

Community Council					
Name	Position	Present			
Chika Edeh	Chairperson	✓			
Stuart Bews	Vice Chairperson	✓			
David Ritchie	Secretary	✓			
Dawn Anderson	Treasurer	✓			
Daniel Hay	Minutes Secretary	✓			
Heather Coull	Member	×			
Raymond Swaffield	Member	✓			
Bill Loudon	Member	✓			
John Thornton	Member	✓			
Alan Eastell	Member	×			
John Long	Member	×			
Diane Priestley	Member	✓			
Ken Stewart	Member	×			
Kate Lumsden	Member	✓			
Mandy Duggan	Member	✓			
Brian Colvin	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/Invited Guests				
Heather Brock	Heather Cook	Clare Davidson		
Aileen Swaffield	Linda Lawson	Diane Reid		
Audrey Findlay	Charlie Love	Mr & Mrs Taylor		
Heather Grant	Donald Davidson			

<u>ltem</u>

1 Chairperson's welcome and opening remarks

Chair Chika Edeh thanked community councillors for all their hard work over the last few months and particularly thanked the previous office bearers for all their efforts and asked all members for their continued support.

Chika advised that, after speaking to them, he wished to appoint David Ritchie as secretary and Dawn Anderson as Treasurer. Members approved these appointments.

2 Apologies

Heather Coull, Ken Stewart, Cllr Aitchison and Cllr McKelvie

3 Review and Approval of the draft Minutes of Meetings

Due to the break from Community Council meetings, there were four meetings requiring approval. David Ritchie advised that 3 of these meetings were closed meetings, attended only by Community Councillors. The Area Office had advised that these minutes still have to be in the public domain but should not reveal the names of members being discussed and should only record who was there, purpose of the meeting and decisions made. The revised draft minutes sent out last week were done on that basis

Thursday 14th June- Closed meeting to discuss outcome of Stage 2 Complaints hearings held in May - Proposed by Bill Loudon, Seconded by Raymond Swaffield

Thursday 12th July- Public meeting to elect new chair and vice-chair- Proposed by Bill Loudon, Seconded by Brian Colvin



Thursday 12th July- Closed meeting to discuss resolution of Complaints Proposed by Brian Colvin, Seconded by Raymond Swaffield

Thursday 2nd August- Closed meeting to discuss Secretary position- Proposed by Bill Loudon, Seconded by Brian Colvin

4 Matters Arising from May Meeting

Ashdale Hall Management Committee

David Ritchie advised that members of the Westhill Rotary club have taken on the management roles. They are also now doing the upkeep of the Ashdale Hall garden area,

Westhill Gala

The Westhill Gala took place on Saturday 9th June, WECC had a stall at this which included a display of the bids for sites from developers who wish to build new housing developments in Westhill area, and also our artist for the Westhill Gateway Project Holger Lonze was in attendance with a model of the sculpture which will mark 50 years of Westhill. Overall, it was a successful day.

Year of Young People- Young Heroes and Young Citizens Awards

David Ritchie reminded members of the two different awards for young people in Westhill. Anyone who would like to nominate someone who fits the criteria should download and fill in a nomination form. The Young Citizens award is being run by the Westhill Rotary Club and the Young Heroes Award is being run by Skene Parish Church.

Strategic and Local Development Plan Reviews

The bids for sites for the LDP are being reviewed. A Main Issues Report will be issued early in the new year and a public consultation period will follow that.

5 Police Report

There was no Police Report submitted this month. PC Steve Middleton may be on holiday but a report should still have been submitted by the office.

PC Steve Middleton will be retiring in March next year.

6 Update on Kingsford Stadium Development

Stuart Bews advised of the Kingsford working group meeting at Lawsondale Pavilion which took place on Wednesday 27th June. Information was provided about what phase 1 of the development would consist of and that to begin with, the pavilion will have restricted public access until the other facilities are built. Once phase 2 is built, this will free up more space in the pavilion for the public as first team training facilities are to be included within phase 2. However, until phase two is completed, a proportion of the pavilion will require exclusive use by AFC.

Stuart Bews advised that no further questions will be asked about phase 2 until after any judicial review as the outstanding planning conditions relate only to phase 2.

Heather Cook enquired about how much feedback we have had about the development, Stuart Bews replied stating that the Westhill Sports Hub are the main representors for local sports clubs, with WECC taking a wider Community representation.

David Richie advised that we are advertising this more in the Bulletin.

7 Planning Watch

John Long was absent from the meeting but had advised by email on 4th September that there had only been one small planning application in last few weeks.

David Ritchie advised that he is no longer sending out the weekly list to members as John Long usually covers it in his planning report.

Audrey Findlay asked David Ritchie if these reports still come in, David stated that they do come in but he does not feel it necessary to share these due to John Long covering the local applications in his reports.

Audrey Findlay raised a concern over how the planning applications are dealt with within WECC, however David Ritchie advised that the applications will continue to be closely monitored.



Cllr Iris Walker advised that the double garage application in Hilltop Gardens which was previously rejected due to the land being deemed to be public open space has been reconsidered on appeal and has been accepted.

Charlie Love asked about potential building of businesses on the corridor between Westhill and Kingswells due to the Stadium development. Concerns were raised about the traffic and the diverted trade from Westhill and therefore the direct impact it will have on Westhill.

The chair assured everyone that residents are the main concern of WECC and that the Community Council will be there to help where they can.

Stuart Bews advised that as these developments will be in Aberdeen City WECC will not be a statutory consultee. Audrey Findlay suggested that as a Community Council, we should be involved as it is part of the strategic plan, and we should work closely with Kingswells Community Council as it is a big deal and will impact both towns.

Brian Colvin asked if we should be in consultation about everything on that corridor as it is green belt. Brian also raised concern about a potential increase in traffic accidents due to the development and states that we must get involved. The Chair recognises this and stated that he will look into it.

•

8 Ward 13 Councillors' Reports

CIIr Iris Walker

Cllr. Iris Walker has repeated her report for the June meeting that was cancelled, then added one for the June –Sept period.

May-mid-June 2018

Crombie Primary

The new Head Teacher, Adele Dickson starts in August.

Rock Challenge

You will recall that Westhill Academy won the local round of the Rock Challenge with their depiction of Piper Alpha and what life was like for the survivors with the Men Shed making some of their props. I look forward to supporting Westhill Academy as well as two other Aberdeenshire schools – Turriff and Inverurie in the final at Caird Hall, Dundee tomorrow night (Friday 15th June).

Inspiring Aberdeenshire

Another great event tomorrow night (Friday 15th June) celebrating the people of Aberdeenshire and held in Haddo House. SensationALL is one of the finalists, for the second time!

Private Nursery planning application approved

A change of use from office to nursery at Unit 6B Peregrine Road, Westhill, was approved at last Garioch Area Committee.

Hilltop lampposts

Also at the last Garioch Area Committee, it was agreed to fund the painting of up to 51 columns in the Hilltop area at a cost of £3,825, from the Area Committee Strategic Budget.

Community Planning

Jill Sowden, Community Planning Officer for Garioch has now left Aberdeenshire Council to take up a similar post in Moray. Caroline Smith from Banff & Buchan area will be replacing Jill in Garioch.

Mid-June-September 2018

Westhill Academy

There were some great end of term events before the summer holidays including an "Alice in Wonderland" performance from the S2 drama group. Later the same week, Westhill won a number of prizes at the Caird Hall, Dundee when performing in the final of the Rock Challenge. It was great to see some of the cast from "Alice" also on stage in Dundee!

Since the summer break, feedback about the new uniform has been very positive with Mrs Reid, HT reporting a number of residents who normally have no contact with the school getting in touch complimenting the pupils on their uniform. At the Parent Council meeting last week, it was reported that three of the stairwells have had windows replaced so far and the main building should be started in October holidays with 4 classrooms being done at a time. The long awaited toilet upgrades are in progress. Vincent Docherty, Head of Education advised the parent council that there is no prospect of a new build Academy in Westhill at this time.



Local Development Plan

The Garioch Area Committee along with two reps from WECC, Diane Priestly and John Imrie held closed talks with the policy planners about the next LDP. This was a very useful conversation – no decisions were made – and the next stage will be the MIR consultations which are delayed to early 2019.

Ashdale Hall

There was a good turnout to the AGM on 29th August where a new hall committee was formed. Mike Tolstyko takes up position as Chair to lead the new group.

Defibrillators

I attended a meeting to discuss public access defibrillators back in July. Representatives from the community as well as Westdyke Leisure Centre, Rotary, St John's and Round Table have, in a very short space of time, raised funding for a number of PADs. The first will be installed at the shopping centre on Friday. Westdyke Leisure Centre's PAD is progressing at rapid pace too. Many residents and local groups have contributed to the funding and this is a superb example of everyone working together for the community.

Arnhall Moss

Elrick Primary School, Aberdeenshire Ranger Service and international energy company TAQA, which has its UK office based in Westhill, have been developing plans to improve Arnhall Moss. The improvement project kicked off with a couple of launch events at the end of August to give both school pupils and TAQA employees a chance to familiarise themselves with the area.

The first event was an evening bat watch for some Elrick Primary School families, led by the Ranger Service and two surveyors from the North East Bat Group. I was surprised how busy the area was at dusk with dog walkers and of course bat-watchers. It was a very informative evening and we were able to use bat detectors and monitoring recorders and learned all about bat habitats, roosts, as well as legislation relating to bats.

The second event was a litter-pick and removal of birch seedlings by TAQA employees and school pupils.

Following these events, pupils will begin to develop a discovery trail for visitors to follow through the moss, allowing them to look for some of the trees, plants, animals and minibeasts living in this area. Once developed, the trail will be available to any family, community or school groups wishing to explore the area. These events and the development of the trail are financially supported by TAQA. Thanks to the continued communication from Ken Stewart who is keeping an eye out on the water condition of the ponds and corresponding with the Environmental Planner.

CC Forum -

Iris advised that she thought the tone of the Planning Enforcement presentation was not appropriate as the presenters placed too much emphasis on cost of conducting enforcements, instead of encouraging public to report breaches of planning conditions.

RBS

Planning permission has now been granted for a new ATM near M&S. This will replace the ATM at the old branch. I have written to both RBS and the owners of the shopping centre asking for dates for when this work will be completed as I understand RBS will not give up the lease until the old ATM is removed after which time a new tenant would be free to move in. As it is coming up to a year since the branch closed, it would be good to see new life in that unit again.

Waiting restriction review

There is likely to be a review in the Spring of waiting restrictions in the industrial areas of Westhill to include Peregrine Road, Prospect Road, Enterprise Drive and Endeavour Drive.

New crossing Old Skene Road

Progress with this project continues to be frustratingly slow despite the location being surveyed, criteria met for a new crossing, the location consulted on with parent council and funding being agreed by Garioch Area Committee.

Crombie Primary School

Crombie are looking for a volunteer chess enthusiast to help continue their lunch time chess club. Iris Walker.

Chika asked Cllr Walker if the stream at Arnhall moss is going to be drained, Cllr Walker stated that it has not been drained yet, however it is being constantly monitored.



CIIr Ron McKail Arnhall Drive

Car parking at entrance to Arnhall Drive is causing a safety concern. Affects other driver's sight of oncoming traffic. Could be linked to a park and ride scenario. Police advised and also council roads officers. Solution suggested is short section of `double yellows. Arnhall is not an isolated concern. Police report on similar situations in other streets nearby.

Problem is that if vehicles are parked legally then no action apparently can be taken. However parking close to a junction causing an obstruction is an offence. And if this is the case Police Scotland should be contacted Dial 101 (and get an incident number).

Blackhill Court Car park surface.

Was asked by one of the residents to follow up on the car park (surface/parking lines disabled signage). This has now been sorted

Westhill Academy Alarm Systems.

Ongoing noise nuisance from the Academy during the holiday. The `silent alarm` has been emitting a high pitched whine which has been annoying to householders living within range of the noise. Reported and sorted.

Mason Lodge

Concerns from residents at Mason Lodge regarding vehicles exceeding the statutory speed limit. Police carried out a speed check. Confirmed this is the case. Shared this information with Council officers however their response is they have erected count down signage and motorists are aware of the speed limits. Suggestions that these count down signage could be erected further west has been raised with the Roads Safety Unit and awaiting a response.

Ashdale Hall

Thanks to WECC for the publicity they provided for the lack of falling membership for the Hall Committee. Has had a positive outcome membership wise thanks to Council officers and to Adrian who were also involved in raising the profile of Committee membership. What they did worked.

My interest is also with supporting the Farmers Market on the 1st Saturday of each month. With Adrian's agreement I erected three banners prior to the September market, two of them outwith the shire boundary. This last occasion there was more publicity. The market provides a good service for the community. Footfall needs to increase to ensure viability and sustainability. Can the Community Council offer advice on how this can be increased. Facing a use it or lose it situation.

Pass Plus Donation WECC

Thanks to WECC for their generous donation of £1000 for allowing the GNMCSG to provide individual grants of £100 per person to YPs who reside in the Westhill area.

Meadowlands Maintenance of Public Areas by Factoring Service

Considerable concern regarding the lack of maintenance on the Meadowlands estate. A situation aggravated with the selling on of the public areas from one owner to another. Historically the original factor was Greenbelt. They sold to Rubislaw Estates and most recently RE have sold on to another factor. Unfortunately the contract to maintain the public areas as in grass cutting for example is resulting in a great deal of frustration for the residents. As this is a private matter the Council are unable to get involved.

Carnie Woods

Concerns regarding lorries parking on road adjacent to Carnie Woods entrance. This is being followed up. However if vehicles are parking legally the council and the police have limited authority to move the vehicles on.



Events Attended

Recent engagements Hosted by Grampian Chamber of Commerce at Aberdeen v Rangers at AFC (Council Leader)

Oil and Gas Safety Awards at the AECC (Leader)

Indian Independence Day (at the Ashdale Hall) (Deputy Provost)

Oil and Gas UK Economic Report 2018 at the AECC (Deputy Provost)

Reception on HMS Diamond >> Aberdeen Harbour (Deputy Provost)

Along with veterans group leaders and council officers met at the British Legion in Banchory with Maurice Corry (MSP) Chairman of the SG Cross Party Veterans Group. Agenda item focussed on the issues and concerns of Veterans in our council area.

CIIr Alistair McKelvie- No Report Submitted CIIr David Aitchison- No Report Submitted

9 Treasurers Report-

The savings bond we had with Santander that held most of the surplus funds was not renewed in August as part of these funds will be required for our contribution to the Gateway Sculpture. In May we agreed to the request from Cllr McKail for WECC to sponsor grants of £100 each to young people in Westhill wishing to do the Pass Plus driving course. Amount agreed was £1000 and this will be passed to the Garioch & North Marr Community Safety Group when our cheque signatories are updated.

The new cheque signatories are Dawn Anderson (Treasurer), Chika Edeh (Chair) and David Ritchie (Secretary)

David Ritchie

Bulletin Update-

Deadline for winter issue is 2nd November, but 6th November will be ok for Councillor reports. David Ritchie

Cllr McKail asked if the Bulletin will ever go full colour, David Ritchie advised that he will look into this and make enquiries to the printer of the extra costs; this would also allow the colour adverts to be spread throughout the magazine.

The Chair expressed his desire to get a committee together for the Bulletin, and he would like to see younger people getting involved with the magazine. Cllr Walker advised that the Head Teacher of Westhill Academy would like to get pupils involved with this. David Ritchie pointed out that Westhill Academy may have their own newsletter and that their concentration may be on that rather the Bulletin.

Chika advised that he would like WECC to promote the Westhill Bulletin more.

10 Sub-group reports Litter Group Report

Our Litter Picks in May, June, July and August went ahead as normal. We had varying numbers of volunteers and a few new volunteers. In the period, the Kier Scout Group and the Community Church Disabled Group borrowed our kit to carry out their own Litter Picks. After our last pick one of our group reported finding numerous blue plastic disposable gloves in an area near Tesco Filling Station. The suspicion is that they had been dropped by customers re-fuelling their vehicle. I have since contacted the Manager of Tesco to see if anything can be done to address this problem but have been told he is off on holiday, so no response so far.

The next Litter Pick will take place on 15th of September.

Raymond Swaffield



GATEWAY ART PROJECT

We have hit a few setbacks with the project. One of the main problems has been the refusal of permission to attach the sculpture lights to the nearest lamppost due to a change in policy at Aberdeenshire Council. Although the 5 LED lights would only cost £20 a year to run, the council want us to install a new electric supply at a cost of over £5000. Scott Reid from FES has offered to come up with a solution, which could be solar, but it has meant we can't proceed with the mound and foundations until this is sorted out. It looks like we will need to postpone our unveiling until the Spring.

The quote for landscaping etc. has come back at over £15000. Stuart Bews has kindly helped with a lottery application which we should hear about shortly. Our letter to oil companies asking for help failed to get any response. Landscape services say there is £15000 for Westhill but £13500 is for the other side of the road. They are willing to seed or turf the mound. I think some more fundraising could be needed!

Kate Lumsden, team leader.

Audrey Findlay stated the importance of the sculpture and asked the community council for more financial help from them to ensure that the project is completed. Chika Edeh (Chair) asks to be informed about the result of lottery application and will then put this to the community council to consider further donations to the project. Brian Colvin enquires whether this will be voted on, Chika stated that he will look into this after the lottery application has been decided. Donald Davidson raises concerns that other groups within Westhill will not be considered due to the gateway project, however, Chika states that this will not be the case, every application will be looked at and considered however the Gateway project is a Community Council Project and will therefore be somewhat prioritised as it is well underway.

WESTHILL ART PROJECT

During the summer we had a successful Scarecrow Trail as part of Gala week and had a few days of chalk drawing on the pavement at shopping centre Kate Lumsden

HANGING BASKETS

The plants for the hanging baskets were collected from Kemnay at end of May by John Imrie and David Ritchie. The baskets were planted up by John Imrie and Jonathan Hammond and were hung up by Westhill Rotary Club and John Imrie. Watering of the baskets is being undertaken twice a week by Perfect shine, Window Cleaning Services, in return for a free advert in Bulletin. The baskets will be taken down by Rotary on 24th September.

Grateful thanks to Westhill Rotary Club and in particular Russell Gray, chief organiser, Grant and Dot Williamson for the use of their polytunnel and hanging the baskets, and John Fraser for the use of vans to transport the hanging baskets to site. Special thanks to Jonathan Hammond for assisting me in planting up all 62 hanging baskets.

John Imrie

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

The updated regulations from Aberdeenshire Council means that we are restricted to lights that weigh under 10kg and wattage of less than 50 watts. That rules out 11 of the 43 lights we put up, but they are allowing us to use them for last time this year as the new rules were late in being put into force. In 2019 I will see if we can trade in the 11 large lights as part-payment towards new smaller lights. The Pat Testing of most of the lights was done on 3rd September by two qualified Men Shed guys. Due to holidays, that work will only be completed on 1st October, which is the date the Council need to have all the forms back by before they grant permission.

From initial discussions with Scott Reid of FES, they are willing again to help us put up the street festive lights around mid-November and the lights on Christmas tree in shopping centre early December.

Unfortunately, the Council is not allowing us now to put fairy lights on the growing fir tree on raised bed on Westhill Drive. There is an electrics box there that was installed by the Council when raised bed was created some 10 years ago and we used to bring in a large Christmas tree there before we



decided to put it in Shopping Centre 4 years ago. The electrics box is now 'non-compliant', so I will need to investigate what would be required to be done to it to make it compliant.

David Ritchie

11 Correspondence

David Ritchie advised that details of the Democracy Matters event at Old School on 3rd October, has been circulated to members.

The Community Council networking event will be held on Saturday 15th September at Woodhill House. Chika, David & Diane are attending

Chika talked about the training event which was held at Gordon House in August and reminded members that there is e-learning training programmes which CC members have access to. David Ritchie mentioned the CC Forum which was held on 5th September and included a presentation on Planning Enforcement

Raymond Swaffield raised concerns about Zurich Insurance, asking if the litter picking group is covered by it. David Ritchie assured Raymond that despite it not being specified on the policy, he believes that all sub group activities are included. When it comes to the renewal next year, David will clarify this with them.

12 AOCB

Diane Reid expressed her concerns about the challenge of involving young people in the Bulletin, she believes that the only way to appeal to them is to digitalise the bulletin as well as issuing paper copies. Charlie Love suggested that the Community Council reviews the print size and format in order to appeal to readers more.

David Ritchie advised that a small group will be required for the Christmas Event in December at the Westhill Shopping Centre, this will be discussed more at next month's meeting. Audrey Findlay stressed the importance of this event and suggested that we have a bigger group of helpers to ensure that the event goes well.

Chika asked for further involvement from the whole community council and desired to set up more sub groups for different tasks. Charlie Love suggested that a small group is set up to look at strategic plans, this will be looked into.

Donald Davidson acknowledged the positivity coming from the new Chair, Chika Edeh, he then suggested that we approach Westhill Academy for a representative for the Westhill Bulletin as this is the year of young people, we should get them more involved with this.

Donald Davidson raised concern of lack of interaction on social media about Kingsford Stadium, he is worried that it is not well advertised and therefore asks the Community Council to have more involvement by posting on our website. David Ritchie advised that we already have this on our website, however it can be looked into.

Audrey Findlay suggested that we recruit a representative from Westhill Academy, the rep could help to solve issues and promote campaigns such as 'keeping Westhill tidy' and can also have an area set aside in the Westhill Bulletin. Chika advised that he will look into this.

Chika drew the meeting to a close at 10.15

<u>Date of next meeting</u> 11th October 2018, Holiday Inn, Westhill, at 7pm

Daniel Hay Minutes Secretary



TREASURER FINANCIAL REPORT (Receipts & Payments between the May & September meetings)	GENERAL FUNDS	ADVERTISING PRE-PAID FOR 2018	LITTER CAMPAIGN FUND	TOTAL
FUNDS IN BANK AT 10/05/18	21011.96	14464.00	739.27	36215.23
Receipts in period 11/05/18 to 13/09/18				
Grant from Aberdeenshire Council re Gateway Sculpture	13700.00			13700.00
Bulletin advertisers-Summer issue	4676.48		`	4676.48
Bulletin advertisers-Autumn issue	2015.48			2015.48
Transfer of summer issue pre-paid adverts to General Funds	4821.00	-4821.00		0.00
Bank interest (incl Santander bond interest)	94.94			94.94
Scaffold hires & scarecrow trail donations	135.42			135.42
Payments in period 11/05/18 to 13/09/18				
Sundry admin Expenses	-35.00			-35.00
Meetings room hires	-60.00			-60.00
XIC- Bulletin summer issue printing	-6077.50			-6077.50
Summer Bulletin honorarium	-450.00			-450.00
Bulletin sundries & postages	-51.98			-51.98
Honorarium to Minutes Secretary for April to June	-150.00			-150.00
Honorarium to Secretary for April to June	-400.00			-400.00
WordPress - annual premium for WECC website	-85.00			-85.00
Hanging baskets sundries	-174.20			-174.20
Gateway Art Project -2nd instalment payment to Holger Lonze	-14000.00			-14000.00
FUNDS IN BANK AT 13/09/18	24971.60	9643.00	739.27	35353.87