

APPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, 13TH JUNE 2024, AT HOLIDAY INN & BY ZOOM.

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

1	<p><u>Welcome and opening remarks</u></p> <p>Neither of the two vice-chairs were present at the hotel so Gordon Prentice was nominated to chair the meeting, Permission was granted to record the meeting</p>
2	<p><u>Apologies and Declarations of Interest</u></p> <p>Apologies received from Mayasa Al-Jubori, Tim Yeomans, William Munro, Heather Cook and Cllrs Miller & Joji</p>
3	<p><u>Approval of Minutes of Meeting 9th May 2024</u></p> <p>Minutes were approved. Proposed by Malcolm, seconded by Kate</p>
4	<p><u>Matters Arising (not covered elsewhere)</u></p> <p>1. Larg/Broadstraik Park (Malcolm) – no update at this point</p> <p>2. Litter Picking-</p> <p>Circulated report from Gordon in italics:-</p> <p><i>Update from meeting with Norman Wright – Community Waste Officer [Garioch]</i></p> <p><i>Additional Bins</i></p> <p><i>Four of our five requests were confirmed as accepted; these will be positioned at Denman Park [opposite Costa], B979 car park at west end of Carnie Woods, bottom of Westhill Heights at edge of Golf Course,</i></p>

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between Academy and rear of M&S. The request for a bin at "Hidden Garden" was rejected due to shortage of supply.

That was as far as Norman's reply went, apart from some links related to further community engagement which we have still to digest and develop into an action plan. I will follow up on the other matters discussed which he didn't address:

Volume of Litter and Frequency of Collections

- *our idea to develop an existing Council app that could potentially allow members of the public to report when bins are full*
- *reporting "hot spots"*

Enquiry from Westhill Academy

The school's Eco Group duly borrowed our kit for around 20 pupils to pick litter on 20th/21st May. Unfortunately, only 2nd years took part. All the senior school was on study leave, and it is now pretty clear that there is a correlation between senior school attendance and volumes of litter. Volumes recently have been well below normal at most hot spots, including the school grounds.

I intend to follow up with Sam Dymond to see if there is any interest in repeating the exercise or helping us with campaign materials, but suspect it won't be the breakthrough we were hoping for, especially with school term coming to an end.

Other Enquiries

Borr Drilling – based in Arnhall Business Park – planning a pick in their vicinity on 5th June. Awaiting feedback. They did a pick along whole length of Arnhall Business Park and got 9 bags of litter.



Westdyke 2017's – 6/7 year olds, in second week of August as part of a sponsored walk on some of the Orbital Trail with parents and coaches.

3. Swimming Pool- No update for tonight but it will be kept on agenda
4. Business Association (Elaine).
Enterprising Aberdeenshire wish to run an event in Westhill on 28th August, but they haven't got a venue yet. Elaine would be able to promote a Business Association at this event. She would like to get some flyers printed. Gordon suggested that Neil Watson could help to design the flyers. WECC agreed to cover cost of the flyers, with a notional budget of £200
5. TotalEnergies- Mervyn advised that it isn't likely now that any employees will be doing voluntary work on any of our projects, but Graham Ogston is talking to them about getting involved with the Trishaws.
6. WECC Social Media – The new larger WECC sail sign was put up at Lazy Sunday on 9th June, but it was a windy day and we couldn't tie it to anything so we used the smaller one instead.
Re the issues that Kate is having about not now being able to share things on our website to Facebook, Malcolm agreed to assist Becky, Kate and David with this.
7. AFC Community Trust- no update from Willie or anyone else.
8. Carnie Pitches Flooding- Gordon will follow up on the correspondence about this.
9. Visit to Westdyke Leisure Centre – Charlie, Diane & Gordon visited it recently. It is likely that Charlie's Table Tennis Club will be able to meet there now. Greg Welsh from Sports Hub is looking at other sports that could be

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	<p>run in the large hall. The meeting room would be too small for WECC meetings, and there is no heating in it. Gordon offered the services of Green Spaces team and some asylum seekers to remove weeds from car park regularly. Gordon is looking to get funding for a path from car park at the Centre that will link up to existing paths leading up to Old Skene Rd.</p> <p>Charlie queried if the Centre could get relief from paying Rates. Cllr Mckail will try to check.</p> <p>10. WECC meetings venue- Due mainly to the issues we often have with the meeting room at Holiday Inn not being properly set up before we arrive, the OBs are reviewing other possible venues. The refurbished room at Broadstrait may be better when that work is completed.</p> <p>Becky advised that the meeting room at the Community Church would be available for our August meeting [8th], although not on other Thursdays during school term time, so we agreed that we should take up the offer of using that space on a trial basis. The possibility of moving our meetings to another evening was discussed briefly, without conclusion.</p> <p>Malcolm & Elaine will speak to Broadstrait Inn about their plans for refurbishing their meeting room.</p> <p>The CAP team & Elaine had meeting today with Greg Welsh from Sports Hub. Elaine suggested that Greg comes to our September meeting. She would like to have Activities and Sports in Westhill as a regular agenda item for WECC meetings. There appears to be funding available that it would be useful for WECC to know about. It links in with the CAP objectives.</p>
5	<p>Police Report (see appendix for May Police report)</p> <p>Public Nuisance incidents are down but there has been more Road Traffic incidents than normal.</p> <p>There was further discussion on the credibility of reported crime stats in the report. The meeting believed that the community is suffering more than the reports suggest, so we agreed that we should continue to publish the four methods of contacting the police in our media: Bulletin, Website,, Facebook, [999, 111, email and contact form from the Police Scotland website], explaining when each method is appropriate.</p>
6	<p>Correspondence Review of secretary correspondence log for last 5 weeks. (Circulated)</p> <p>David advised that the short Inaugural meeting after September election will be held during week of 23rd September. It will be chaired by a Council official and will only be to appoint office bearers. We will still have our normal meeting on 12th September. This will include approval of an updated constitution to reflect the change to a common election date</p>
7	<p>Asylum Seeker Hotel There is now 186 Service Users in hotel, with 20 new arrivals per week expected, till capacity of around 300 is reached. Some Service Users have been granted leave to remain in UK and are progressing through the system.</p>
8	<p><u>Rotary Update/Exchange- David Dent</u> Lazy Sunday on 9th June went well. Weather was good, though quite windy. Thank you for the summer bedding plants we supplied for Ashdale Hall. Some asylum seekers will be doing some gardening work at the Hall next week</p>

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	<p>Contractor will be starting work on the Petanque Court on 24th June.</p> <p>Rotary Charity Golf Tournament on 2nd August</p> <p>Still wanting donations of phones & laptops for the Hilton hotel.</p> <p>Audrey queried if service users could be asked to help clean road verges as the Council don't do that so much now. David confirmed this would be possible but they would have to be supervised.</p> <p>Re the bikes at hotel, still an issue with getting proficiency tests. Greg Welsh is helping to expedite this. Fiona at hotel may be getting trained to run regular testing sessions.</p>
9	<p><u>Ward 13 Councillors updates</u></p> <p>Cllr Ron Mckail- submitted report.</p> <p><i>Leisure Link Partnership-</i> Live Life Aberdeenshire joins a partnership initiative which allows members of fitness schemes across seven Scottish regions to access local facilities in these areas at no extra cost. The Scheme instigated by High Life Highland means that when people are on holiday or working away from home, members from participating areas can use local facilities for free as part of their existing home-based membership.</p> <p><i>Shire Council Local Housing Strategy 2024 -2029 Consultation.</i> Council's Local Housing Strategy (LHS) sets out key priorities for the housing service over the next five years namely strategic direction, policies, and plans over the lifetime of the LHS. Thus enabling the Council and its partners to deliver high quality housing and housing services to meet the needs of local people across all housing tenures. Comments received during the consultation period will be fed into the final document with the consultation closing on July 12.</p> <p><i>Winter Maintenance</i> Questionnaire launched on Aberdeenshire Council Engagement Site. Council's Roads and Infrastructure Services is conducting a review of its Winter Maintenance Policy and have launched a questionnaire on what their priorities are for winter maintenance. Questionnaire - Winter Maintenance Policy Review Engage Aberdeenshire</p> <p><i>Veterans Aberdeenshire.</i> Council support of Military and Ex Military during the past month has included: Freedom Of Aberdeenshire to Royal Scots Regiment. Events held in Peterhead, Alford and Laurencekirk with some 150 soldiers parading through these communities with fixed bayonets. Also, D Day celebrations supported in Peterhead, Huntly and at the Gordon Highlanders Museum.</p> <p><i>Inverurie has an event entitled Pride of Inverurie Awards. Could we in Westhill have something similar?</i></p> <p><i>Information of the Inverurie Awards is as follows:</i></p> <p><i>'A true highlight of the year is seeing the whole town come together to champion those who make Inverurie special. Let's continue in the spirit of celebrating our extraordinary community and rally behind the incredible individuals who have made a lasting impact.'</i></p> <p> POI 2024 Award Categories </p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <input type="checkbox"/> Excellence in Service This award recognises a business or individual that always delivers great customer service, delivers an excellent customer experience and makes their customers feel special. ▪ <input type="checkbox"/> Community Champion This award recognises a volunteer who gives up their time to make a real difference to their community. They may support the vulnerable, fundraise, support projects which benefit the community or be a willing helper. ▪ <input type="checkbox"/> Young Achiever This award celebrates a young person who has completed significant and outstanding achievement. For example, raising large amounts of money for charity, representing their country, a significant academic achievement or valuable contribution to their community. ▪ <input type="checkbox"/> Unsung Hero This award recognises an act of bravery, courage or outstanding level of service from an individual within the Inverurie community.

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- ☐ *Sports Personality* | This gold medal award is for an individual who has shown unique levels of success and/or who has contributed unreservedly to their sport. They should have achieved a high standard of performance at a local, regional or national level.
- ☐ *Businessperson of the Year* | This will be presented to an individual who has shown an outstanding contribution to their sector, above and beyond their own company or organisation's expectations.
- ☐ *Future Focus Award* | This award honours great teaching; coaching or mentoring from people who demonstrate through their activities the role coaching and teaching play in encouraging, transforming lives and inspiring others.

Gordon suggested that at August meeting we could discuss if Westhill could run something similar

Cllr Iris Walker

Re Hill of Fare, the Council have got an extension to October to submit their response.

Re the temporary traffic lights in Elrick, this is due to a dangerous box that can't be driven over. It is hoped to be sorted soon.

Elaine advised that she is getting no response from Gayle Walker re a venue for the Enterprising Aberdeenshire event in Westhill on 28th August. Iris thinks that Gayle may be in the General Election team but will check this out.

10 Westhill Green Spaces Update

Circulated report from Gordon Prentice in italics, with updates in normal type:-

Path Development/Maintenance [clockwise]

Gateway Sculpture – needs weeding [dandelions!]

Hidden Garden – weedkiller applied 14 May

Carnie Woods – project complete – wash-up meeting with ACC project team requested

Mason Lodge – Cala have still to reinstall the WOT sign at junction of B979 and A944.

West of Mason Lodge – path to Springhill Farm will need a second strimming over the summer following first trim 8th May

Funding application for upgrade of path between Mason Lodge and Pitcairn Lodge being discussed with E&SCC as part of their CAP [E's]

Broadshade/Berryhill Circle - no sign of factor's contractor clearing the drainage ditch as yet, and no meeting arranged with local residents. The sign acknowledging funding support has still to be installed by our contractor at their cost. Strimming may be required.

Westhill Golf Club – Some repairs to eroded path required, using quarry dust. Have discussed location for dust store with Manager. [Est £50]. Strimming may be required.

Meadowlands Farm track – 10 tons of crushed stone laid over ruts and puddles on 15th May with the aid of 6 volunteers, and at a cost of £200.

Connections to Brimmond – [confidential] no progress to report.

Connection east from Hillside Road – [confidential] no progress to report.

Lawsondale – 10 tons of quarry material purchased – 15 tons delivered due to a quality issue. Volunteers [7+5] patched/reinforced 40m or so of soft ground over two recent Wednesdays [Est £300]. Another team started strimming with surprise input from LS!

All sectors: more directional arrows to be stuck to street furniture on the north sector. We will return to strimming all sectors at the end of the month after the bedding plants are in.

Other Green Spaces

Maintenance of Denman planted areas – on hold now until winter.

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Denman Park – PBIP Project – our contractor making steady progress and, as of 27th May, confident of completing all elements on our wish list now that the high-risk foundations have been completed. Both new bridges installed and new path laid between Tesco crossing and new bridge.

Carnie boardwalk removal: planning to restart when conditions are warmer and the ground drier. The ranger is actively considering raising funds [£1,000 - £1,500] to replace the boardwalk with quarry material.

Funding Update

£70 spent on drainage pipes at WGC, and £443 committed on purchase and delivery of quarry material for path reinforcement, sufficient for a few years. Virtually new wheelbarrow - foc!

Budget allocated for 2024/25 - £2,000. Estimated spend so far - £650

Planting Update [from Mervyn] - Been getting the Green Wall area prepared for summer display-preparing the baskets, repairing the watering system. The baskets were planted yesterday. Some plants will be provided for the Special Needs house at Cruickshank Court and Westdyke Leisure Centre.

Mervyn wanted to record special thanks to Ken Stewart and Rachid for all their help with the summer plants.

11 Community Action Plan (Diane Priestly)

Circulated report in italics:-

On 9th June we had a stand at the Lazy Sunday Afternoon. Feedback raised included litter, more bins at school needed, better sports facilities, evening classes, public toilet, community garden.

The planning group have a CAP stakeholders meeting on the 26th June to discuss the actions that have been identified during the CAP engagement events over the year.

Planning Matters (Diane Priestly)

12 Circulated report in italics:-

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

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.

APP/2024/0469 full planning permission for alterations and extension to dwellinghouse 7 Westhill Grange, Westhill AB32 6QJ-awaiting decision.

APP/2024/0458 full planning permission for change of use of office to Hairdresser and Cryotherapy Business at Unit 1 Westhill Business Centre, Endeavour Drive, Arnhall Business Park AB32 6UF-awaiting a decision.

APP/2024/0562 Full planning permission for Change of Use of Agricultural Land to form Dog Exercise Park, Erection of Fence, Siting of Shelter and Car Parking Area -awaiting decision.

APP/2024/0586 Wickes Advertisement Consent for Display of Signage including illumination and Totem Sign-approved.

APP/2024/0483 Marks and Spencer full planning permission for the Installation of a Condensing Unit-awaiting decision

APP/2024/0647 7 Crombie Road Full Planning Permission for Installation of a Disabled Ramp-withdrawn

APP/2024/0837 Kingshill Commercial Park -Full planning permission for formation vehicular Access for Future development -awaiting decision.

HILL OF FARE

This application is still open after being extended several times; the closing date is now the 17th October.

PYLONS

Kintore are already seeing two super pylons being installed.

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There is a second consultation on the 19th June at the Kintore Bowling Club by Statera Energy re the proposed hydrogen plant at Kintore.

LDP

The LDP consultations and surveys are now underway, the assessment of Open Space and Play Space within Aberdeenshire have now been completed and there is a survey for you to comment on the draft findings. There are now three more public consultations: Blue green infrastructure, Business and Industry and Culture and Creativity which close on the 12th July.

- Blue Green infrastructure-this topic covers nature networks, the water environment, woodlands, open space, core paths and sustainable urban drainage. The recommendations are that outcomes and processes are designed to deliver multiples functions including climate mitigation, nature restoration, bio diversity and flood prevention. Water management and community benefits from accessible, high-quality blue green spaces and civic spaces*
- Business and industry - highlights the emerging opportunities from transitioning away from oil and gas in the North Sea, this paper underlines the importance of the green energy transition whilst backing the traditional sectors such as fishing, agriculture, manufacturing and tourism.*
- Culture and Creativity within Aberdeenshire sees the benefits as wellbeing, social cohesion, community resilience and positive economic impacts.*

Meanwhile the consultations on Rural Housing and Development and Lived in Experience finish on the 14th June. Diane Priestley.

Diane suggested that we get a senior Planner to speak to us later In the year about how all these surveys link into the LDP and NPF4. Diane will contact Piers Blaxter to try to arrange this.

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

Matters Arising from 9th May meeting:

Westhill Bulletin printing: *negotiations with Tradeprint and Neil Watson are ongoing with the potential to allow us to generate an additional £10,000 of annual contribution for community projects, plus offer some protection from further contribution erosion/diminution.*

Community Support Fund: *donations made to CWAS Westhill and Kingshill Community Church as agreed.*

Gordon pointed out that we hadn't made a donation this year yet to Rotary towards cost of Lazy Sunday event. We are not sure if it is self-funded through the charges for bouncy castles, side shows etc.

Gordon will contact David Dent to say that WECC wish to make a contribution again but will ask for an insight into how the finances work. A donation of our normal £500 was agreed.

Payments made to Audrey and Elaine for CAP meeting expenses as agreed.

Financial Transactions – May

Income: £50 from Vinespring Church

Expenditure: £1711 – comprising 16 payments detailed on copy bank statement at **Appendix 1**

Outstanding Commitments: £1,020, comprising two months of honoraria payments to Secretary, plus £180 due to paths contractor for delivery of quarry materials, plus £273 earmarked for bedding plants and compost, plus £200 for second sail flag.

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	<p>Bank Balances at Month End: £33,750</p> <p>Main Account: £13,764 [see Appendix 1] Bulletin Account: £19,986</p> <p>Westhill Bulletin</p> <p>The Summer Issue is expected to gross £9,882 and generate a contribution after costs of £2,137. The budgeted contribution was £1,500. Congratulations to David for exceeding budgetary expectations</p>
14	<p>AOB & Close of Meeting</p> <p>Meeting closed at 9.45pm</p> <p>Date of Next Meeting- 8th August, 7pm at Community Church, with Zoom option.</p>

APPENDIX



GARIOCH COMMUNITY POLICING TEAM VISIBLE, ACCESSIBLE AND EFFECTIVE

Community Council: Westhill and Elrick
Reporting Period: 1 to 31 May 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	1	1
Housebreaking	0	0
Public Nuisance	10	14
Road Traffic	5 collision, 8 other	2 collision, 6 other
Drugs	1	1

Assault – Includes all recorded instances of violence.

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

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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 1 incident reported

- Female assaulted by male. Enquiries are ongoing.

Housebreaking:

There have been 0 reports.

Public Nuisance:

There has been 10 reports which is a decrease from last month. 3 of the reports relate to the same property and these are being followed up by our Community Beat Officer.

- Youths kicking bus shelter. A unit did attend however they had left before our arrival. No damage was caused.
- Youths shouting at male. They had dispersed before a unit attended and no criminality identified.
- Youths entered Westhill Academy and caused a disturbance. They are not pupils at the school and positive lines of enquiry are being followed.
- Youths kicking gate repeatedly. No damage caused.
- Youths shouting in a park. A unit attended with no criminality identified.
- Youths riding bikes up and down while shouting. A unit attended with no persons traced.
- Eggs thrown at a vehicle. No damage was caused.

Road Traffic:

This period has seen 5 reported accidents, 4 involved single vehicles and the other 3. Sadly one resulted in a fatality however this was not due to injuries sustained in the collision.

Reports received relate to a manner of driving, stray animals and possible document offences. Two vehicles were damaged while parked and one driver arrested regarding driving while under the influence of drugs. Enquiries are ongoing.

Two drivers have been reported to the Procurator Fiscal for Road Traffic Offences.

Drugs:

There has been 1 report regarding persons suspected to be smoking cannabis. A unit attended with no persons traced.

Significant Crime/Issues within Your Community:

There have been no significant events this reporting period.

Planned Community Policing Activity/Advice:

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