

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, 11TH APRIL 2024, AT HOLIDAY INN & BY ZOOM.

Community Council		
Name	Position	Present
Mayasa Al-Jubori	Member	✓ (via zoom)
Mervyn Barr	Member	✓
Malcolm Collie	Member	✓
Heather Cook	Member	✓
David Dent	Associate Member	✓
Becky Ferguson	Vice-Chair	*
Audrey Findlay	Associate Member	✓
Charlie Flint	Member	✓
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	*
Cllr Iris Walker	Ward 13 Councillor	✓
Cllr Ron McKail	Ward 13 Councillor	*
Cllr Craig Miller	Ward 13 Councillor	*
Cllr Fatima Joji	Ward 13 Councillor	*

Members of Public: Darren Green

1	<p><u>Welcome and opening remarks</u></p> <p>Heather Cook offered to chair the meeting as neither of the vice-chairs were present Permission was given for meeting to be recorded.</p>
2	<p><u>Apologies and Declarations of Interest</u></p> <p>Apologies received from Becky, Willie, Charlie, Tim, Cllrs Miller & Joji</p>
3	<p><u>Approval of Minutes of Meeting 14th March 2024</u></p> <p>Minutes were approved. Proposed by Rachid, seconded by Gordon</p>
4	<p><u>Police Report</u></p> <p>(see appendix for March Police report)</p> <p>This was brought forward in agenda as 2 local Police Officers were present- Constables Spence & Watt. They had been nominated by Inspector Christie to come to meeting to give some reassurances around the recent public nuisance and youth disorder incidents, mainly in the Shopping Centre area. (12 incidents in March, vs 1 in February). There are more pro-active patrols taking place when staffing allows. There has been multi-disciplinary discussions between Police and Academy. Youths had got on to the roof at Duncanos using crates that were stacked beside the building so enquiries are ongoing to trace the owners and get them removed. Some of the youth involved in the incidents are likely to be from outwith Westhill.</p> <p>David will pass on to Sgt Forbes the contact details for David Waterworth of LCP Properties.</p>

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	The Police were thanked for their attendance.
5	<p><u>Matters Arising (not covered elsewhere)</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Larg/Broadstraik Park (Malcolm) –Yellow Rattle will need to be planted in late autumn. This helps to suppress the grass before the wildflower meadow is planted 2. Litter Picking- Circulated report from Gordon in italics:- <p><i>Litter Picking Activity</i> <i>Twice monthly Spring/Summer/Autumn picks restart on Saturday, 13th April.</i></p> <p><i>Vinespring Church Response re their monthly £50 support towards Litter Picking-</i> <i>they we'd like to see the funds continue to support the litter picking but we can also spend it on other areas</i></p> <p><i>Winter picks – trial feedback</i> <i>Rotary now thinking of implementing once-monthly picks over the winter.</i></p> <p><i>Request for more bins and an app to identify and report full bins</i> <i>Alison Cumming sent a message of support to her colleague Norman Wright on our behalf. I've since followed up and had an offer of more bins and a meeting to discuss a Litter Prevention Action Plan for Westhill. Would anyone like to join me in that meeting? Meeting date to be confirmed.</i></p> 3. Swimming Pool- No response from Avril Nicol or Gillian Wood re our request for financial accounts for the Pool. David will chase this up. Next Venue User Engagement meeting is on 29th April. 4. Business Association (Elaine). Couple of things being followed up, should have more info for next meeting, 5. TotalEnergies- Mervyn has passed on details of the Trishaws scheme as this is an activity that TotalEnergies volunteers could get involved in. 6. WECC Social Media – The WECC sail sign has been delivered. It is supposed to be 2mtrs tall, but is well under that. Gordon has complained to the supplier. Can decide after next week's event if we should buy a second one. David, Willie & Becky had a call on Tuesday to determine initial social media priorities. The main one at this point is to update the Communications protocol. 7. AFC Community Trust- The meeting with AFCCT Chief Executive Liz Bowie has not been arranged yet, awaiting a response from Liz. Donald Davidson is not able to get involved at this point, but may be able to assist at a later date. 8. Shopping Centre- New owners - A productive meeting with David Waterworth of LCP Properties was held on Tuesday. He is supportive of all the initiatives re the shopping centre that we are involved in. We will advise him of our budget for the Christmas event. They are keen on improved 'kerb-appeal' which should mean the fascias

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	<p>will get sorted. They may wish to remove or trim the beech hedge that runs along the wall on Old Skene Rd. He indicated that M & S and Specsavers are both keen to extend their premises. Raac concrete has been discovered in the Post Office area, which means it will have to be closed for at least a week when remedial work is done.</p>
6	<p>Correspondence Review of secretary correspondence log for last 4 weeks. (Circulated)</p> <p>An interesting item was the offer of a free framed portrait of King Charles. This was declined as Ashdale Hall didn't want it and there is no other suitable building where it could be put.</p> <p>Gordon reported on the email from Paula Houston of Echt & Skene CC re amount of litter on verges that line B9119 south of Prospect Road. A lot of it is likely to be coming from the 3 fast food outlets off A944. Perhaps the two CCs should request a meeting with these 3 to consider what could be done to reduce the litter. Gordon will advise Paula of our agreement with this approach.</p> <p>Malcolm suggested that notes from WECC re litter could be handed to customers by the staff.</p>
7	<p>Asylum Seeker Hotel There was no Community Leaders meeting on 3rd April due to holidays but a partner updates note was issued. There was 173 Service Users in hotel as at 3rd April, no new arrivals expected in next few weeks.</p> <p>No indication yet that the Service Users can get bus passes</p> <p>Re the 3 separate taxis used to take 3 service users when they were relocated to Glasgow on same day in February, Heather is keen to query this with Home Office and copy Andrew Bowie MP. It was agreed that Heather could draft the query to Home Office and send it to office bearers.</p>
8	<p><u>Rotary Update/Exchange-</u> - David Dent Golf Tournament organised for 2nd August. Young Speakers competition 29th May Sponsored Bike Ride 21st April Petanque Court to be laid in May, WECC helped to clear some overhanging trees It will be run by the Bowling Club. Community will be able to use it for free,</p>
9	<p><u>Ward 13 Councillors updates</u> Cllr Iris Walker Good news that there will be more use made of the Denman Park pavilion by having the petanque court there.</p> <p>Re the recent anti-social behaviour, the 4 Councillors will be meeting with Inspector Ray Christie. Getting copied in on lot of representations re Hill of Fare wind turbines.</p> <p>Lot of work going on in background re the Pylons project. Complaints re the SSEN consultation process.</p>
10	<p><u>Westhill Paths Update</u> Circulated report from Gordon Prentice in italics, with updates in normal type:-</p>

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Storm Damage Update

Carnie – one massive fallen tree that sits across a slow draining flooded section has still to be attended to.

Broadshade and Golf Club – the factor wrote back, acknowledging that poor maintenance of the drainage ditch was an issue and said that maintenance of the drainage ditch was to be added to the maintenance contractor's work scope. No sign as yet. He is also planning to arrange another meeting with local residents, but no invitation received yet.

A plan of remedial action on the drainage network at the golf club has been agreed with the golf club manager. Just waiting on warmer weather to implement it!

Active Projects

Carnie Woods – The Chair and CEO of Paths for All were very impressed with the quality of work and value for money on show during their visit on the 27th – on a miserable wet day. The two information panels remain to be installed on to awaiting stone cairns. The new visitor counter is due to be installed on Wednesday, 10th April.

Boardwalk removal: will commence when conditions are warmer and the ground drier.

Denman Park – PBIP Project - the Council's contractor is due on site mid-month to commence bridge construction work.

Pollution Filtration Project – no further update received.

Maintenance of Denman planted areas – volunteer support: over the last 5 weeks, we have now clocked up over 60 man hours strimming, pruning and clearing the planted areas and verges on the eastern edge of the park that runs parallel to Westhill Drive. This work will continue along Old Skene Rd for the remaining 3 Wednesdays in April.

Ongoing Trail Maintenance / Upgrades

- **Broadshade Avenue to WGC:** sections that have been washed away by the winter storms will need to be patched from our reserve pile of material. The sign acknowledging funding support has still to be installed by our contractor.
- **Golf club:** repairs to eroded paths – as above. New handrail to be installed soon also.
- **Lawsondale:** surface reinforcement required on some sections – plan to be developed
- **Farm track on the north edge of Meadowlands:** no plan as yet for budgeted work on drainage and potholes
- **All sectors:** more directional arrows to be stuck to street furniture

Funding Update

£34 was spent on new brush cutter blades.

Sub-group Meeting -Overdue!

11 Community Action Plan (Diane Priestly)

Circulated report in italics:-

I attended the Garioch Community Planning Joint Meeting which focused on Community Action Plans and Local Place Plans.

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	<p><i>The RGU sports student has now started on his project and is progressing well. Diane meets with him fortnightly. She has been hearing about the Streetsports project that is run in Aberdeen. This group provides sport and creative activities for young people 5 nights each week. They have offered to come to tell us about it,</i></p> <p><i>This month will see the CAP drop -by -event at the Westhill Shopping Centre on 19th and 20th April, the volunteers for this event will be meeting at the Community Church on Tuesday 16th April at 10.00 to go over the paperwork etc.</i></p>
12	<p>Planning Matters (Diane Priestly)</p> <p>Circulated report in italics:-</p> <p>PLANNING APPLICATIONS</p> <p><i>APP/2024/0209 land adjacent to 13 Mains View AB32 6NZ -full planning permission to change of use of land from open space to Domestic, Erection of boundary fence, decking and sheds (retrospective)-awaiting decision.</i></p> <p><i>APP/2024/0469 full planning permission for alterations and extension to dwelling house 7 Westhill Grange, Westhill AB32 6QJ-awaiting decision.</i></p> <p>HILL OF FARE</p> <p><i>This application is now being considered by the Marr, Garioch and Kincardine and Mearns Area Planning Committees. Although the decision rests with the Energy Consents Unit, Aberdeenshire Council is a statutory consultee and if they raise an objection to this planning application it could trigger a Public Enquiry, otherwise this application will be approved.</i></p> <p>PYLONS</p> <p><i>Concerns re the super pylons is ongoing. The Mossie Drumoak group has launched a petition and you will find it on https://www.change.org/p/no-ssen-pylons-at-mossie-drumoak</i></p> <p>KINTORE HYDROGEN PROPOSAL</p> <p><i>There is a public consultation to discuss this proposed development by Statera Energy on 24th April in Kintore Bowling Club 1400-20.00, address is Castle Walk Kintore AB51 0RU and on 19th June at Kintore Bowling Club 1400-20.00.</i></p> <p><i>This area has already been targeted for a significant number of infrastructure: pylons, substations, battery storage etc. The planning application can be found on APP/2024/0415-awaiting decision.</i></p> <p>LDP</p> <p><i>There is a health and safety topic paper and survey which has now been published on the engageHQ LDP site which will be open until 3rd May; plus the Historic Assets and Places, this survey is also open until 3rd May.</i></p> <p>SCOTTISH FORUM OF COMMUNITY COUNCILS</p> <p><i>WECC is now a member of this organisation.</i></p> <p>There is a warehouse being built on the site next to where the Wickes store is being built.</p>
13	<p>Financials (Gordon Prentice) Circulated report in italics:-</p> <p>Matters Arising 14 March:</p> <p>Westhill Bulletin printing: <i>three print companies approached, with one unsuitable response so far. David and I met with Neil Watson to progress conversations about doing all of the pre-print production in-house. Discussions are ongoing. Meantime, the analysis of decreasing income and advertising trends is also</i></p>

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	<p>ongoing. Update-analysis of last few years of Bulletins shows that number of adverts has stayed fairly constant, but there has been a reduction in average size</p> <p>Financial Transactions – March</p> <p>Income: £25,887 – comprising £18,761 grant from Aberdeenshire Council [AC] to purchase the two tri-shaws [plus storage], plus £65 for scaffold hire, plus £42 bank interest, plus regular monthly receipt of £50 from Vinespring Church, plus £6,969 from Bulletin advertisers.</p> <p>Expenditure: £26,601 – comprising 9 payments detailed on copy bank statement at Appendix 1, two of which, totalling £17,797, relate to passing on the grant from AC, plus £7,645 paid out from the Bulletin Account to cover printing, honorarium and expenses for the Spring Issue.</p> <p>Outstanding Commitments: £ nil</p> <p>Bank Balances at Month End: £34,482</p> <p>Main Account: £15,568 Bulletin Account: £18,914</p> <p>Westhill Bulletin</p> <p>Three invoices for last year, totalling £261 remain unpaid and irrecoverable.</p> <p>The Spring Issue is likely to gross £9,535, so long as the 6 remaining unpaid invoices totalling £862 are paid.</p> <p>The expected contribution after costs is £1,890. The budgeted contribution was £2,850.</p> <p>Income & Expenditure Account for year to 31st March 2024 – 1st Draft</p> <p>This first draft of the Accounts shows a small surplus of £1,807 for the year and a healthy cash balance as reported above. There are two key points worthy of note:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Bulletin surplus for the year was £5,765 which, although positive and healthy, is less than half the surplus of the last two years, hence the need to review the business model, and the need to keep an eye on alternative funding sources. 2. We raised a record level of project funding, and raised more funds than we spent, although we have more funds set aside for projects at year end than normal too. <p>The draft Accounts for the year to 31 March 24 were approved for sending to Independent Verifier, Alan Moir of Fyfe Moir Associates.</p>
14	<p><u>Green Westhill</u> (Mervyn Barr)</p> <p>Good that David Waterworth of LCP Properties is supportive of all the work we do around the shopping centre.</p> <p>The stone crop and primula flowers were planted today, plus 8 replacement conifers for Holiday Inn roundabout. New mulch mats have been put in round the trees that were planted last year in Denman Park.</p> <p>There is overlap between the volunteers in Greenfingers, Orbital Path and Denman Park groups, so it is proposed that they be merged into a 'Westhill Green Spaces' group.</p> <p>Heather is offering bags of tree mulch from her son's garden. Mervyn suggested it could be put on Lawsondale section of Orbital Trail.</p>
15	<p><u>AOB & Close of Meeting</u></p> <p>Meeting closed at 9.20pm</p> <p><u>Date of Next Meeting-</u> 9th May, 7pm at Holiday Inn, with Zoom option.</p>

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APPENDIX



GARIOCH COMMUNITY POLICING TEAM VISIBLE, ACCESSIBLE AND EFFECTIVE

Community Council: Westhill and Elrick

Reporting Period: 1 to 31 March 2024

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.

Crime Overview and Explanation:

CRIME TYPE	CURRENT PERIOD	PREVIOUS PERIOD
Assault	3	6
Housebreaking	1	0
Public Nuisance	12	1
Road Traffic	8 collision, 11 other	6 collision, 15 other
Drugs	3	1

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.

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Assault:

There has been 3 incidents reported

- Female spat at two females. Neither the perpetrator nor victims have been identified.

Enquiries are ongoing.

- 50 year old female kicked and attempted to bite a Police Officer when arrested regarding another matter. No injury was sustained and a Report has been submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.

- 25 year old male kicked another to the leg. No injury was sustained and the male was issued a Recorded Police Warning.

Housebreaking:

There has been 1 report which has been recorded as an attempted Housebreaking with intent to steal. This relates to a board covering a window being prised off. There is no indication entry was gained to the property and enquiries are ongoing.

Public Nuisance:

There has been 12 reports which is a significant increase from last month.

- Sweets and eggs being thrown at a property. Westhill Academy have been contact and this occurs during lunch break.
- Youths causing problems for staff at Domino's Pizza. Staff did not make a complaint and suitable advice given to group of youths traced.
- Youths loitering at Aldi, shouting and throwing things inside. Staff did not make a complaint and no youths present on attendance.
- Youths loitering at the Holiday Inn and refusing to leave when asked. Staff did not make a complaint. Group had left prior to attendance. Youths nearby spoken to but denied being involved.
- Youths loitering within communal hallway. No complaint made. No youths traced on attendance.
- Eggs and toilet paper being thrown at a property. Persistent problem with enquiry ongoing to identify those responsible.
- Shopping trollies left at an address. No crime identified.
- Group of youths climbing on roof at Duncano's Restaurant and gathering causing nuisance to customers. Officers attended and advice was given to two people traced nearby.
- Youths banging on doors. No unit available to attend.
- 2 males on dirt bikes. Area searched with no trace.

Road Traffic:

This period has seen 8 reported accidents. Seven involved two vehicles with no injury and an exchange of details therefore meeting non-attendance criteria. One involved one vehicle with the driver having taken unwell. His injuries were non-life threatening.

One vehicle was damaged while parked and a jet wash door was also damaged. Enquiries are ongoing regarding fail to stop.

Reports received relate to speeding, protruding manhole covers, possible document offences, manner of driving and obstructions.

A 65 year old male has been reported to the Procurator Fiscal for driving whilst under the influence of alcohol and without an MOT.

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Drugs:

There has been 2 reports regarding drug paraphernalia left within a rental property and suspected drugs being sent by post. Officers attended both with no offences identified. A 19 year old has been warned having been stopped, searched and Cannabis seized.

Significant Crime/Issues within Your Community:

There have been no significant events this reporting period.

Planned Community Policing Activity/Advice:

In recent weeks we have seen a rise in youth disorder, particularly in Westhill. For the duration of the Easter school holidays officers have been tasked to carry out directed patrols. We are also focusing efforts on identifying youths involved in targeting specific addresses repeatedly.

The Community Policing Team will continue to carry out speed checks in the area and will be supported by Roads Policing colleagues.

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
Sergeant
A0645