

APPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, 10TH OCTOBER 2024, AT HOLIDAY INN & BY ZOOM.

Community Council		
Name	Position	Present
Mayasa Al-Jubori	Member	✓
Mervyn Barr	Member	*
Malcolm Collie	Member	✓
Heather Cook	Member	✓
Alistair Mckelvie (Rotary)	Associate Member	*
Becky Ferguson	Member	✓ (via zoom)
Audrey Findlay	Associate Member	✓
Charlie Flint	Member	✓
Darren Green	Member	✓
Kate Lumsden	Member	✓
Arthur McArthur	Chair	*
Elaine Manley	Member	✓
Rachid Meghezzi	Vice-Chair	✓
William Munro	Vice-Chair	✓ (via zoom)
Gordon Prentice	Treasurer	✓
Diane Priestley	Member	✓
David Ritchie	Secretary	✓
Tim Yeomans	Member	✓ (via zoom)
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	✓ (via zoom)

Member of Public- Hazel Mustard

Guest Speaker - Janette Taylor (AC Environmental Health)

1	Welcome and opening remarks Vice Chair Rachid Megehezzi chaired the meeting and welcomed all. Permission was granted to record the meeting
2	Apologies and Declarations of Interest Apologies received from Arthur, Mervyn and Cllr Miller
3	Approval of Minutes of Meeting 12th September 2024 Correction for 4(9)- Westdyke Leisure Centre- the lottery funding was for the Hall heating, not lighting Minutes were approved. Proposed by Heather, seconded by Gordon. The Minute of the Inaugural Meeting on 26 th September was also approved
4	Janette Taylor (AC Environmental Health) - Seagulls in Westhill/Elrick Janette gave an interesting presentation on gulls in the Westhill area. The slidepack can be viewed at this link living-with-gulls.pptx Re the trial at Westhill Primary using a solar powered sonic device, this is being trialled elsewhere to confirm if it is helping to reduce gull numbers. Projects are being considered for secondary schools. Audrey suggested that WECC could help with that, like reminding the Academy to reduce amount of food litter.

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5	<p><u>Matters Arising (not covered elsewhere)</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Larg/Broadstraik Park (Malcolm) – A young local resident has been doing a lot of good work to keep the park looking tidy, like cutting & raking grass. Malcolm attended a meeting recently run by Nescan on the role of communities in Just Transition. He will get the minutes of this for us. Litter Picking (Gordon) Having issues in finding out from Norman Wright the status of the 4 additional bins he had promised in June we could get. Ron Mckail will help to get this resolved. Gordon has still to approach Aldi to put a bin in their car park and LCP to put a textile recycling bin in their car park. Litter-picking going well. A number of individuals, including Rachid & Darren, do a lot between the regular organised picks. Business Association (Elaine). Meeting to be held at the Community Church on 4th November. A friend will give a talk on Networking. The room hire charge of approx. £50 for this was approved. Will aim to arrange meetings every two months or so. A future topic is likely to be Rates TotalEnergies- Carnie Woods boardwalk removal- see item 11 Green Spaces update. Willie will arrange meeting with Total to discuss potential projects. WECC Social Media –. No changes or issues to report Westdyke Leisure Centre. WLC have applied to the WECC Community Support Fund for a grant towards Hall lighting. Kirkton of Skene Cemetery Iris advised that she is waiting for the Area team to arrange a meeting of Ward 13 Councillors with Sandy Scott. Sports Hub (Tim) No update as not been able to get any news from Greg Welsh.
6	<p>Police Report Public Nuisance incidents are 6 for September, August was only 1. Concerned that there has been a serious injury assault. Cllr Mckail mentioned the issue of incidents potentially being caused by youths coming to Westhill using their free bus passes. The police report isn't detailed enough to show that the bus passes are a contributing factor.</p> <p>There was discussion on the recent incident of a female defecating at the back of Duncanos. Maya had put a link to the P&J article into our Whats App, which some members felt was inappropriate. Other members appreciated the heads up on a potentially reputationally damaging story.</p>
7	<p>Correspondence</p>

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	<p>Review of secretary correspondence log for last month. (Circulated) Nothing that we needed to discuss.</p>
8	<p><u>Rotary Update/Exchange- Roy Mitchell</u></p> <p>Men Shed are going to make a base for the pool table. Hope to be able to put it in Westdyke Leisure Centre. The Petanque court is open for bookings. David Dent has created a Whats App group for it. Senior Citizens party on 1st December is being organised. Rotary stone near Tesco roundabout has been cleaned up, but the light isn't working. The Council will sort it at some point. Lazy Sunday Afternoon 2025 will be on 8th June.</p>
9	<p><u>Asylum Seeker Hotel</u></p> <p>Numbers are fairly stable at around 300, as that is near the maximum. Pressure on the clothes bank run by the churches. The Swimming Pool is now available but some guys don't have towels or trunks. The community minibus has been booked by the resettlement team to take service users on day trips to Peterhead, Fraserburgh & Banff in early December, as these are the towns that they are more likely to be offered housing at if they wish to settle in this area. Funding for the healthcare provision at the hotel is coming from the Home Office funding to the Council.</p>
10	<p><u>Ward 13 Councillors updates</u></p> <p><u>Cllr Ron Mckail</u></p> <p>A lot of Council time is being taken up with the Council budget and how to reduce the deficit. All the affected Area Committees objected to the Hill of Fare turbines so there will be a Public Inquiry. Staff at Westhill Primary have difficulties with parking as the car park at the school is a public one, there is no designated staff parking area. The Garlogie Beam Engine has had open days & schools have visited</p> <p><u>Cllr Fatima Joji</u></p> <p>There was an information session last week in Ashdale Hall by Aberdeenshire Sight Loss, Hearing Loss & Deafness organisations. A resident attending it had advised that Fatima an issue they are having is with the buses. They would like to see signage in the buses to show where the stops are, Fatima has contacted Stagecoach about this.</p> <p><u>Cllr Iris Walker</u></p> <p>Some lighting columns in Westhill have been removed as they are unsafe and there is no budget to replace them. Iris attended the Health & Social Care Partnership road show at Trinity Church yesterday. Had conversation about hospital transport. Iris requested that David Ritchie talked at next meeting about the hospital transport service he provides. There has been fires lit at Carnie Woods by asylum seekers. The Fire service & Police have run awareness sessions at the hotel on the risks around fires in the woods.</p>
11	<p><u>Westhill Green Spaces Update</u></p> <p>Circulated report from Gordon Prentice in italics, with updates in normal type:-</p>

APPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, 10TH OCTOBER 2024, AT HOLIDAY INN & BY ZOOM.

Orbital Trail Development/Maintenance [clockwise from Gateway Sculpture]

Gateway Sculpture – n/a

Hidden Garden – “Community Rest Area” sign still on shopping list

Silvertrees Drive to Peregrine Road – n/a

Carnie Woods – Total Energies volunteer group removed around 40m unsafe boardwalk at Carnie Woods. They have also donated £200 of Amazon vouchers to allow us to buy a new saw.

No date yet for wash-up meeting with ACC project team

Mason Lodge – Ian Mitchell offered to ask a contractor to quote for levelling the embankment path from the Pitcairn Lodge junction to the path from Mason Lodge.

Westhill Golf Club – No change: path repairs still required, using quarry dust. Have discussed location for dust store with Manager. [Est £130]. Waymarker post to be installed.

Westhill Drive – 4 spots requiring vegetation to be cut back from public pavements. Met with Ian Mitchell 13th Sept and he agreed that LS would cut back vegetation opposite bus turning circle; Green Spaces team can cut back branches overhanging the Academy’s eastern boundary fence [tba]; one of the two residents opposite the Academy has cut back their hedge; the other has still to do so.

Link north to Craigmar – no change - emails sent to Marshalls asking for meeting to discuss ideas to complete the off-road path from north edge of town to Craigmar turn-off have yet to receive a reply. Gordon will phone them.

Meadowlands Farm track & lane – n/a

Mains of Kinmundy Hill – Bench scheduled for repair in next couple of weeks.

Links east from Hillside Road – LS requested to cut back pavement vegetation from Hillside Road junction to Lawsondale turn-off.

Lawsondale – further strimming done by Community Payback team. Message of thanks sent.

All sectors - n/a

Other Green Spaces

Denman Park – PBIP Project – progress has continued to be frustratingly slow over recent weeks. The bonded material contractor [Abacus] started on site Tuesday, 3rd September with the expectation of completing in a couple of weeks, but he too has been MIA for considerable periods. Work is due to finish this week, weather allowing. That will then allow the main contractor to do the final pieces of work.

A group of volunteers fitted new posts and rails to the repurposed bridge in the last two weeks of September so that the bridge now meets safety standards for pedestrian-only bridges. The posts and rails were donated by the contractor.

I don’t intend to plan an official opening until all material laid and snags attended to.

Denman Park Flooding Issue – still a work in progress for AC officials. There are no plans to repair the damaged paths until there is confidence that the filtration unit is working effectively during periods of sustained rainfall.

Maintenance of Denman planted areas – autumn site meeting to be arranged with Ian Mitchell

Carnie Woods boardwalk removal – Total Energies two small teams managed to remove the first section of 40m on Wednesday, 25th September. TE subsequently donated £200 of Amazon vouchers to help us buy pruning saws. Rachid wrote to thank them, and I have since written to ask what lessons were learnt in relation to the remaining 200m.

APPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, 10TH OCTOBER 2024, AT HOLIDAY INN & BY ZOOM.

Westdyke Leisure Centre accessible path – Meeting with Ian Mitchell held on 13th Sept. IM very supportive and will ask a contractor for quotation which would allow us to apply for funding.

Carnie Crescent All Weather Pitches [AWP] – AC's clerk of works would prefer an access path to be laid in tar but would accept other materials. They may be obtainable from our Denman Park contractor. Have asked Avant Homes [waste ground landowner] for consent to effect improvements.

Blackhills Court – IM is happy for the Green Spaces Team to help residents plant a screening hedge against the southern boundary fence. Considering delegating this project to ROVOP or TE, both of whom have expressed interest in "community service" projects.

Funding Update

Spent £59 on post and rail fixings for the repurposed bridge at Denman Park. Budget allocated for 2024/25 - £2,000. Spend so far - £973. Future spend may be required for quarry material at WGC, spare parts and extendable loppers. The Amazon vouchers will be used for pruning saws.

Planting Update

Town Centre bedding plants still doing well, so autumn planting of winter pansies has been postponed until the last two weeks of October. Plants will be provided from AC stock, so precise dates subject to availability and delivery.

Along with other communities in the shire, we have been invited to apply for 8 free fruit trees/bushes on a first-come-first-served basis. The trees/bushes must be planted on public land. Should we apply [by 31st October], and any thoughts on where to plant? Suggestions were the grass area at Hillside Rd/Westhill Rd junction and the park opposite the recycling centre.

Volunteers – Still 6-8 attending weekly for a couple of hours on a Wednesday morning. Sincere thanks to all.

Gordon & Mervyn

12 Community Action Plan (Diane Priestly)

Circulated report in italics:-

A meeting was arranged this week to go over the final details of the document before it goes to print.

50 copies will be printed. Members are asked to look at the list of actions near the back to see which ones they could help with, or if they know someone or an organisation who have an interest in any of the topics.

Suggested that the CAP be split up into sections and put on website/facebook over a series of weeks.

Planning Matters (Diane Priestly)

13 Circulated report in italics:-

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

APP/2024/1115 -1 Ashdale Close AB32 6LN Full Planning Permission for alterations and extension to Dwellinghouse-approved.

APP/2024/1259 -Swagelok Scotland, Silvertrees Drive, Silvertrees Business Park AB326BH -Full planning permission for alterations and Extension to Building-awaiting decision.

APPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, 10TH OCTOBER 2024, AT HOLIDAY INN & BY ZOOM.

APP/2024/1311 -11 Blackhills Way Westhill AB32 6YY-Full planning permission for Alterations and extension to Dwellinghouse-approved.

APP/2024/1212 -Westhill Retail Park, Ashdale Drive AB32 6LP-Full planning permission for the installation of 2 electric Vehicle Charging hubs with associated substation and Infrastructure-awaiting decision.

APP/2024/1453 Unit 5 at Westhill Shopping Centre Full planning permission for change of use from café to a Hot Food takeaway with seated area, Mr Yhtyyar Jorayeu, -awaiting decision.

APP/2024/1563 Specsaver Unit 23 Westhill Shopping Centre AB32 6RL-full planning permission for the installation of 6 Air Conditioning Units. It looks like Specsavers are going to move into the unit vacated by JK Fine Foods.

TRE/2024/0111 4 Meadowlands Way, Westhill, AB32 6ED-TPO for felling of Ash Trees and 1 Spruce Tree and Pruning of Tree Group 1 and Spruce Trees

HILL OF FARE

On 3rd October this application was discussed by the Infrastructure Services Committee and they have objected to the proposed windfarm. It will now go to a statutory public enquiry before it is determined by the Scottish Government.

PYLONS

There was a SSEN consultation at the Echt Hall on the Kintore to Tealing 400kV Overhead Line, this event was part of the pre application consultation process for the consent application to go forward this year and the plan is that the construction will be completed by 2030.

LDP

A reminder that we have a special meeting organised for thursday 24th October at the Holiday Inn for 7pm where Piers Blaxter the team leader for the development plan and a colleague will be talking us through the changes to the LDP and how it links to the NPF4.

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

Matters Arising 12 September:

Income: £3,249 – comprising £50 from Vinespring Church, plus £3,134 from 25 Bulletin advertisers, plus £65 bank interest.

Expenditure: £7,997 – comprising payment of £7,840 to Bulletin printer for Autumn Issue plus 8 payments totalling £157 detailed on copy bank statement at **Appendix 1**

Outstanding Commitments: £1,178 - comprising quarterly honoraria compensation for time spent on Secretarial role and Bulletin production, plus incidental expenses, and including £130 refund to discontinuing bulletin advertiser.

Bank Balances at Month End: £24,673

Main Account: £13,290 [see **Appendix 1**]

Bulletin Account: £11,383

Westhill Bulletin

Provisional figures for Autumn Issue [100 pages]:

Advertising sales - £11,236; Costs [print + hon] - £8,290; Contribution - £2,946, against budget of £1,500.

Thanks to David.

APPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, 10TH OCTOBER 2024, AT HOLIDAY INN & BY ZOOM.

	<p>Re advertising rates for 2025, after some discussion, it was agreed that the rates could be increased by around 3%. Likely not to be increased in 2026 as the new business model means costs will be lower.</p> <p>Community Support Fund Annual Budget - £4,000; Spent Round 1 [of 3] - £1,500 Applications – October [Round 2]:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Men's Shed – Repair of public benches Blackhills Place - £200 Skene School Parent Council – purchase of literacy teaching aid - £500 Westdyke Leisure Centre – replace/enhance lighting - £1,000 requested, £500 recommended. <p>These applications were approved, subject to the 2nd & 3rd ones being able to raise the rest of funding required.</p>
15	<p>Xmas Event 7th December (Kate) Band is booked, Holiday Inn will provide the hot chocolate. Next sub-group meeting 31st October No response from David Castles of LCP re the shopping centre arranging anything, like getting the 2 trees. Iris may be able to get another contact.</p>
16	<p>AOB & Close of Meeting At next meeting Malcolm & Elaine would like to present their ideas on running an entertainment festival event in Westhill. Meeting closed at 9.50pm</p> <p>Date of Next Meeting- 14th November, 7pm at Holiday Inn, with Zoom option.</p>

APPENDIX



GARIOCH COMMUNITY POLICING TEAM

VISIBLE, ACCESSIBLE AND EFFECTIVE

Community Council: Westhill and Elrick

Reporting Period: 1 to 30 September 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:

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CRIME TYPE	CURRENT PERIOD	PREVIOUS PERIOD
Assault	2	1
Housebreaking	0	0
Public Nuisance	6	1
Road Traffic	3 collision, 3 other	0 accident, 5 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 2 reports.

A male pushed a female resulting in no injury. Upon Police attendance the male assaulted a Police Officer. Again no injury was sustained. A Report has been submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.

A male kicked a female resulting in her sustaining serious injury. A Report has been submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.

Housebreaking:

There have been 0 reports.

Public Nuisance:

There has been 6 reports.

- Group of females running from house. Males outside swore at passerby. A unit attended with no persons traced.
- Teenagers shining laser at passing vehicles. A unit attended and provided suitable advice.
- Youths gathering in park being loud. No unit available to attend.
- Youths on roof at the Shopping Centre and jumping in front of cars. No unit available to attend.
- Youths kicking door of home. No damage caused. No unit available to attend.
- Electric bike being driven on footpath. Details circulated. Rider not traced.

Road Traffic:

This period has seen 3 reported accidents.

A car struck a cyclist resulting in slight injury. The driver was issued a fixed penalty for Careless Driving.

APPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, 10TH OCTOBER 2024, AT HOLIDAY INN & BY ZOOM.

A car and a motorcycle collided. The rider sustained minor injury and both parties exchanged insurance details.

Reports received relate to manner of driving and suspicion of alcohol and drug consumption.

Two parked vehicles were damaged in separate incidents. Enquiry is ongoing to identify the vehicles and drivers responsible.

A lorry and a car collided. No injury was sustained and insurance details were exchanged.

Drivers have been reported to the Procurator Fiscal for driving under the influence of alcohol, driving while disqualified and without insurance.

Conditional offers of fixed penalty have been issued to two drivers for Careless Driving.

Drugs:

There have been no reports. However, a male was issued a Recorded Police Warning having been found to possess Cocaine.

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