

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	✓	
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 Welcome and opening remarks

Chair Arthur McArthur welcomed all.

Permission was granted to record the meeting

# 2 Apologies and Declarations of Interest

Apologies received from Mayasa, Diane, Cllrs Miller & Joji

# 3 Approval of Minutes of Meeting 10<sup>th</sup> October 2024

Minutes were approved. Proposed by Heather, seconded by Charlie.

# 4 Matters Arising (not covered elsewhere)

# 1. Larg/Broadstraik Park (Malcolm) –

Getting seeds ordered

Malcolm is aware of funding from Safe Deposits Scotland. Grants of up to £5000 can be awarded for improving local communities. Deadline is 29<sup>th</sup> November

- 2. Litter Picking (Gordon) now included in Green Spaces update.
- B. Business Association (Elaine).



The meeting at Community Church on 4<sup>th</sup> November went well. 19 attended, including 6 from WECC. Planning to have another one in January. Will aim to promote it more on social media. Press release suggested. Ideas for future speakers welcomed. WECC are happy to fund cost of room hires etc. Elaine to propose an amount to go into budget for 2025/26

Willie requested that we record appreciation to Elaine for progressing this project.

#### 4. TotalEnergies-

Gordon has been speaking recently with them about the bikes at Hampton hotel and boardwalk removal at Carnie Woods. They are involved just now in 'Cash for Kids'.

5. WECC Social Media -. No changes or issues to report

#### 6. Westdyke Leisure Centre.

See Cllr Walker report

Charlie reported that the lighting has improved recently, by changing to LED bulbs in the cages.

#### 7. Kirkton of Skene Cemetery -See Cllr Walker report

# 8. Sports Hub (Tim)

No update as not been able to get any news from Greg Welsh. Hasn't been a Sports Hub meeting for a while

Heather recently attended a swimming pool users meeting, only 6 people there. New boiler now installed. The asylum seekers were getting 3 sessions per week, but numbers attending have dropped so this has been stopped

# 5 Xmas Event 7<sup>th</sup> December (Kate)

Numerous emails sent to David Castles of LCP to enquire if the shopping centre were arranging anything, like getting the 2 trees, but still no response. No answer either to the phone number given for LCP.

David Ritchie got a trees quote from the supplier that Ben Horsburgh used before. - £600 to supply & remove 2 trees, 12ft & 14ft. plus £400 to install them.

New electrics have been put in at raised bed on Westhill Drive, by I-Protech for £491. The live tree there can now be lit again, after 6 years with no lights.

It looks like the £2000 budget will be overspent but not by much.

Approval was given to purchase the 2 trees.

There will be no Santa's grotto as that was all organised by Ben last year.

The event will be back to same format we had till 2021

### 6 Police Report (added as appendix)

Public Nuisance incidents are back down again (from 6 to 1).

8 Road Traffic non-accident incidents, including pavement parking. The police normally signpost reports of pavement parking to Council officers. Police only get involved if it is dangerous or obstructive parking.

#### 7 Correspondence



Review of secretary correspondence log for last month. (Circulated)

Ex WECC member Raymond Swaffield made contact to say he had been investigating why the Academy is not now used as a vaccination centre during the October school holidays. It is apparently due to the hire charge being too high for the NHS budget. It means the majority of residents who get the Covid & Flu jabs have to go to Inverurie. Iris confirmed it is mainly down to budget & staffing constraints.

Suggested that an article be put in the Autumn 2025 Bulletin to advise residents of the options to change where they go for their vaccinations. Also to speak to neighbours as the appointment times may be close and transport can be shared.

### 8 Asylum Seeker Hotel (David)

Numbers are still at around 300, as that is near the maximum.

Stellas Voice charity have donated 30 reconditioned bikes and taken away the bikes there before.

The clinical area in the hotel to provide health assessments and appointments is now complete. A GP and nurse practitioner will be based at the hotel for 2 surgeries on a Tuesday and Thursday which will provide 12 patients with 30-minute appointments – this will help to alleviate some of the pressure on Skene Practice.

Apparently vans have been seen picking up some guys and presumably taking them to work locations, though they are not allowed to work. This has never been mentioned at the community meetings. Iris advised that Mears & the Council are aware of this. If we see It we should report it to asylum@aberdeenshire.gov.uk. Note the van reg number.

The Community leaders Teams meetings are going to move from fortnightly to monthly.

# 9 Rotary Update/Exchange- Alistair Mckelvie

Closing date for applying to go to Senior Citizens party on 1<sup>st</sup> December is 15<sup>th</sup> November Rotary are bulb planting at the petanque court on Saturday.

A fund-raising bike ride is being organised for 27<sup>th</sup> March

# Ward 13 Councillors updates

### **Cllr Ron Mckail**

Westhill Bowling club have been awarded a grant of £4750 to improve the greens.

Ron recently attended a 'Group Fest' in Inverurie, where various organisations were being promoted. It was organised by Inverurie Community Council

### Cllr Iris Walker - circulated report in italics

#### WESTDYKE LEISURE CENTRE

Following a number of recent discussions round the table at WECC regarding perceived lack of support from the council, I followed this issue up with the area manager at our Ward 13 meeting recently. There is an open door policy for the committee to access advice and support from officers – if the committee needs support, they know they can contact the area manager and her team. Economic Development officers are also available to them and this has been conveyed to the group. A contact from Garioch Sports Centre has been made available to them also and I think they have taken this opportunity up. The committee has extensive experience of running their child care business,



but no experience in the outdoor side of things and this is where Garioch Sports Centre could provide invaluable advice.

There is more governance needed around setting up a SCIO and a Community Asset Transfer of the building could be considered by the group.

What the council cannot provide is funding other than via area committee budgets which groups can bid for within the criteria set (the future of these budgets being available going forward is uncertain at this time). On Tuesday, Garioch Area Committee agreed their application for £4,914 towards the cost of new LED lighting. (Westhill Bowling club was also successful in their bid for £4,750 towards the cost of maintenance to their bowling green surface).

#### **COUNCIL FINANCIAL POSITION**

Due to several reasons, there is a large overspend which must be addressed to balance the budget at year end. The CEO has issued a directive for essential spend only so some expected projects will not happen. The position is set out in the Full Council papers for next Thursday (items 4 and 5 refers). There is still time for anyone to respond to the Budget engagement survey (Item 5 in the Full Council papers details some of the public feedback so far)

Agenda for Aberdeenshire Council on Thursday, 21st November, 2024, 10.15 am - Aberdeenshire Council

#### **DOWNSTREAM DEFENDER DENMAN PARK**

Officers updated Ward 13 councillors on the issues ongoing with the downstream defender and their aspirations that progress will be made soon. They also conveyed huge thanks to WECC for being their eyes on the ground and to the Bowling Club for their understanding during the flooding issues.

#### XMAS TREE WESTHILL DRIVE

A local resident has been asking for the last two years if the Christmas tree on Westhill Drive is to be reinstated. I have been keeping in touch with David regarding this and hopefully will get a positive update on Thursday night! The resident is keen to help clear the overgrown area and very keen to see the tree re-lit! I have asked that he liaises directly with WECC.

#### KIRKTON OF SKENE CEMETRY

The area office has put out a call for local members to list the areas we want to visit with Sandy Scott, Landscape Services. Kirkton of Skene cemetery has been included. We still await dates for this meeting. The above information on budgets and essential spend will ultimately have an impact on any actions falling out of our discussions, but we still want to go ahead with our walk about so that local priorities can be set out for the next Landscape budget round.

Willie queried if there had been an Equalities Impact Assessment done when the cremations section layout was planned. If there wasn't then that is unlawful so the Council should be taking the issue more seriously.

### 11 Westhill Green Spaces Update

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

#### Orbital Trail Development/Maintenance [clockwise from Gateway Sculpture]

**Gateway Sculpture** – no activity

Hidden Garden – "Community Rest Area" sign still on shopping list

Silvertrees Drive to Peregrine Road – no activity

**Mason Lodge to Pitcairn Lodge** – awaiting two quotes to support E&SCC's funding application to Nestrans by Friday, 29<sup>th</sup> November.

**Broadshade/Berryhill Circle** - stakeholder meetings to discuss flood mitigation measures held on 22nd and 30th October. GP provided an update to the meeting



**Westhill Golf Club** – Waymarker post reinstalled at the top of Westhill Heights, thanks to support from two team members. Once flood mitigation measures are completed, some path repairs will be required, using quarry dust. Have discussed location for dust store with Manager. [Est £130].

**Westhill Drive** – Green Spaces team cut back overhanging branches on the Academy's eastern boundary fence. One of the two residents opposite the Academy has cut back their hedge; the other has still to do so. LS still to cut back overhanging bushes opposite bus turning point.

**Link north to Craigmar** – Marshalls considering WECC's proposal to complete the off-road path from north edge of town to Craigmar turn-off.

Meadowlands Farm track & lane – no activity

**Links to Brimmond** – no activity

Mains of Kinmundy Hill – no activity

**Links east from Hillside Road** –no progress with cut back of pavement vegetation from Hillside Road junction to Lawsondale turn-off.

**Lawsondale** – no activity

#### **Other Green Spaces**

**Denman Park – PBIP Project –** work was completed in the middle of the month, other than a few snags that the contractor is working through. Some reseeding of the path verges and compound area will also be required in the spring. There is a small retention [circa £4k] in place to ensure that all are completed.

There are no plans to repair the damaged path beside the tennis court until there is confidence that the subterranean filtration unit is working effectively during periods of sustained rainfall. The contractor has instead widened the path from the car park to the tennis/bowling clubhouse in order to complete the project.

**Maintenance of Denman planted areas** – no progress with autumn site meeting with Ian Mitchell [ACLS]. Have sent a reminder.

**Carnie Woods boardwalk removal – Total Energies** have pitched this to Mears as well as a possible joint venture with asylum seekers. Will require a donation of boots for any volunteers from the hotel.

Westdyke Leisure Centre accessible path – awaiting quotes to apply to Nestrans [see above]

**Carnie Crescent All Weather Pitches [AWP]** – still no confirmation from Avant Homes [waste ground landowner] for consent to effect improvements to path and planted areas.

**Blackhills Court** – have pitched this to TE and Mears as a "community engagement" project. ROVOP may also be interested.

### **Funding Update**

Spent £65 on a heavy duty brush, wire cutting tool and post anchor. Budget allocated for 2024/25 - £2,000, increased by £200 donation of Amazon vouchers from TE. Spend so far - £1,038. Future spend may be required for ditch construction and quarry material at WGC, spare parts and extendable loppers.

### **Planting Update**

The hanging baskets on the "green wall" were taken down on the last Wednesday of October, along with summer bedding plants in the casks and trays. These were replaced with winter pansies provided form AC stock on November 6th. Thanks again to a core group of volunteers who ensured that both tasks were completed within an hour.



We missed the October 31st deadline to apply for 8 free fruit trees/bushes on a first-come-first-served basis, largely because of absence of response from Avant Homes. However, we have been approached by a resident who wishes to plant fruit trees on two sites. Awaiting confirmation of locations which will be sent on to LS for approval.

The Carnie Woods ranger has given us hundreds of daffodil bulbs so they will start to be planted next week.

Volunteers – planning to continue maintenance over the winter in Arnhall & Denman Park

**ALOAF appointment** – I [GP] have accepted a voluntary position with ALOAF [Aberdeenshire Local Outdoor Access Forum] as community representative. ALOAF's main role is to support the Council's Outdoor Access Officers in the resolution of access disputes in accordance with the Land Reform (Scotland) Acts.

#### **Litter Picks**

Unlike Rotary, we have opted to continue with litter picks over the winter months, weather permitting, with two in November, one in December and one in January, owing to holidays.

#### **Additional Bins in Westhill**

The 4 bins promised for Westhill at our meetings with Norman Wright in June and August have still not materialised, despite writing on 7<sup>th</sup> October and again Monday, 11<sup>th</sup> November to ask when we can expect them. Have asked Ian Mitchell and Alison Cummings to assist. Update at meeting- the bins should be delivered soon GP still to contact Aldi and LCP/M re additional bins [waste and clothing respectively] in their car parks. Update at meeting- GP has spoken to Aldi who will look into installing a bin.

Gordon & Mervyn

#### 12 | COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN (Diane Priestly)

Circulated report in italics:-

The first part of the Community Action Plan has now been completed and the planning group are now in the process of encouraging stake holders to support the actions that have been highlighted in the plan. If you can recommend any individuals, groups or businesses at this stage that you think would be useful contacts it would be much appreciated if you could e mail myself, Willie, Becky or Audrey.

WECC members will be receiving their printed copies of the CAP document at this month's meeting, copies are also available at the library and the Ashdale Hall.

David advised that Hazel Mustard's employer Subsea 7 had expressed an interest in the CAP. They have a charity committee that meets once a month to discuss donations and volunteering requests so they may be able to help in some way. David will send them a link to the CAP and a hard copy.

#### **Planning Matters (**Diane Priestly)

13 Circulated report in italics:-

### **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

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



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 3<sup>rd</sup> -awaiting decision.

APP/2024/1563 Specsavers Unit 23 Westhill Shopping Centre AB32 6RL-full planning permission for the installation of 6 Air Conditioning Units-awaiting decision

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-awaiting decision.

APP/2024/1563-Unit 23 Westhill Shopping Centre Specsavers Advertisement Consent for Display of 2 illuminated Fascia Signs and Vinyls-awaiting decision.

APP/2024/1562 Aldi Westhill Drive AB326FY Full planning permission for change of Use of landscaped Area to Car Parking Spaces and Associated Works-awaiting decision.

#### **ELECTRICITY INFRASTRUCTURE CONSENTING IN SCOTLAND**

There are proposals for reforming the consenting processes in Scotland with a closing date of the 29<sup>th</sup> November-Willie has prepared a summary of this document which will be discussed on Thursday.

#### HILL OF FARE

No updates at the moment we are still waiting to see if this application goes to a public enquiry.

#### **PYLONS**

I have forwarded the information from Jonty and there continues to be a concern over the way this consultation has been conducted.

#### **SOLAR FARM**

Plans have been lodged by Innova for a huge Solar farm and two battery storage units on land between the Bridge of Don and Dyce. Innova is behind this development for the Lower B odachra Farm and Perwinnes Farm and will stretch across 212 acres of land. The company has already met Aberdeen City Council and the Scottish Governments Energy Consents Unit before lodging its planning application. Source Galileo Limited has lodged plans to install a battery energy storage system at Goval Farm metres from the new housing development at the former Cordyce School This site would be the size of a football stadium. This has come after the councillors have given the green light to another battery storage site in Danestone.

# **ENERGY CONSENTS UNIT**

There is screening for a project at Kintore for a co-located solar photovoltaic array and a Battery ENERGY Storage SYSTEM 9(BESS)

#### **LDP**

The presentation on the LDP/NDF4 by Piers Blaxter was very interesting and he hinted at the possibility of several future planning developments in Westhill, the Delivery Team of Aberdeenshire Council are already working with developers to identify possible development sites. We were lucky that at the last LDP only 3 development sites in Westhill were identified but the implication is that Westhill has the necessary infrastructure for further development. It's important that we keep an eye on the survey results which will be published on the Engage LDP website and look at the research during this process which will be on the LDP website in the near future.

Diane Priestley

#### **Electricity Infrastructure Consenting**

Willie has prepared a paper on the Joint UK/Scottish Governments' Consultation on Electricity Infrastructure Consenting in Scotland. This has been circulated. It lists a number of suggested responses to the topics raised. It was agreed that these responses could be submitted.

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

**Matters Arising 10 October:** 



**Westhill Bulletin printing:** NW and DR keeping a note of additional hours taken to create new template due to go to print this week.

**Community Support Fund:** £200 paid to Men's Shed. Skene School PC confirmed in November that it had raised all £4,800 funding required to release our £500 contribution. Westdyke Leisure Centre has now been fitted out with new lights. Receipt of invoice awaited before funds released.

#### Financial Transactions - October

Income: £1,482 – comprising £50 from Vinespring Church, plus £1,432 from 13 Bulletin advertisers.

**Expenditure**: £1,691 – comprising £1,047 paid to DR for second quarter honoraria and expenses plus 12 payments totalling £644 detailed on copy bank statement.

**Outstanding Commitments**: £1,812 - comprising £1,000 of unpaid CSF approved last month, plus £183 honorarium plus £48 payable to Community Church for hosting Business Association launch event, plus £90 committed to Robertsons for winter plants, plus £491 committed to electrician for new electrical box for Christmas tree.

David requested the normal £100 donation to Mens Shed for their Pat Testing work on the street lights. This was approved

Bank Balances at Month End: £24,464

Main Account: £12,099 [see Appendix 1] Bulletin Account: £12,365

#### 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. Only one invoice [Cala Homes] overdue. Thanks to David

# 15 Entertainment Festival 2025 (Malcolm)

Malcolm & Elaine have looked into a music festival being held in Westhill.

They have spoken to a number of local restaurants etc. who appear to be well supported and Malcolm is now not keen on arranging anything which may take some trade away. If we were going to do anything it would have to be a bigger outdoor event. Malcolm doesn't have the time to lead on such an event. Suggested it could be linked in to the Rotary Lazy Sunday in June.

# **16** | Hospital Transport - David

Due to it now being 9.55 David proposed that this be held over to the December meeting

#### 17 AOB & Close of Meeting

Meeting closed at 9.56pm

**Date of Next Meeting- 12<sup>th</sup> December**, 7pm at Holiday Inn, with Zoom option.



# **APPENDIX**



# GARIOCH COMMUNITY POLICING TEAM VISIBLE, ACCESSIBLE AND EFFECTIVE

Community Council: Westhill and Elrick Reporting Period: 1 to 31 October 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	PREVIOUS
	PERIOD	PERIOD
Assault	1	2
Housebreaking	1	0
Public Nuisance	1	6
Road Traffic	1 collision, 8	3 collision, 3
	other	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.* 

#### Accoult

There has been 1 report of a domestic nature. A report has been submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.



# Housebreaking:

There has been 1 report. A property was entered using the true key, clothing was cut and a mirror taken. The victim and suspect are known to one another and there is no wider risk to the community.

# **Public Nuisance:**

There has been 1 report.

- Group of youths reported to be throwing cans and bottles across the road at each other and at traffic. A unit attended and traced the youths who stated they were playing kerby. Suitable advice was given.

#### **Road Traffic:**

This period has seen 1 reported accident involving a car and van. No injury was sustained and details were exchanged.

Reports received relate to a broken-down vehicle, suspicion vehicles were being driven by persons under the influence of alcohol or drugs, pavement parking, failing to comply with road markings and passing a cyclist closely.

Conditional Offers of Fixed Penalty has been issued to two drivers for defective tyres and no insurance.

# **Drugs:**

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

# **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