

## APPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, 10TH NOVEMBER 2022, AT HOLIDAY INN

Community Council		
Name	Position	Present
Mervyn Barr	Chair	✓
Malcolm Collie	Member	✓
Heather Cook	Member	✓
Donald Davidson	Member	✓
David Dent	Associate Member	✗
Becky Ferguson	Vice-Chair	✗
Audrey Findlay	Member	✓
Ben Horsburgh	Associate Member	✓ via zoom
Kate Lumsden	Member	✓
Elaine Manley	Member	✓
Rachid Meghezzi	Member	✓
William Munro	Vice-Chair	✓
Gordon Prentice	Treasurer	✓
Diane Priestley	Member	✓
David Ritchie	Secretary	✓
Ken Stewart	Member	✗
Raymond Swaffield	Member	✓
Tim Yeomans	Member	✗
CLlr Iris Walker	Ward 13 Councillor	✓
CLlr Ron McKail	Ward 13 Councillor	✓
CLlr Craig Miller	Ward 13 Councillor	✓ via zoom
CLlr Fatima Joji	Ward 13 Councillor	✓ via zoom for 1 <sup>st</sup> ½ hr

**Members of Public:** Amanda Thomson, Freda Imrie, Ian McCombie (Rotary)

<b>1</b>	<p><b><u>Welcome and opening remarks</u></b></p> <p>Chair Mervyn Barr welcomed everyone. Permission was given for meeting to be recorded</p> <p>Amanda Thomson introduced herself. She is interested in our Environment and Paths projects.</p>
<b>2</b>	<p><b><u>Apologies and Declarations of Interest</u></b></p> <p>Apologies received from Ken Stewart, Tim Yeomans, CLlr McKail, David Dent, Becky Ferguson</p>
<b>3</b>	<p><b><u>Approval of Minutes of Meeting 13th October 2022</u></b></p> <p>Minutes were approved (only change is to show Becky as present, not via zoom). Proposed Heather, seconded Raymond</p>
<b>4</b>	<p><b><u>Co-option of Rachid Meghezzi</u></b></p> <p>Rachid gave a brief resume of why he wants to join WECC. He has been helping a lot this year with the plants etc. and has helped for a few years with the Christmas lights.</p> <p>Rachid's co-option was proposed by Audrey seconded by Kate. There was no objections so Rachid is co-opted on to WECC.</p>
<b>5</b>	<p><b><u>Shopping Centre Update- Centre Manager Ben Horsburgh –</u></b></p> <p><b>Car Park Charges-</b> there has been a glitch recently in the ANPR charging system. It had sent out around 500 tickets in error. The tickets have been cancelled and apology letters sent out. The system has been turned off while it is being investigated. Ben is hoping that the system can be removed permanently. It is recognised that</p>

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	people may then start to use the car park as a park&ride again.
6	<p><b><u>Christmas Event 3<sup>rd</sup> December</u></b></p> <p>The sub-group is meeting weekly, chaired by Heather. Plans are going well. The PTAs are not participating now. Ben is arranging two trees. The one at the boar sculpture will now be a cut one to go in the hole that was made last year, not a planted one that he was originally going to do. The tree at quadrangle will come with a base. New coloured lights will be bought for this tree. Santa's grotto will be on a stage under the canopy. Granite City Brass band will perform. Ben is hiring a sound system.</p> <p>The street lights will be going up next week. David will put out request for helpers in the Greenfingers Whats App group.</p>
7	<p><b><u>Matters Arising/ Actions Update</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. File Share Options</b> (Malcolm) – no further progress since last meeting</li> <li><b>2. Larg/Broadstraik Park</b> (Malcolm) – no further progress since last meeting</li> <li><b>3. Safety barriers on path to Kirkton of Skene-</b> the bush at foot of Hill of Keir Rd has been cut back, so that has improved visibility. Triangular warning signs will be put up there</li> <li><b>4. Academy Outreach-</b> Meeting with Malcolm Mcmillan planned for next Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> November. Malcolm has been asked to provide a proforma of what would be expected of people offering to talk to pupils about their work experiences.</li> <li><b>5. Transparency on Council Plans-</b> Iris advised that after the budget has been set around March the Garioch Area Committee minutes includes an outline of what depts. like Landscape Services are planning to do, but no timelines for this work. At next office-bearer meeting Mervyn will seek to prepare a list of the projects that have been discussed with Council officers but have not progressed in the last year and this will be submitted to Ann Overton.</li> </ol>
8	<p><b><u>Police Report</u></b> (see appendix)</p> <p>The Police report for October has been circulated. Nothing in it of major concern.</p> <p>We can't tell from the report if things like the bike theft at shopping centre and youth disturbances at Community Church are included. David will contact the report compiler to check.</p>
9	<p><b><u>Correspondence</u></b></p> <p><b>Review of correspondence log for last 4 weeks.</b> (circulated)</p> <p>Re the Boundary Commission for Scotland's consultation on its Revised Proposals of UK Parliament constituencies, Cllr Miller outlined the background to it and confirmed that there is no changes proposed for West Aberdeenshire &amp; Kincardine, which Westhill sits in.</p>
10	<p><b><u>Ward 13 Councillors updates</u></b></p> <p><b>Cllr Mckail</b></p> <p>Porter Pharmacies are going to be taking over the 2 Lloyds pharmacies.</p> <p>Meadowlands- the public areas were originally owned and maintained by Greenbelt but these small pockets of land have been sold on a few times. The current owners SIPP cut the grass recently but are saying they have no obligation to maintain the public areas (for more detail see Ron's article on page 11 of winter Bulletin).</p> <p><b>Cllr Walker</b> (submitted report as below but this had not been circulated)</p> <p><b>Outdoor Access Officer</b></p> <p>A new full time Outdoor Access Officer, Peter Coldwell, will take up his post on 28<sup>th</sup> November. He will cover</p>

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	<p>the South area (Garioch, Kincardine &amp; Mearns &amp; part of Marr). His initial priority will be to deal with the backlog of access cases then provide more support to community path groups. Any new access issues should be sent to <a href="mailto:outdoor.access@aberdeenshire.gov.uk">outdoor.access@aberdeenshire.gov.uk</a></p> <p><b>Garioch Area Committee Decisions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Change of use from offices to gym in Arnhall Business Park (APP/2022/1574) was unanimously approved.</li> <li>• Household Recycling Centres – as previously reported, some other sites had opted to trial a hybrid system with open access a couple of days a week. Westhill and Inverurie are two of the busiest sites and after much discussion at the last GAC, it was decided that the three HRCs in Garioch (Westhill, Inverurie and Insch) would remain on a booking system.</li> </ul> <p>Only a handful of Westhill residents are still against the booking system and it's not that their voices don't count but, most are happy. The system seemed to affect rural constituents more in the beginning. One constituent who was most against it in the early days actually now admits that he has changed his recycling habits and now thinks more about how he disposes of items so it is all about thinking about what we use and how we dispose of it.</p> <p>The system has really improved since the beginning with ease of booking, trailer size etc. and I know there are more improvements planned in terms of details being auto filled etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Pavement Parking- As</b> discussed at last meeting – due to be introduced in 2024.</li> <li>• <b>Skene Medical Group Concerns</b></li> </ul> <p>Having received a number of calls and emails regarding access to GP services, I wrote to Skene Medical Group and received a comprehensive response from the partners. Residents had raised issues about the 2 week wait for an appointment, the telephone system and access to some specific services. The responses are below:</p> <p>"Since we switched off eConsult, we have been working on a pre-bookable hybrid telephone and face to face appointment system. Patients have been able to choose which doctor they see and obtain an appointment within 2 weeks throughout. At the time of writing this there are a number of nurse practitioner appointment within 2 working days and GP appointments within 4 working days. There may be a longer wait at times because of holidays/sickness or if a patient is requesting a specific GP. More urgent matters can, and are dealt with by the Duty team on a daily basis."</p> <p><b><u>CLlr Miller</u></b></p> <p>Blackhills Court residents had not been allowed to use food waste caddies, but they are now.</p>
	<p><b><u>Coffee Break-</u></b> Mervyn &amp; David were presented with a large cake to mark their upcoming 70<sup>th</sup> birthdays. Rachid gave a brief resume of their involvement in WECC</p>
11	<p><b><u>Environmental Group Update</u></b></p> <p>Report from Raymond has been circulated, as below in italics:</p> <p><i>Despite very adverse weather, a good group turned out for our previous Litter Pick. Our first Pick in November is currently being advertised. I will include a copy of the detailed "Role of the Litter Pick Organiser" in the reminder</i></p>

	<p><i>email sent to volunteers. This may supply a bit more information to anyone who may be considering taking on the responsibility, as I have had no firm offers as yet.</i></p> <p>No takers for the organiser role yet, still an option to have a rota for this. Gordon indicated that there is potentially two roles- one is things like arranging the Picks, reminding the volunteers, Bulletin article. Other role is managing the Pick on the day. Gordon will work with Raymond to prepare procedures for the 2 roles.</p>
12	<p><b>Orbital Trail + Links Project Update</b> Circulated report from Gordon Prentice in italics:- <b><i>Matters Arising Since Last Meeting</i></b></p> <p><b><i>Funding Applications</i></b></p> <p><b><i>1. Carnie Woods Path Restoration &amp; Upgrade [1.1km]</i></b></p> <p><i>By far the most exciting thing that's happened this month is the response to our User Survey. In less than 3 weeks we have gathered responses from 548 members of our community with 119 offers of help. This is absolutely astounding and augurs well for the success of our application and ongoing work at Carnie. Promotion was via WhatsApp groups and our own Facebook page, plus having the link posted on the Carnie Woods Community page. Nicola Seal of CWC has joined the project team.</i></p> <p><i>Informed by the survey, a further site visit was made to the woods by the team which produced a detailed specification and indicative costs for inclusion in our application. Options such as seating areas, benches and improved signage have been included and it is likely that we will be bidding for the maximum value of £130,000 on this one, with ACC leading on the procurement and cashflow. It is hoped to complete and submit the application next week.</i></p> <p><i>Meanwhile, in the background we have approached Aberdeenshire Council through Cllr Walker to see if money can be found to upgrade the entrances from Carnie Crescent pitches and Peregrine Rd to make them all-abilities standard too.</i></p> <p><b><i>2. Broadshade Avenue to Golf Club Upgrade [475m]</i></b></p> <p><i>The situation here is more complex for a couple of reasons; available funds and land ownership. I am still hopeful of 70% funding coming from Pfa IFPF but we are likely to require two additional funders. I have applied to Aberdeenshire Council's Garioch Area Initiative Fund – with a maximum value of £5,000 and a decision due on the 22<sup>nd</sup> November, with spend to be completed by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023. If our application is accepted by AC then we'll have to go all out for Gordon &amp; Ena Baxter Foundation whose board doesn't meet until January. If our application to the GAIF is rejected, then the focus will shift to the FCC Scottish Action Fund which has a closing date of 7th December, but their Board's decision will not be made until end March 2023. This makes it unsuitable for a match with AC funds, but the timescales should work for PFA.</i></p> <p><i>Both the Baxter Foundation and the FCC SAF are asking for <b>long term formal management agreements</b> to be in place with the respective landowners as a condition of funding, hence the draft document attached which is intended for signing with Westhill Golf Club and Stewart Milne Homes. The text of the draft is based on the Model Path Agreement incorporated into the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003. <b>For consideration and approval.</b> It was agreed that the management agreements can be progressed</i></p> <p><b><i>Stone Cairn on Mains of Kinmundy Hill</i></b></p>

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	<p><i>The cairn and semi-circular seating area are close to completion. We are awaiting the installation of 800mm granite top and the stainless steel direction indicator.</i></p> <p><b>Town Centre Information Boards</b> <i>As Ben reported last month, installation of these is imminent.</i></p> <p><b>Ongoing Maintenance / Upgrades</b> <b>Annual Maintenance Schedule:</b> <i>no further work done this month, but it will be refined and merged with volunteer resources required for Greening Westhill.</i></p> <p><b>Weeding:</b> <i>no activity – sculpture planted area needs a revisit</i></p> <p><b>Link to Denman Park:</b> <i>No change.</i></p> <p><b>Link to Hill of Keir to/from the west:</b> <i>No change, although the fields have been harvested and appear to be undersown in grass.</i></p> <p><b>Waymarker post on Silvertrees Drive:</b> <i>now reinstalled on completion of the construction work</i></p> <p><b>Funding Update</b> <i>As per the Project report, £1,600 of WECC funds were added to the project to fund the manufacture of the stainless steel direction indicator. Council Officers were notified of the delay in submitting proof of payment for this but consented to a request for an extension to draw down the final tranche of DO funds. I had to spend an additional £77 on an [inconclusive] land ownership search on the southern side of Carnie Woods and some cable ties to attach the QR code survey flyer to three gates at Carnie.</i></p> <p><i>At a recent Sports Hub meeting Graham Ogston from the Bike Club gave details of ‘Cycling Without Age Scotland (CWAS)’. This is a scheme where people with mobility issues are taken out on electric trikes by volunteers (see Bike Club article on page 89 of winter Bulletin). There is an option of applying for funding for this through the ‘Place Based Investment Fund’. The funding package could include upgrading of two access paths into Carnie Woods and improving the paths in Denman Park, including making it a circular route. Expressions of Interest have to be lodged by 16<sup>th</sup> December. Gordon is planning to do this.</i></p>
13	<p><b>Planning Matters</b> (Diane Priestly) Report from Diane has been circulated, as below in italics:</p> <p><b>PLANNING APPLICATIONS</b> <b>Burnland APP/2022/1062</b> <i>A revised site plan was submitted to planning in October. WECC had originally commented on its concerns about the traffic from the proposed development going onto to the A944 this has now been amended , there was also clarification re the affordable houses: there are four 3 bedroomed houses, two 1 bedroomed and four 2 bedroomed houses. A sustainability site plan has also been submitted to ensure the protection of both the trees and surrounding woodland plus bug hotels, hedgehog houses, bat brick, low energy lighting and ev charging points. The planning application is currently waiting for a decision</i></p> <p><i>Greggs Drive Thru                      APP/2022/1236-awaiting decision</i></p> <p><i>Kingswells view                      APP/2022/1747 &amp; 1748 there has been a successful outcome to our objection, so the footpath will need to be retained</i></p>

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Wickes      *APP/2022/2010-need to discuss this planning application at our meeting, WECC has an extension. 3 members sent in comments, mainly re not enough parking*

### **COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN**

*After much discussion the survey is finally ready and the reference to it will be in the winter Westhill Bulletin. You can find it on engage. Aberdeenshire .gov.uk/westhill-and-elrick-community-action-plan.*

*Engage.aberdeenshire is the community engagement hub/portal set up by Aberdeenshire Council where residents can gather information and share ideas. The survey ends on 31<sup>st</sup> December and will need to be linked to our website and Facebook page. There will also be provision made for residents who would prefer a paper copy.*

*Gordon commented that the survey tool he used for Carnie Woods is easy to use and could be used for other surveys which can be promoted via the Bulletin.*

### **RESILIENCE PLANNING**

*Resilience information is now going to be updated on a regular basis via the engage.aberdeenshire website and there has been a proposal that there will be regular resilience forum meetings for Community Councils.*

**THE HILL OF FARE WINDFARM**-no up to date information at the moment

### **LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN DELAYED**

*There are further delays to the adoption of the LDP2022 as the Scottish Government have advised of a time extension of 56 days as they want to consider whether it should be modified before being adopted. It is now likely that Aberdeenshire Council may not be able to adopt it before the 17<sup>th</sup> November.*

*There is also a delay to the Development Plan Scheme, which is designed to set out the proposals, timeline and means of consultation for the next LDP due to delays by the Scottish government as they have not provided detailed guidance on what will be required.*

*The content of the National Planning Framework 4 is also due to be published this autumn.*

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

### **Matters Arising 13 October:**

- *Expenses paid plus 4 CSF donations made, plus another to Men's Shed.*

### **Financial Transactions – October**

**Income:** *£1,640, comprising £1,590 Bulletin advertising income plus £50 from Vinespring Church.*

**Expenditure:** *£2,578.28, comprising £1,035.97 expenses reimbursed to David Ritchie plus £1,200 donations approved at last month's meeting plus sundry other project expenses detailed on the Main A/c statement below at **Appendix 1**.*

**Outstanding Commitments:** *Nil*

**Bank Balances at Month End:** *£25,648*

*Main Account: £10,045*

*Bulletin Account: £15,602*

**Bulletin – Autumn Issue Contribution:** *still expected to be circa £3,500 on income of £10,864. This is well over budget of £2,500 and [at time of writing] dependent on the remaining 3 invoices worth £615 being paid. One invoice from Summer Issue for £57 [Skene Powerclean] still unpaid and unlikely to be recovered.*



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	<p>Mervyn proposed that we give a donation of £200 to Rotary towards their costs of running the Senior Citizens Christmas party. This was agreed</p>
15	<p><b><u>Green Westhill</u></b> (Mervyn Barr)</p> <p><b>‘Growing Living Green Spaces’</b>- Through this Council project we will be getting trees, fruit bushes bulbs &amp; wild flower plugs. These will be planted round edge of Mains of Kinmundy Hill and at the Lawsondale part of Orbital Trail. The bulbs will be arriving soon and trees etc. will be in March</p> <p><b>Queens Green Canopy</b>- we need to re-apply for the trees as the original application was not submitted correctly. We will now get the trees in March.</p> <p>The summer bedding plants in the baskets and planters were removed recently and winter pansies planted. Thanks to the WECC and Rotary members who helped with this. We need to get a taller ladder to help with the baskets so will be getting one from Tool Station for £160</p> <p>Storage – Application has been made to the Area Initiatives Fund for contribution to cost of the storage shed to go behind the green wall, 10ft x 10ft.</p>
16	<p><b><u>Rotary Update/Exchange</u></b>- Ian McCombie</p> <p>Planning the Senior Citizens party. The School quizzes will resume in January. Now got 52 members</p>
17	<p><b><u>Review of 3<sup>rd</sup> Nov meeting with Northern Alliance Reps</u></b></p> <p>Northern Alliance is a group of Community Council Liaison Officers that cover the 8 northern Councils, doing roles similar to Alison Cumming in Garioch. They came to Inverurie for 2 days and Alison asked if they could come to Westhill for us to show-case the many good projects we do and to discuss how we have evolved after the difficult days of 2018/19.</p> <p>The visit went very well. Mervyn asked them if they had any suggestions for improvements we could make. Brian Davey from the Scottish Gov Improvement Service suggested we look at Participatory Budgeting. This will be looked at as a possible funding source.</p>
18	<p><b><u>AOB &amp; Close of Meeting</u></b></p> <p>Ron Mckail queried why the Ward Councillors are not listed as members of WECC in Bulletin, in their ex-officio roles. David &amp; Iris advised that this had been discussed before and it was agreed then that they should not be included as they have no voting rights and there needs to be a clear distinction between the roles of CC members and Ward Councillors. David will draft wording to be put in next Bulletin about the Ward Councillors.</p> <p>Meeting closed at 9.50pm</p> <p><b><u>Date of Next Meeting</u></b>- 8<sup>th</sup> December at Holiday Inn, with Zoom option.</p>

## **APPENDIX**



### **GARIOCH COMMUNITY POLICING TEAM VISIBLE, ACCESSIBLE AND EFFECTIVE**

**Community Council: Westhill and Elrick**  
**Reporting Period: 1 October to 8 November 2022**

#### **Current Policing Priorities:**

Our priorities are:-

1. ASB – Proactive patrols to provide community reassurance and to deter/detect instances of ASB and Vandalism.
2. PROACTIVITY – Increased use of Stop and Search to deter/detect drug and acquisitive crime.
3. ROAD SAFETY – Enhanced speed checks and other speed reduction measures.

#### **Crime Overview and Explanation:**

<b>CRIME TYPE</b>	<b>CURRENT PERIOD</b>	<b>PREVIOUS PERIOD</b>
Assault	1	2
Housebreaking/Theft	1	2
Public Nuisance	7	3
Road Traffic	4 accidents and 6 other	6 accidents and 3 other
Drugs	0	2

*Assault – Includes all recorded instances of violence.*

*Housebreaking – includes all break in's to domestic and commercial premises, including attempted break in's.*

*Public Nuisance – All youth annoyance and calls in relation to anti-social behaviour.*



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*Road Traffic – all calls in relation to Road Traffic Accidents and Offences (speeding, illegal parking, obstruction etc).*

*Drugs – all reports incidents in relation to drugs dealing and use.*

### **Assault:**

There has been 1 incident reported with 2 individuals to be charged. There is no impact to the wider community.

### **Housebreaking/Theft:**

There has been 1 incident reported of theft by shoplifting with enquiries ongoing.

### **Public Nuisance:**

There has been 7 incidents reported. 4 relate to youth annoyance calls and 3 relate to fireworks.

### **Road Traffic:**

This period has seen 4 reported accidents. 1 resulted in minor injuries and 3 with no injury.

There have been 6 other calls in relation to road traffic incidents, relating to manner of driving, speeding and parking. 1 individual has been charged with careless driving.

### **Drugs:**

There have been 0 incidents reported.

### **Significant Crime/Issues within Your Community:**

There have been no significant events this reporting period.

### **Planned Community Policing Activity/Advice:**

Operational demands allowing, it is planned to carry out increased speed checks and ensure adherence to legal parking.

### **Conclusion:**

This is another stable report and if there are any issues that you wish brought to Police attention, please let me know.

Emma Forbes  
A/Sgt A0645