

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, 8TH JUNE 2023, AT HOLIDAY INN

Community Council		
Name	Position	Present
Mayasa Al-Jubori	Member	✓
Mervyn Barr	Member	✓
Malcolm Collie	Member	✓
Heather Cook	Member	✓
Donald Davidson	Member	✓
David Dent	Associate Member	✓ (via zoom)
Becky Ferguson	Vice-Chair	✓
Charlie Flint	Member	✓
Ben Horsburgh	Associate Member	x
Kate Lumsden	Member	✓
Elaine Manley	Member	✓
Rachid Meghezzi	Member	✓
William Munro	Vice-Chair	✓
Gordon Prentice	Treasurer	✓
Diane Priestley	Member	✓
David Ritchie	Secretary	✓
Tim Yeomans	Member	x
Cllr Iris Walker	Ward 13 Councillor	x
Cllr Ron McKail	Ward 13 Councillor	x
Cllr Craig Miller	Ward 13 Councillor	✓ (via zoom)
Cllr Fatima Joji	Ward 13 Councillor	✓ (via zoom)

Members of Public:

At hotel- Audrey Findlay, David Drain

1	<u>Welcome and opening remarks</u> As no Chair was appointed at the AGM, Mervyn chaired this meeting. He welcomed all, particularly the two new members Charlie Flint and Mayasa Al-Jubori. Permission was given for meeting to be recorded.
2	<u>Apologies and Declarations of Interest</u> Apologies received from Tim Yeoman and Cllrs Walker & McKail
3	<u>Approval of Minutes of Meeting 18th May 2023</u> Minutes were approved, with no changes. Proposed Gordon, seconded Rachid
4	<u>Shopping Centre Update- Centre Manager Ben Horsburgh –</u> Mervyn advised he had spoken to Ben about him not attending WECC meetings for a number of months. This was mainly because Ben did not have much to report. Been difficult to get approval for car park repairs but the landlords Orchard Street had now agreed to fund the car park work. Ben hopes to attend the August meeting.
5	<u>Matters Arising/ Actions Update</u> 1. Larg/Broadstraik Park (Malcolm) – Malcolm is continuing to speak with Nescam about improvements at the

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park. They may come to speak to us at the September meeting

2. **Academy Outreach-** This will be progressed in autumn. The school Eco groups do not wish to get involved with litter-picking.
3. **Litter Picking-** The new storage box for litter pick equipment has been installed beside tennis courts pavilion. Ken Stewart will paint it. The Girl Guides and PBS Offshore have done litter picks recently
4. **Wi-Fi at hotel-** Using the WECC iPad for Zoom at this meeting and it appears to be working well, but the wi-fi is still dropping a few times. Still an option to purchase a portable wi-fi. Malcolm has got a work one which we can try at next meeting.
5. **Business Association-** Elaine has been speaking to Alan Moir who is involved with the Business Network International group in Westhill who meet regularly. Elaine will speak to them. Around 15 years ago the Chamber of Commerce looked into setting up a Business Association in Westhill. Alan will contact them to check how far that progressed.

6 **Police Report**

May report has been circulated. (see appendix) No major issues. Low levels of youth disturbance compared with this time last year.

7 **Correspondence**

Review of secretary correspondence log for last 3 weeks. (circulated).
Nothing that requires discussion at this point.

8 **Ward 13 Councillors updates –**

No reports received in advance of meeting

Cllr Miller advised that next Tuesday 13th June the 4 ward councillors are meeting the Council chief executive Jim Savage in Westhill to discuss a number of issues. If there are any issues we would like to raise please contact any Councillor. Audrey Findlay recommended that we raise the issue of length of time that Council officers take to respond to queries. Willie said this is mainly an issue with Roads and Landscape Services. David will contact the Councillors about this and also the issue with sewage getting into Denman ponds. Gordon offered to contact Steve Gray to see if there were any messages that could be disseminated to the community about pollution in Denman ponds.

9 **Rotary Update/Exchange-** David Dent

The Lazy Sunday Afternoon on 4th June went very well. Thanks to WECC for their donation of £500 towards cost of the event. Six asylum seekers attended and helped to take down the gazebos at end.

10 **Orbital Trail + Links Project Update**

Circulated report from Gordon Prentice in italics:-

Matters Arising Since Last Meeting

I think we should consider renaming this report “Westhill Paths” to include all path related projects; e.g. restoration of link from Kingswells View to WGC, and link from Carnie Crescent car park to Carnie Woods. Maintenance tasks to include surface maintenance, pruning and strimming.

Active Projects

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1. Carnie Woods Path Restoration & Upgrade [1.1km]

A site walk-through with the contractor will take place on Wednesday 28th June, with an agreed start date of 29 August, and expected timescale of 6 to 8 weeks. The site visit will finalise preferred route, plus preferred locations for infrastructure such as benches, picnic tables, waymarker posts and active travel signage. PathsforAll have requested that all components have firm quotes before construction commences,

Weeding around the saplings commenced on Saturday, 20th May, and 5 sessions have followed since involving 16 different individuals. Turnout has been disappointing, with an average of only 4 on each 1.5hr session. So far the total man hours is 37.5, so it will be difficult to sustain and make headway without impetus from many more. No progress has been made with visitor counting or boardwalk removal.

Access from Carnie Crescent & Peregrine Road: We believe that our application to the GAC for £15,000 of funding from the Garioch Strategic Fund to make these paths all-abilities compliant has been successful. We may challenge the requirement to go through a formal planning application for this work.

2. Broadshade Avenue to Golf Club Upgrade [475m]

As reported last month, the contractor's work was largely completed on the 16th May, apart from the installation of 20m of post and rail fence on the steep section at the rear entrance to the clubhouse car park, and a sign acknowledging the funders. There has been no further correspondence from the homeowners or factor.

All that remains is to submit a completion report to each of the funders; Paths for All and the FCC Communities Foundation.

3. PBIP [Improving Access for all to Westhill's Health-Giving Green Spaces – Denman Park / Arnhall Moss]

Susan Adams advised that we should shortly be receiving a draft terms of reference document from the council that sets out the roles and responsibilities of all members of the project team. She intimated that the project may be managed by Roads rather than Landscape Services which gives me some concerns [potential for over-engineering?]. Meanwhile, she has prepared a paper to go to the GAC on 20th June seeking formal approval from Councillors for the Council to spend money and resources on this project. All necessary bureaucracy I'm told.

Gordon intimated that other WECC members are welcome to join the project team.

Rotary would like to put a bench in Denman Park, in addition to the benches that WECC have procured and will be installed as part of this project, so an extra base for a Rotary bench will be added to the project plan.

Ongoing Maintenance / Upgrades

I'm planning to approach Subsea 7 to ask them if they would consider repairing the path round the front/south side of their building which is prone to flooding. Gordon visited Subsea on 5th June, awaiting call back.

The paths through the Lawsonsedale section of the WOT are becoming overgrown, so I've sent a reminder to the leader of the Community Payback Service as I still haven't heard from them.

Link to Hill of Keir to/from the west: No change, although there may be changes to operation and/or ownership of the land imminently.

Funding Update

No transactions this month. £281 has been carried forward from 2022/23.

11 Planning Matters (Diane Priestly)

Circulated report in italics:-

Planning Applications

Broadstraik Inn APP/2023/0559-awaiting decision.

EntierLtd APP/2023/0520-awaiting decision.

Kingshill commercial park Arnhall business park APP/2023/0731-awaiting decision.

Community Action Plan

We are meeting this week to decide how to organise our focus group session planned for the 30th June at the Westhill Community Church. Elaine and I met to discuss the possibility of arranging two meetings aimed at different age groups at Westhill Academy so that young people will also be included in our focus groups. Audrey Findlay would like to be part of the CAP team, so it was agreed that she be made an Associate member of WECC

Local Development Plan update

There is a new corporate branding for the Aberdeenshire LDP 2028-2038 plus a concerted effort to engage more young people views by using the School Parent Forums.

Work has already begun on data collection and analysis which has included identifying brownfield land opportunities and environmental topics such as tackling the biodiversity crisis .Other topics to be out for public consultation this year include tackling the climate and nature crisis, Local Living and 20-minute Neighbourhoods, Quality homes, Design ,Quality and Place ,Infrastructure First ,sustainable transport, Zero Waste ,Green Belts ,rural development and natural places.

The Development Plan Scheme May 2023 outlines the policies, procedures and timelines that will need to be carried out before the LDP can be completed.

Permitted Development Rights Review is being carried out by the Scottish Government and is primarily focusing on new and extended rights for domestic and non-domestic renewable energy equipment.

The list of areas that will be covered are.

- *Domestic renewables; solar panels, air water and ground source heat pumps, wind turbines and the removal of pdr for certain flues*
- *Non-domestic renewables: solar panels, solar canopies in qualifying parking areas, and air, ground and water source heat pumps*
- *Replacement windows for domestic and non-domestic properties*
- *Electricity network infrastructure*
- *Reverse vending machines*
- *Temporary use of land for shooting ranges*

This consultation will run until the 23 August.

Hill of Fare newsflash

RES are holding four more public exhibitions to residents on the 20th June and the 21st June

20th June RES will be at Banchory Town Hall between 11 am and 2pm and Midmar Hall between 5pm and 8pm

21st June RES will be at the Learney Hall between 11am and 2pm and Echt Hall between 5pm and 8pm

This will be the last chance to express your concerns about this development.

The Hill of Windfarm information group is meeting at the Midmar Hall on Wednesday 14th June at 20.00 to answer any questions that you have, they will present their findings and hear your concerns.

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Power Lines

New power lines have been proposed by SSEN from Kintore to Tealing and will have an average height of 187 ft and with an average span of 1148 ft between pylons. SSEN have proposed two main routes: a route to the west of the Loch of Skene, goes past Echt and is one possible solution. SSEN preferred route runs through the Loch of Skene and along the eastern side of the Loch. The concerns of residents are that either route will pass through villages and a number of schools.

There is a Facebook group 'Skene against pylons' where you will find more details and comments and more information from SSEN (www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/2030-projects/east-coast/)

The deadline for comments on this development is the 23rd June.

Resident David Drain attended the meeting to find out if we had been consulted about it. He lives near Carnie crossroads. WECC have not been formally consulted by SSEN but we think we should have been because the proposed corridor goes through the corner of our CC boundary.

Willie agreed to draft a letter to SSEN, mainly to give the view that more consideration should be given to putting the power lines underground. David Drain will assist Willie with this.

Local Democracy

Document forwarded to members only for discussion on Thursday. This is about the issue that developers can appeal a planning decision but communities can't do that without initiating an expensive judicial review.

It was agreed that this letter can be sent to the four Ward councillors as a first step. Gordon will discuss some changes to the text with Diane.

12 Financials (Gordon Prentice) Circulated report in italics:-

Matters Arising 18 May:

- CSF Donations made
- Donation of £500 made to Rotary for Lazy Sunday event
- Project schedule updated to include PBIP project

Financial Transactions –May

Income: £50 only received this month from Vinespring Church.

Expenditure: £1,819. See copy bank statement at **Appendix 1** for detail.

Outstanding Commitments: £1,670; comprising £633 for supply/instal qty 2 Jubilee Drive signs [invoice awaited], plus £367 owing to the secretary for honoraria payments in April and May, plus £170 CSF Donation to WDASC, plus donation of £500 promised to Rotary as a contribution towards Lazy Sunday event on 4th June.

Bank Balances at Month End: £36,080

Main Account: £15,187

Bulletin Account: £20,893

Westhill Bulletin

David raised 38 invoices for the Summer Issue, totalling £3,564, £592 higher than the Spring Issue, Although 6 advertisers 'stopped' there were 13 new advertisers, so demand may be picking up? If all invoices are paid, then the income for the Summer Issue should total £9,910 after releasing a third of the prepaid balance, and only £190 short of budget

Gordon requested permission to retain Mervyn as a cheque signatory due to the Chair position not filled yet.

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	Mervyn is also a debit card holder so Gordon would like him to retain that. This was all agreed.
13	<p><u>Green Westhill</u> (Mervyn Barr)</p> <p>The winter pansies have been taken out of the barrels, in preparation for arrival of the summer bedding plants. These will be arriving tomorrow 9th June and will be planted up next week. Mervyn has purchased plants to supplement the Council plants and also to give some to Ben Horsburgh for the shopping centre barrels.</p> <p>Application to the Garioch Area Initiative fund has been made for a 50% contribution to purchase of 4 storage units from Costco that will be put behind the green wall. They will be used to store the Christmas lights and hanging baskets etc. Cost is around E1600 for 4 units, so net cost to WECC will be £800. Expect to hear that the application has been successful later this month.</p>
14	<p><u>AOB & Close of Meeting</u></p> <p>Mervyn confirmed that this is the last WECC meeting that he will chair. WECC has achieved a lot in last 3 years, through good team work. Also been down to 'catalysts' who can get things done.</p> <p>A new Chair can ensure that tasks are delegated so the role should not be too onerous. Members should consider if they can take on the Chair role for 6 or 12 months.</p> <p>Gordon requested a round of applause for Mervyn for his chairmanship for last 3 years.</p> <p><u>Date of Next Meeting-</u> 10th August at Holiday Inn, with Zoom option.</p> <p>Mayasa will give a safety briefing, re fire exits etc.</p>

APPENDIX



POILEAS ALBA

GARIOCH COMMUNITY POLICING TEAM VISIBLE, ACCESSIBLE AND EFFECTIVE

Community Council: Westhill and Elrick

Reporting Period: 1 to 31 May 2023

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 and plain-clothed patrols to deter/detect drug and acquisitive crime.
3. ROAD SAFETY – Enhanced speed checks and other speed reduction measures.

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Crime Overview and Explanation:

CRIME TYPE	CURRENT PERIOD	PREVIOUS PERIOD
Assault	2	1
Housebreaking	0	0
Public Nuisance	1	3
Road Traffic	3 accident, 7 other	2 accident, 2 other
Drugs	1	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.

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 2 incidents reported. One relates to an unprovoked assault on a 13 year old by a 15 year old who has been traced and dealt with. The other relates to persons known to one another. There is no wider community impact.

Housebreaking:

There has been no incidents reported.

Public Nuisance:

There has been 1 incident reported. This relates to a report of an elderly male drinking from a bottle of wine outside Home Bargains at Westhill Shopping Centre. A unit attended and the male was not traced.

Road Traffic:

This period has seen several reported accidents.

One involved a bus and minor damage to Trinity Church, Westhill Drive, Westhill. This was a non reportable RTC and Police attendance was not required. Another involved two vehicles with no serious injury. One driver was charged regarding Careless Driving. There has also been one single vehicle RTC with damage caused to street furniture.

Enquiries are ongoing regarding a hit and run at Westhill Shopping Centre.

There has been 1 report relating to parking. On attendance no obstruction was identified.

One anonymous report was received of dangerous driving with the vehicle identified not traced.

There has been 2 reports of vehicles being driven without appropriate documentation and 1 report of speeding. None of these vehicles were traced.

One male has been charged and reported to the Procurator Fiscal regarding drink driving at Straik Place, Westhill.

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Drugs:

There has been 1 report regarding a smell of Cannabis. Officers attended and no smell was detected.

Significant Crime/Issues within Your Community:

There have been no significant events this reporting period.

Planned Community Policing Activity/Advice:

I know speeding is a concern in the community and our speeding operation continues on a rolling basis. I am aware issues have been highlighted at Old Skene Road and Westhill Road and will request checks be carried out in these areas.

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
Sgt A0645