

APPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, 8TH AUGUST 2024, AT COMMUNITY CHURCH & BY ZOOM.

Community Council		
Name	Position	Present
Mayasa Al-Jubori	Member	✓ (via zoom)
Mervyn Barr	Member	✓
Malcolm Collie	Member	✓
Heather Cook	Member	✓
Roy Mitchell (Rotary)	Associate Member	✓ (via zoom)
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	*

1	<p><u>Welcome and opening remarks</u></p> <p>Vice Chair Willie Munro chaired the meeting, being held in Community Church as a test event</p> <p>Permission was granted to record the meeting</p>
2	<p><u>Apologies and Declarations of Interest</u></p> <p>Apologies received from Tim Yeomans, and Cllrs McKail, Miller & Joji</p>
3	<p><u>Approval of Minutes of Meeting 13th June 2024</u></p> <p>Minutes were approved. Proposed by Gordon, seconded by Audrey</p>
4	<p><u>Matters Arising (not covered elsewhere)</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Larg/Broadstraik Park (Malcolm) – yellow rattle seeds will be planted at park in September. Gordon queried if the offer of trees from Apache could be taken up for the park. David had only sent details of this to Mervyn & Gordon. He will send it to Malcolm. Deadline for applying has been extended to 19th August 2. Litter Picking- Circulated report from Gordon in italics:- <i>Scheduled Picks</i> <i>We have hosted 3 picks since our last meeting, with another scheduled for this coming Saturday, 10th. There has been a healthy turn-out for all picks, with 15, 11 and 12 volunteers attending.</i>

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Additional Bins

No sign as yet, a reminder sent to Norman Wright. Promised for Denman Park [opposite Costa], B979 car park at west end of Carnie Woods, bottom of Westhill Heights at edge of Golf Course, and between Academy and rear of M&S.

Still 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

No progress – summer

Other Enquiries

Westdyke 2017's – aimed at 6/7 year olds, will take place on 17th August as part of a sponsored walk on some of the Orbital Trail with parents and coaches.

Borr Drilling – completed successfully on 5th June

3. **Swimming Pool-** Shrubs at Pool have been cut back by Council
Audrey commented that the Pool & Academy are showing their age now.
4. **Business Association** (Elaine).
The Enterprising Aberdeenshire event on 28th August will be held in Holiday Inn. Elaine will get 10 minutes at it to promote a Business Association. Attendance will be by invitation only from Enterprising Aberdeenshire, so we can't promote it. Any CC member who would like to attend, please contact Elaine
5. **TotalEnergies-** Willie had recalled that in the discussions with Rhonda at TotalEnergies they had indicated that they could help with bike training at the Hampton hotel. David advised this has never been mentioned at the community reps fortnightly meetings, but bike training has been provided by other organisations. Willie will contact Rhonda to ask if she would like to attend one of our meetings,
6. **WECC Social Media –.**
Re the issues that Kate is having about not now being able to share things on our website to Facebook, Malcolm had agreed to assist Becky, Kate and David with this but they haven't met to look at this yet. Malcolm will discuss it with Kate at the meeting break time
7. **AFC Community Trust-** Willie has been trying to arrange meeting with them, but suitable date not yet arranged.
8. **Carnie Pitches Flooding-** Gordon advised that ownership of the pitches has been confirmed as Aberdeenshire Council. He has contacted Lee Watson in AC to start a discussion on the flooding but no response yet.
9. **Westdyke Leisure Centre.**
Gordon pointed out that currently to get from the car park on to the football pitches involves going up steps. It would be good to get a zig-zag path laid that would also link up to existing paths at the Centre. Gordon has contacted Sandy Scott in Landscape Services about this but no response yet.
Re Charlie's query on the Centre getting relief from paying Rates, he has been looking into this. He thinks that

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	<p>the Denman group have a 'licence to occupy the premises'. Under these terms they are not liable for paying Rates.</p> <p>Gordon commented that the Centre mobile phone appears to be switched off just now so it is difficult to contact the Centre and they are not responding to emails either.</p> <p>Charlie is trying to get the lighting improved before the table tennis season starts.</p> <p>There was some discussion on the continuing issues with getting responses from Council Officers. The Councillors also have issues with this. Willie suggested this be raised at the Community Council Forum again as it has been discussed there before. Willie will draft a paper on this for the Forum to look at.</p> <p>10. WECC meetings venue- Malcolm has been to see the Broadstraik Inn about their plans for refurbishing their function room. Not yet known when it is likely to be available The Community Church room has a permanent booking for Thursday evenings during term time so we can't use this room then.</p> <p>11. Greg Welsh from Sports Hub to speak at September meeting. Elaine is arranging this. Not sure yet what time suits him to come. We used to get Sports Hub minutes so David will request Greg to start sending them to us again.</p> <p>12. Pride of Westhill Awards- this will be held over till the new community council in October.</p>
5	<p>Police Report</p> <p>Reports for June & July (see appendix) have been received since last meeting. No major issues. Public Nuisance incidents are down again.</p>
6	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>Review of secretary correspondence log for last 2 months. (Circulated)</p> <p>The second round of the Area Initiative Fund is open till 20th October. It doesn't look like there will be any projects that we could apply for funding.</p> <p>Gordon will look at the 'Westhill to Aberdeen – Active Travel Improvements' survey; Charlie, Willie & Diane will look at the 'Passenger Transport Strategy' Survey</p> <p>Re 'Aberdeenshire Decides', David will sign up for it as secretary. Individuals can also sign up.</p> <p>Heather commented on the reduced hours for the A2B Dial-a-bus. The bus will not now be available to take Senior Citizen Club members home after their fortnightly meetings</p>
7	<p>Asylum Seeker Hotel</p> <p>The hotel now has 298 residents, so is effectively full. Means more pressure for NHS to get the health assessment done, and strong demand for clothing.</p> <p>No indication of any protestor activity like has been happening at some of the hotels in England.</p>
8	<p><u>Rotary Update/Exchange- Roy Mitchell</u></p> <p>Senior Citizens Christmas party will be on Sunday 1st December, expecting around 140 to attend</p>

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	<p>Lazy Sunday 2025 will be on Sunday 8th June</p> <p>Doing litter picks with 10 SUs from Hampton Hotel on 2nd & 4th Saturdays</p> <p>Rotary had their 40 year Charter event recently and raised £1703. This will be distributed to local charities.</p> <p>Rotary have pulled back from helping with the bikes at Hampton Hotel as it was proving too difficult to manage</p>
9	<p><u>Ward 13 Councillors updates</u></p> <p>Cllr Iris Walker</p> <p>Getting lot of requests to get potholes filled, but Councillors have limited powers in directing Roads dept. as to which potholes should be fixed.</p> <p>Re the Bulletin, the Councillors are now going to submit a joint report, instead of individual ones, and are asking residents what topics they would like to see covered.</p> <p>Have had a few complaints about size of the Wickes sign on their new store.</p> <p>There may be a bins strike next Wednesday.</p> <p>The outstanding works at the new houses beside Hampton Hotel is expected to be completed by March 2025</p> <p>Audrey Findlay raised the issue of bad design and poor level of grass maintenance in the cremation lairs area in cemetery at Kirkton of Skene. Iris will find out about the design and the expected level of grass maintenance.</p>
10	<p><u>Westhill Green Spaces Update</u></p> <p>Circulated report from Gordon Prentice in italics, with updates in normal type:-</p> <p><i>Path Development/Maintenance [clockwise]</i></p> <p><i>Gateway Sculpture</i> – heather beds weeded and privet hedge trimmed</p> <p><i>Hidden Garden</i> – weeds strimmed back again last month. How about a sign there saying “Community Rest Area”? This was agreed as a good idea. There is no bin there but the litter-pickers go there often.</p> <p><i>Carnie Woods</i> – project complete – no date yet for wash-up meeting with ACC project team</p> <p><i>Mason Lodge</i> – Cala have still to reinstall the WOT sign at junction of B979 and A944 – imminent as part of current works on junction. The works are now finished and WOT sign is back up.</p> <p><i>West of Mason Lodge – path to Springhill Farm – have referred this to Community Payback team for further strimming</i></p> <p><i>Have received an invitation from E&SCC to help their newly formed Paths Group [set up to fulfil one of their CAP objectives]. Main priority is to help with links to KoS, particularly upgrade of path between Mason Lodge and Pitcairn Lodge. Heather advised there is now a post on the track from Pitcairn Lodge to KoS so vehicles can’t drive along there now. Gordon advised the track is a right-of-way so if non-motorised wheeled things like trishaws can’t now get through then the post is an infringement of the rules.</i></p> <p><i>Broadshade/Berryhill Circle</i> - no sign of factor’s contractor clearing the drainage ditch as yet, although major flood prevention work done further west, on the north edge of the Malcolm Allan development. Awaiting contact from James Gibb’s Director. The sign acknowledging funding support has still to be installed by our contractor at their cost. Strimming was done here and along the path linking to Dawson Drive.</p>

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Westhill Golf Club – Strimming done early July. Path repairs still required, using quarry dust. Have discussed location for dust store with Manager. [Est £130].

Meadowlands Farm track & lane – strimming done to cut away overhanging vegetation.

Lawsondale – strimming done in late June

All sectors: more directional arrows stuck to street furniture.

Other Green Spaces

Maintenance of Denman planted areas – on hold now until winter. Tajana has agreed to help with planning
Denman Park – PBIP Project – progress has been frustratingly slow over the summer months, but most components of new extended path network now in place, apart from new benches and the section where the contractor's compound is located. Final surfacing – subcontracted to a specialist contractor - will take place after the school holidays.

Carnie boardwalk removal - no progress to report - 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.

Westdyke Leisure Centre car park – 4 volunteers were assisted by 5 asylum seekers to clear away all of the car park weeds, leaving the car park in pristine condition ahead of their big “open day” on 4th July. Centre staff were very grateful.

Crombie Drive car park – we lent our equipment and some time to Rotary to help clear this other neglected car park of overhanging vegetation in a residential area populated with mainly elderly residents. Dave Dent from Rotary recruited another team of asylum seekers to help with some of the heavier tasks.

Funding Update

£264 was spent over the last couple of months, the majority on quarry material and a tampering tool for current and future path reinforcement work, plus a small amount of more strimmer cable.

Budget allocated for 2024/25 - £2,000. Spend so far - £680

Planting Update

In the week after our last meeting we completed populating over 40 hanging baskets on the green wall with the help of another handful of volunteers. A few of us went on to do some planting at Cruickshank Place and Westdyke Leisure Centre.

Looking ahead, the winter pansies have been ordered for the autumn planting. We are also thinking of experimenting with some half barrels at the outer edge of the Holiday Inn roundabout, and subject to permission from Landscape Services to maybe try some at the Broadshade roundabout. This is just an idea at the moment and we will confirm after we've thought it through fully. Biggest challenge is watering, but we may find a way around this using a water retaining agent such as vermiculite.

Gordon & Mervyn

Willie thanked Gordon for laying on a BBQ for the Green Spaces Team yesterday

11 **Community Action Plan** (Diane Priestly)

Circulated report in italics:-

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On 26th June there was a Westhill Community Action Stakeholders meeting with Aberdeenshire Council, the themes that we discussed were Outdoors, Green Transport, Sports and Recreation, Facilities, Community Activities and Young Peoples Voices. The discussion resulted in a number of actions and projects to be carried out by WECC working in conjunction with a number of external partners. WECC members will be able to comment on this document once it has been finalised..

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-approved.

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-approved.

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- approved.

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-approved

APP/2024/0664 7 Broadstraik Drive Full planning permission for alterations and extension to Dwelling House- approved.

APP/2024/1182 Unit 5 Kingshill Park, Venture Drive, Arnhall Business Park Westhill AB32 6FL-advertisement consent for Display of 2 illuminated Fascia Signs

HILL OF FARE

Aberdeenshire Council has requested an extension to the public closure date which is now the 17th October and is the third revision since February. This has been requested due to two statutory consultees Historic Environment who have objected on the impact of two stone circles of national importance in the Midmar area and Nature Scot has objected re the poor data on the collision effect on the Red Kite population.

There are now at least 1700 objections submitted to the ECU (Energy **Consents Unit**) re this application, for further information on any current developments which have been approved and any new cases submitted in the last 28days you can check with the ECU.

PYLONS

SSEN has been requesting access to survey land for a third potential OHL route between Banchory and Westhill-Tealing corridor.

LDP

The exercise of developing and consulting on numerous topic papers is nearing the end however views are now being sought on the following :

Green Belt

- It will be looking at the performance of the LDP Green Belt Policy, looking at the recent planning applications and appeals.
- The existing Aberdeenshire Green belt designation boundaries
- Other settlements across Aberdeenshire where there is a high development pressure.

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Coastal development

- *Looks at how we use the coast.*
- *Where development should be promoted*
- *The biodiversity of the landscape value for tourist and visitor enjoyment*
- *The function of the harbours', places where you can informally access and enjoy sea based activities.*
- *The implication of climate change and predictions of the sea level rising*

Minerals

- *Looking at the mineral extraction and its regional planning implications*
- *The need to continue to protect and promote exploitable sand and gravel deposits across Aberdeenshire.*
- *The report balances economic needs with environmental preservation.*
- *It also discusses the impact on biodiversity, local communities and the need for buffer zones, whilst encouraging the use of recycled materials to promote sustainable development.*

These surveys close on the 23rd August and can be found on the Engage Aberdeenshire -Welcome to the Local Development Plan Engagement Hub.

Diane will request a senior planner from Council come to a future meeting to explain how all the surveys etc. tie into the LDP, probably a separate meeting from our normal one

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

Matters Arising 13 June:

Westhill Bulletin printing: printing of the Autumn Issue will stay with XIC whilst we continue to assess the complexity of transferring the graphic design work to our preferred contractor.
All commitments last month discharged.

Financial Transactions – June/July

Income: £3,889 – comprising £100 from Vinespring Church, plus £72 bank interest [Bulletin Account] plus payment from 36 Bulletin advertisers.

Expenditure: £8,361 – comprising payment of £7,195 to bulletin printer plus 9 payments.

Outstanding Commitments: £1,183, comprising 4 months of honoraria payments to Secretary, plus £450 honorarium for Bulletin tasks. Additionally £247 for Bulletin postages & £24 for xmas lights storage boxes.

Bank Balances at Month End: £29,278

Main Account: £12,697

Bulletin Account: £16,580

Westhill Bulletin

The Summer Issue is expected to gross £9,842 and generate a contribution of £2,137 after costs. The budgeted contribution was £1,500.

14 AOB & Close of Meeting

Meeting closed at 9.50pm

Vote of thanks to Becky for providing the meeting room for us.

Date of Next Meeting- 12th September, 7pm at Holiday Inn, with Zoom option.

APPENDIX –POLICE REPORTS FOR JUNE & JULY



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

Community Council: Westhill and Elrick

Reporting Period: 1 to 30 June 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	4	1
Housebreaking	0	0
Public Nuisance	3	10
Road Traffic	0 collision, 7 other	5 collision, 8 other
Drugs	0	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.

Assault:

There has been 4 incidents reported which did not result in serious injury.

- Domestic Assault. Report submitted to Procurator Fiscal.
- Male pushed and hit by another. Recorded Police Warning issued.
- Male punched by another. Recorded Police Warning issued.
- Male pushed and hit by another. Recorded Police Warning issued.

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Housebreaking:

There have been 0 reports.

Public Nuisance:

There has been 3 reports which is significant decrease.

- Male refusing to leave licenced premises. All parties seen and no offences identified.
- Youths within woodland on bicycles being verbally abusive to passers by. Youths traced, suitable advice given and moved on. No offences identified.
- Male on electric bike driving on sports pitch. Circulated for awareness of local officers.

Road Traffic:

This period has seen no reported accidents. Four vehicles were damaged while parked. Enquiries are ongoing.

Reports received relate to a manner of driving, possible document offences. Enquiry is ongoing in respect of Careless Driving in respect of one report.

A driver has been reported to the Procurator Fiscal for Drug Driving.

Drugs:

There has been no reports.

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

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3. ROAD SAFETY – Enhanced speed checks and other speed reduction measures.

Crime Overview and Explanation:

CRIME TYPE	CURRENT PERIOD	PREVIOUS PERIOD
Assault	0	4
Housebreaking	0	0
Public Nuisance	2	3
Road Traffic	0 accident, 4 other	0 collision, 7 other
Drugs	0	0

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 have been 0 reports.

Housebreaking:

There have been 0 reports.

Public Nuisance:

There has been 2 reports which is another decrease.

- Teenagers within school grounds making noise. Unit attended with no persons traced.
- Vehicles revving their engines and doing donuts. Unit attended with no vehicles traced.

Road Traffic:

This period has seen no reported accidents.

Reports received relate to a manner of driving, oil on the road, a pedestrian walking in the road and possible document offences.

Drugs:

There has been no reports.

Significant Crime/Issues within Your Community:

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Emma Forbes
Sergeant A0645