

Community Council				
Name	Position	Present		
Audrey Findlay	Chairperson (Acting)	✓		
(vacant)	Deputy Chairperson	X		
Becky Ferguson	Secretary	✓		
David Ritchie	Treasurer	✓		
(vacant)	Minutes Secretary	X		
Mervyn Barr	Member	✓		
Alan Eastell	Member	✓		
David Ewen	Member	✓		
Bill Loudon	Member	✓		
Raymond Swaffield	Member	✓		
Kate Lumsden	Member	✓		
Nara Morrison	Member	✓		
Heather Brock	Member	X		
John Long	Member	✓		
Dawn Anderson	Member	✓		
Heather Coull	Member	X		
Cllr David Aitchison	Ward 13 Councillor	X		
Cllr Iris Walker	Ward 13 Councillor	✓		
Cllr Ron McKail	Ward 13 Councillor	X		
Cllr Alistair McKelvie	Ward 13 Councillor	X		

Members of Public/Invited Guests			
Heather Cook	John Thain	Barbara Thain	
Allan Thain	PC Steve Middleton	Aileen Swaffield	

	<u>Item</u>	Action/ Attention
1	Chairperson's welcome and opening remarks Audrey Findlay opened the meeting, welcoming everyone, including those visiting the meeting this evening.	
2	Apologies Cllr Aitchison, Cllr McKelvie, Cllr McKail, Heather B & Heather C	
3	Review and Approval of the Draft Minutes of Meeting 11/05/17 Proposed: Raymond Swaffield Seconded: Nara Morrison The minutes were approved by the meeting.	
4	Consultation on the Draft Scheme of Establishment of CCs This originally went before full Aberdeenshire Council in April, however was delayed due to issues being raised having to be relooked at. Following the GACCF meeting last night, it was explained that the document is to be a reference document. One issue which was raised at the Forum meeting was that of a National Election Date, which then felt very political, when CCs are apolitical bodies. This however is a national issue and will be fed back to the relevant government bodies. Other issues included setting a standard AGM date, the process of dissolution and increasing the minimum numbers of membership.	



	Improving Parking in Scotland Consultation	
	Raymond spent a great deal of time studying this consultation, and	
	presented a response which was circulated to members. David Ewen	
	added a comment by e-mail, which will be incorporated in our final	
	response. We may also include a photograph. Cllr Walker also asked for	
	councillors to receive a copy of this, and will also send us the response	
	from Aberdeenshire Council to the consultation. We will make it clear that	
	although it was written personally by Raymond, that WECC fully support	
	the document.	
5	Police Report	
	PC Steve Middleton presented the report, which was received late prior to the	
	meeting so will be circulated following the meeting. In addition to the report, Steve	
	explained that he is aware of the parking situation at Prospect Road, and this is	
	ongoing. The possibility of double yellow lines is being investigated. There is also a	
	Burger Van which is in very poor condition and it is unknown whether it has	Cllr Walker
	permission to be there or not. Cllr Walker will email Licensing to investigate.	Cili walkei
	On Gala Day there was an incident at the Broadstraik Inn where a Police Officer	
	was tripped up by another individual unrelated to a situation where he was in	
	pursuit of an individual. Unfortunately this Police Officer has broken his collarbone,	
	and has a long recovery time. The individual in question will now have a number of	
	charges against him, when he was unrelated to the incident.	
	onarges against him, when he was amounted to the moldent.	
	We will write to Police Scotland to express our appreciation for the continuity of	
	Steve attending our meetings, which has been a breath of fresh air in comparison	Becky
	to previous years.	Ferguson
6	Update on Gateway Art Project	
	Update on meeting with Sheila Waterhouse – The first funding application from the	
	Public Art fund has been approved, leaving us with a potential £34,000 to the	
	project. Landscape Services are also willing to contribute funds in the next	
	financial year. The entrance to Westhill along the A944 will also be landscaped. A	
	drawing for this was displayed at the Gala. Any landscaping around our project	
	could also be linked to this, creating continuity.	
	The signage relating to Westhill as the 'Sub Sea Capital' was discussed, especially	
	as one of the signs will be on the A944 in amongst the new landscaping. It was	
	also questioned whether the title was still appropriate giving the recent downturn.	
	Cllr Walker will investigate whether this sign could be removed, especially as the	
	other signs are still in place. It was noted that it may be more appropriate to raise	
	this once the landscaping project is underway.	
	Another meeting with Sheila Waterhouse will be held before the end of June.	
7	Update on Kingsford Stadium Proposal	
	A new folder of information has been received, with the additional information	
	requested by Aberdeen City Council. It is believed that this will not be decided	
	now until October at the earliest.	
	As a discretionary consultee, we will be informed of the pre-determination hearing	
	date, and will be able to request to speak at this.	
	The current deadline for comment is June 20th, however we will request an	
	extension on this date.	
	It was questioned whether we could ask AFC to clarify the main changes in the	
	additional information.	
	We will set another meeting date to look at the additional information, where we	
	can assess the information and inform our own response.	
8	Planning Watch	
	 APP/2017/1256 – Co-op Supermarket – Advertisement Consent for 	
	Erection of Signage – open for comment until 12th June – The Co-Op is	



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	moving their signage from under the canopy. We have no objections to this application.	
10	 this application. Events Westhill Gala feedback – Gala Day was a success, and brought a great number of people to the event on the day. We also displayed the Participatory Budgeting boards for Jill Sowden, which was well received and a number of people voted for their favourite projects. Unfortunately the rain did affect the day, and one of our banners has come apart, however hopefully it will be easily repaired. Thanks to everyone who came and helped throughout the day. Westhill in Bloom – This competition has now been launched, with the nomination forms in the Westhill Bulletin. We will advertise on the website and update the Facebook page from last year. Anyone can nominate individuals for the awards. It would be helpful if each member of WECC was willing to take a section of Westhill to look for gardens. A leaflet can be used to put through the door of those that are chosen. Kate will look into pulling together a leaflet. We will bring the judging forward by a couple of weeks compared to last year. We will have to find judges for this year. Kate & Iris will contact those from last year to confirm judges. We will also have to have the trophies returned from this year. Christmas Event – Although it is only June, it is time to look at the Christmas Event for 2017. An email was received from Rosemary Murray regarding the possibility of a brass band. Granite City Brass played at the Westhill Gala and were very good. Becky knows one person who plays for that band, and will get in touch with them. We also do not want to lose the input from the local churches and must communicate with them also. The date of December 9th was proposed. Mervyn will investigate hiring PA 	
11	ward 13 Councillors' Reports/Updates Cllr David Aitchison: No report received. Cllr Ron McKail: No report received. Cllr Iris Walker:	Mervyn Barr
	Out of School Care	
	Following the closure of Bridges Nursery at Lawsondale and the subsequent displacement of out of school care, Aberdeenshire Council has been supporting a new business linked to SensationALL to provide alternative places. A survey has recently been sent to the Westhill cluster schools to gauge demand.	
	Arnhall Moss	
	The Arnhall Advisory Group is to meet with the Environmental Planner from Aberdeenshire Council along with SEPA next week to discuss ongoing issues with the ponds.	
	RBS	
	We had hoped that a meeting with representatives of the three local CCs could be set up this week with RBS for further talks on alternative banking facilities following the planned closure of the Westhill Branch in October. I have gone back to RBS for alternative dates over the next few weeks which would suit.	
	Shopping Centre	
	Residents had raised concerns with me following the incident at the shopping centre back on 7 th April about both the response times of the Police and the safety of the car park layout. The Inspector from the Road Policing Division has now responded. From the time the call was received by Police to the time the unit at the	



locus sent back an update, just over 7 ½ minutes had passed. A further update was received just over 3 minutes after that to say that the ambulance had arrived at the scene. Thus, all in all, from the time the call was received by Police to the unit updating that the ambulance had arrived, 10 minutes, 52 seconds had passed. It has also been confirmed that the initial officer in attendance was in plain clothes so many onlookers may have not realised police were actually there promptly.

In relation to the layout and safety of the car park, this is a matter that the investigating team would have considered as part of their enquiry. Nothing of specific concern was found. From the Inspector's knowledge of the layout, "it is believed that the car park is very well engineered and especially when busy, polices itself by effectively 'forcing' motorists to slow down."

I have forwarded this update to Marc Mills for his information as this issue had been discussed when Audrey, Becky and I met with Marc recently.

Finally and thankfully, the Inspector can advise that the injured party continues to make steady progress with his recovery.

Cllr Alistair Mckelvie:

It's been a few weeks now since I was elected to serve our Community of Westhill & District. In joining the ranks of Aberdeenshire Cllrs, I have quickly discovered, this is no part time career move, particularly as I have been encouraged to accept the Vice Chair of the Audit Committee.

Following the recent activities of Cllr Walker, Cllr McKail & myself with regards to the RBS closure, I have made further contact with Marc Mills of MJ Mapp, in relation to his need to replace tenants of the current empty units in the town centre. He advises that he has appointed two letting agents to find new interested parties. I have made initial contact with both of the agents & await return calls imminently. In view of the outcry among our town & wider communities, on the RBS decision, we will be encouraging approaches to Financial Institutes to replace our Banking Facility. This might prove to be difficult, but it is important that we try to influence the Landlords approach.

The Westhill Gala day on the 3rd June was a resounding success, if the attendance was anything to go by, so we should congratulate the organisers, the volunteers, suppliers, bands, etc & of course the WECC stall which was the second best stall on the day.

12 Website Report & Communications Group

Our international reach... We've had visitors from 58 countries visit the website this year. Of the 16,839 views this year, 404 were from the USA, 139 Canada, 73 Spain, 41 Germany, France 36, India 22 and Australia 21. Our website is high in Google's ranking. If you search for "Westhill Elrick" it is the top return, above Westhill (Wikipedia) and the ASPC (property website). Events is proving one of our more popular pages, and visitors (a small number) are looking at the Minutes page. – David Ewen

At this point, Audrey explained that David will be moving from Westhill back into the City Centre within the next two weeks. This means he will no longer be a Westhill resident, however can be an associate member due to his specific skills and interests in Westhill. We hope to keep David involved as an associate member. This does create another position to be filled on our CC. We will be advertising in the next Bulletin and online for these spaces. Audrey thanked David for his hard work over the years, which was echoed by Mervyn.

Our communications group also need to meet again soon. This is to be arranged.

13 Treasurer's Report and Bulletin Updates Treasurer's Report:

The financial year-end is 30th June, so if anyone has expenses or reimbursements to claim please get them to me soon. If you get a cheque from me this month please bank it by 27th June.



Christmas Lights Repairs - 5 lights were repaired recently by Blachere Illumination. The repairs cost £1,375. This was higher than normal because 2 of the large Tesco roundabout lights needed their light strings completely replaced. – David Ritchie **Bulletin Report:** Printer delivered Summer Bulletin one day earlier than scheduled so that helped to ensure most residents got their copies around 2 weeks before Gala day. This issue includes details and nomination form for Westhill in Bloom competition. Deadline for Autumn issue articles is Friday 28th July. - David Ritchie 14 **Sub-group Reports** Litter: Our May Litter Pick took place despite dreadful weather. In two minds, as to whether to cancel, we were glad that we didn't, as several eager volunteers turned up. Our next Litter Pick will take place on 17th June. In the last two weeks, Two Brownie Packs and a Rainbow Pack have borrowed our kit to do evening litter picks. The 1st Brownies did their pick at Carnie Woods and Peregrine Road and collected a shameful 14 bags of rubbish, indicating the extent to which litter is still being dropped. Related to Litter Picking, Emma Williams, Environment Planner (south) Aberdeenshire Council, who organises the Arnhall Moss Advisory Group has arranged a meeting on Friday 16th June to meet at the tennis court car park at 11.30am. She says that David Carmichael from SEPA has kindly said he will aim to come and join us. I would propose to discuss the water quality issues first and then move on to our usual walk around to have a look at any other issues and allow those just interested in the water quality to leave early. Anyone interested can attend. - Aileen & Raymond Swaffield **Bulbs & Baskets:** There has been an email circulated to Rotary to organise the planting of the baskets and tubs to be installed in the next couple of weeks. Following the meeting, John Imrie added that the baskets had been completed. He noted special thanks to Westhill Rotary Club, in particular to John Fraser for transport facilities and to Grant and Dot Williamson for storing the baskets, and allowing their polytunnel to be used to plant the 62 baskets. Another large thankyou to Jonathon Hammond who also helped planting the baskets. Art Project: The Scarecrow Trail was very successful, with 23 scarecrows and at least 200 people doing the trail. These were displayed at the Gala, as were the portraits of Westhill. There will be events organised throughout the summer, including the chalk drawing on the pavements at the Shopping Centre. - Kate Lumsden 15 Correspondence Rerouting of A96 - 'Save Bennachie' group - We received an email through the website from the Save Bennachie group, where the proposed rerouting of the A96 will be a lot closer to Bennachie. The group are looking to build an 'alliance' of community and interest groups to raise awareness of the potential impact. Due to our agenda for July being filled, followed by a break in August, we do not have a time slot available, Becky however we will respond that we would appreciate some more information Ferguson digitally that we can then circulate and publicise online. Event for the year of Young People 2018 – This is a funding opportunity circulated to us through Leslie Murison, highlighting the option for grants available to run an event.



MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON $$8^{\text{TH}}$$ JUNE 2017 IN THE HOLIDAY INN, WESTHILL

16	AOCB	
16	Stagecoach have revised their services, changing many of the times. Barbara Thain raised concerns over the reduction of service of the X18, now the 218, which runs to ARI. This affects many people who work at the Hospital, including Barbara's son. The suggestion made to him has been to get a bus into the city centre and then a different bus back out to the hospital, which would result in a much longer journey to work. There has also been some confusion over whether these buses are allowed to stop at certain stops, where customer services have not necessarily been helpful. A number of months ago we had a representative from Stagecoach, Graeme Leslie, attend our meeting to address issues raised at the Bus Forum. Cllr Walker offered to communicate these concerns to Stagecoach, looking for a response. We will invite him back to the July meeting. It is hopeful that if there were enough people requiring the service then we could encourage Stagecoach to run this service. It is believed that there is a Green Travel Co-ordinator for the Foresterhill site of NHS Grampian, who may be able to provide evidence of a number of people in the same situation. Overall, we must challenge how Stagecoach conduct their consultations, as many voices do not seem to be heard. It was noted that there are farm vehicles using a water hydrant on Westhill Road to fill their large vehicles, almost every day now. It is unknown who this is, or if they have permission to do so. Cllr Walker will investigate. 20for20 Anchor project − unfortunately Westhill is no longer being considered as a location for this project, due to the unsuitability of a specific location for the anchor. Invitation by Hampton by Hilton − Audrey has been invited to our new hotel for an official launch on June 22 nd , and will attend on behalf of WECC. The Garioch Partnership Board − As of Monday, Audrey is stepping down from The Garioch Partnership board, following a number of years of being involved. If another member of WECC was willing to attend TGP that would be	Cllr Walker Cllr Walker
	Date of next meeting Thursday 13th July 2017, 7pm, Holiday Inn, Wootbill Drive	
	Thursday 13 th July 2017, 7pm, Holiday Inn, Westhill Drive.	

Becky Ferguson Secretary



		ADVERTISING PRE-PAID FOR REMAINING 2017	MAKING IT REAL	LITTER CAMPAIGN	
	GENERAL FUNDS	ISSUES	FUND	FUND	TOTAL
FUNDS IN BANK AT 11/5/17	21264.85	15869.00	3972.62	763.21	41869.68
Receipts in period 12/5/17 to 8/6/17					
Bulletin advertisers-Summer issue	495.00			`	495.00
Transfer of summer pre-paid adverts to General Funds	5453.00	-5453.00			
Payments in period 12/5/17 to 8/6/17					
Donations to Community Groups (see list in May minutes)	-1900.00				-1900.00
M. Barr - items for Gala day 2016	-40.38				-40.38
Sundry admin Expenses	-32.85				-32.85
XIC- Bulletin summer issue printing	-6077.50				-6077.50
Summer Bulletin honorariums	-400.00				-400.00
Bulletin sundries & postages	-101.93				-101.93
Blachere Illumination - Xmas lights repairs	-1374.51				-1374.51
Aberdeenshire Council -Old School House hires for Art Project	-11.17				-11.17
Meetings room hires Feb to June	-160.00				-160.00
Payment to Fara West for photographing our events and making up new banner	-100.00				-100.00
Ray Swaffield- reimburse refuse bags for litter-picks				-11.97	-11.97
Hanging baskets sundries	-146.74				-146.74
Eyecandy Graphics- re-skinning pull-up banner	-66.00				-66.00
FUNDS IN BANK AT 8/6/17	16801.77	10416.00	3972.62	751.24	31941.63
Funds in bank include £18,361.35 in Santander Business bond at 0.75% interest					