan of Roads dept. and will request Ann Overton to help expedite this. He will express concern that safety considerations are only being applied to cyclists, not to pedestrians. Willie recommended that we request that the dog poo bin on the path be replaced with a normal bin.</p> <p>4. Academy Outreach- Mervyn advised that someone has put their name forward to speak to the senior pupils. Also Alan McCue would like to get involved and this is linked to his outreach role at Aberdeen University. A further meeting with Malcolm McMillan at the Academy will be requested.</p> <p>5. Lloyds Pharmacies- The Lloyds Regional manager contacted Mervyn recently. He explained to Mervyn how the issues experienced recently had come about, but hoped that things would get back to normal by the end of September. He agreed that there is a case for a third pharmacy in Westhill. Willie was thanked for his work in drafting the 4 letters soon after the august meeting.</p>
6	<p><u>Police Report</u> The Police reports for July and August were received recently at same time (from Sgt Debbie Burnett) and have been circulated. There is a reduction in all crime types between July and August. Inspector Gareth Hannan was the guest speakers at the Garioch CC Forum last night. He pointed out that the issuing of monthly police reports to CCs is not mandatory and police in most areas of Scotland don't provide reports. There is a temporary shortage of qualified sergeants which is expected to be resolved soon.</p>
7	<p><u>Correspondence</u> Review of correspondence log for last 4 weeks. (circulated) David advised that he and Kate would be attending the 7th November training day on using the Ipads that all Shire CCs are getting from AC. The Town Centre Health Check survey deadline is 14th October. Members are encouraged to complete it. Have we a link?</p>
8	<p><u>Ward 13 Councillors updates</u> Cllr Walker- The Sports Hub are still looking for office bearers. Recycling Centres- a Pilot will be run at Stonehaven and Macduff for a year where it will be online booking for some days in the week and no bookings required for the other days. Cllr Miller The Council have employed a contractor to cut back trees overhanging pavements and road gulleys are being cleaned. The issues with grass strimming round graves at Skene cemetery are being looked at. Audrey advised her issue is that a new row of cremation lairs is being put in too close to the existing row.</p>



APPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, 8TH SEPTEMBER 2022, AT HOLIDAY INN

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>The two Litter Picks planned for August went ahead as advertised. I was unable to be present at either event as I had intended being away on holiday. Unfortunately, Covid had other ideas, but Phil Wilkie kindly stepped in and managed both events for us. I understand that both were well attended and considered a big success.</i> <p>Raymond advised that he intends to resign from WECC at the end of this year for personal reasons. He will continue to run the litter-picking till then. One of the current litter-pickers may take on this task. Mervyn thanked Raymond for his sterling work with WECC over the years.</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>
10	<p><u>Orbital Trail + Links Project Update</u></p> <p>Circulated report in italics</p> <p><i>Matters Arising Since Last Meeting</i></p> <p><i>Paths for All Funding</i></p> <p><i>I had a change of heart immediately after last month's meeting, realising that we could be missing an opportunity to do some major transformative upgrades on two key sections of the Orbital Trail – circa 1km through Carnie Woods and 450m from the bus turning circle at Broadshade Avenue eastwards to join the golf course path at the back of the 7th green.</i></p> <p><i>These last few weeks have been spent preparing funding applications to Paths for All, initially in the form of formal "Expressions of Interest". In the case of Carnie, securing £100,000 or thereabouts would present a major opportunity to restore the Right of Way to an all-abilities standard [i.e. suitable for walkers, bikers and wheelers]. Similarly, upgrading the northern section [Broadshade to Golf Course – circa £50k] to all abilities would mean that the only remaining areas of rough ground on the WOT would be the farm track on the northern edge of Meadowlands and the section through Lawsondale Woods.</i></p> <p><i>Aberdeen City Council officers have agreed in principle to support the application for Carnie Woods and would match fund up to the 30% required by PFA. Their contribution would also include procurement and project management, but WECC would be the applicant and project lead.</i></p> <p><i>Landowner consent has also been agreed in principle with SMH and the Golf Club for the improvement works at Broadshade and round the north western corner of the golf course. The plan is that match funding of 30% [of circa £50k] will be sought from Aberdeenshire Council's "Rural Community Led Vision Challenge Fund". Applications for that close on 11th September with project completion required by 31st March. Invitations to quote have been issued to the three contractors who have visited the site. If our application is successful, I will undertake project management if members agree.</i></p> <p><i>Stone Cairn on Mains of Kinmundy Hill</i></p> <p><i>The leader of the Community Payback Team agreed to construct the 1m fieldstone cairn on the top of the hill at no cost, using skills that he has occasional access to. Stones were transported from the pile at the top of Hill of Keir. Work on the cairn commenced on 3rd September. They are also putting in a bench round the cairn. At time</i></p>



APPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, 8TH SEPTEMBER 2022, AT HOLIDAY INN

of writing, I am still awaiting a quote for the brass/stainless steel direction indicator plate. The quotes have now come in, cheapest is £1600. This is £1050 pounds more than the £550 of the grant funding remaining funds. It was agreed that WECC would fund this shortfall, and WECC would be named as the sponsor on it. Photo of cairn can go on front cover of winter Bulletin

Town Centre Information Board/s

Re second Information board, still awaiting response from Sally Davis – to this & extending cycleways.

Ongoing Maintenance / Upgrades

Summer Strimming: *The Community Payback team managed a visit to Lawsondale on Friday to trim the overgrown path between the south side of the burn and the field. They also repaired the picnic table at the top of Mains of Kinmundy Hill that had been vandalised. They took it back to their workshop and not only strengthened it but painted it as well.*

Annual Maintenance Schedule: *work is ongoing to refine it and merge it with volunteer resources required for Greening Westhill.*

Weeding: *the weedkiller that was applied to the “Secret / Hidden Garden” appears to be taking effect.*

Link to Denman Park: *No change. According to Ian Mitchell [Sept 1st] extension still being considered.*

Link to Hill of Keir: *No change.*

Correspondence since last month’s meeting

- *No replies from Scottish Rights of Way Society on Carnie or from Burns Construction regarding permanent reinstatement of the waymarker post on Silvertrees Drive on completion of the development there.*
- *Other correspondence revolved around Paths for All funding.*

Funding Update

As per the Project report, only £550 is uncommitted. Remaining funds must be spent on the cairn plaque by the end of this month. Council Officers will accept proof of order if cairn not complete and invoiced.

11 Planning Matters (Diane Priestly)

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

Planning applications

Greggs drive thru comments re planning application have been submitted to the planning officer

Community Action Plan

The next stage in this process is to organise the survey questions which will be published on the Engage Aberdeenshire website with a link to the Westhill Bulletin and other Westhill/Elrick organisations. Paper copies will also need to be produced and distributed to those residents who would prefer a paper copy.

Pharmacies

Lloyds Pharmacy *-both pharmacies are now open*

*The survey re **A and L Porter Ltd** proposed application for a new pharmacy on Venture Drive is online until the 26th of October.*

The Hill of Fare consultation

The RES (Renewable Energy Systems) is exploring the possibility of a potential wind farm and energy storage



Westhill & Elrick
Community Council

APPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, 8TH SEPTEMBER 2022, AT HOLIDAY INN

proposal in partnership with Dunecht Estates at the Hill of Fare which is approximately 6km (4 miles) north of Banchory. A scoping report has been submitted to the Scottish Government which sets out the proposal for 17 turbines at a height of 250 m. There will be opportunities for communities to discuss this proposal at a number of public exhibitions to be announced later in the year.

If you want any further information about this proposed development you can contact the Development Project Manager Gavin Shirley on 07570 812 231 or e mail him at gavin.shirley@res-group.com or by writing to him at Hill of Fare Project Team

RES

Third floor-STV

Pacific Quay

Glasgow G51 1PQ

This information has been passed on to both Echt and Skene and Banchory Community Councils.

The website is www.hilloffare-windfarm.co.uk

MP Andrew Bowie has written today to the affected CCs. He is of the view that the turbines are inappropriate in size for their proposed location. He is urging us to give this close scrutiny.

Willie pointed out that the website has no detail of a community benefit scheme. Suggested that we link up with the neighbouring CCs on this. Echt & Skene CC have put out a flyer to residents

Resilience Planning- Mervyn mentioned that at the CC Forum he asked the Area Manager if AC had any plans to help vulnerable people with high energy costs. AC are looking at this.

Planning Applications APP/2022/1747 & APP/2022/1748

These 2 planning apps relate to 2 houses being built on Kingswells View. Mervyn is a near neighbour so left the room and Willie chaired this part of the meeting. The applications are for removal of Condition 6 requiring the provision of a footpath, and its maintenance in perpetuity, between Kingswells View and the golf course to replace an existing informal path which joins another path up to Hill of Keir.

The golf club have submitted a letter of support.

The claims made by the applicant , and our views on them are:

'It is a path to nowhere and there are no onward path links short of cutting through scrub'.

This is not the case. It links to another informal footpath which joins the road leading up to Hill of Keir from Blacklaws Brae. With a bit of imagination, the applicant could have designed it differently, or could follow the fence line to rejoin the original line. Even if it ends up as described, some management and maintenance would resolve the claimed issue.

It also provides an access point to the golf course and the Scottish Outdoor Access Code allows responsible access to golf courses to cross the course and, during snowy periods, for responsible sledging and cross country skiing. This area of the course is suitable for both and takes pressure off other hilly parts of the golf course.

'There is a danger from golf balls'.

This has not proved to be a problem with the existing informal path used for 30 years or more, and the risk can be mitigated by signage.

'4 adjacent owners are deeply concerned about it'.

3 of these owners will be the purchasers of the new sites, who will have had full knowledge of this requirement when they committed to the sites. The 4th is the golf club whose letter of support, in addition to similar points states that the club has no need for it, which is accepted.



Westhill & Elrick
Community Council

APPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, 8TH SEPTEMBER 2022, AT HOLIDAY INN