

APPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, 13TH FEBRUARY 2025, AT HOLIDAY INN & BY ZOOM.

Community Council		
Name	Position	Present
Mayasa Al-Jubori	Member	✓ (via zoom)
Mervyn Barr	Member	✓
Malcolm Collie	Member	✓
Heather Cook	Member	✓
Alistair Mckelvie (Rotary)	Associate Member	✓
Becky Ferguson	Member	✓ (via zoom)
Audrey Findlay	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	*
Cllr Ron McKail	Ward 13 Councillor	*
Cllr Craig Miller	Ward 13 Councillor	*
Cllr Fatima Joji	Ward 13 Councillor	*

Members of Public-

Martin, chair of the new Blackburn & Kinnellar Community Council

Graham Mutch (Green Spaces Team)

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 Charlie, Tim & all 4 Ward 13 councillors
3	Approval of Minutes of Meeting 9th January 2025 Minutes were approved. Proposed by Gordon, seconded by Heather
4	<u>Matters Arising (not covered elsewhere)</u> 1. Larg/Broadstraik Park (Malcolm) – Awaiting delivery of trees for the avenue & orchard from Christies

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	<p>2. Business Association (Elaine). Elaine advised that 11 people attended the 28th January meeting. Gordon was there and met someone with graphic skills who may be able to support Bulletin production should we ever need cover. Next meeting is on 26th March, 7pm at Holiday Inn. It is advertised in Spring Bulletin (page 6). Would like to get flyers printed for it. Estimated cost of £150 for flyers and room hire was approved</p> <p>3. Sports Hub -. Gordon attended the 4th February meeting. The Sports Hub is now managed by 2 Council officials. Gordon is concerned that the Council agenda is more about helping disadvantaged people in the community. There is enough capacity in the current facilities to meet the demands of these small groups. The community is keen to get a large sports centre established in Westhill but the Sports Hub is not pursuing that goal. A separate group may have to be set up to drive it, and there would have to be private sector involvement</p> <p>4. Xmas Event 7th December – Communications with LCP David has now seen the emails that Kate had sent to David Castles of LCP, asking him if LCP were planning anything for Xmas. DC had not received these emails as the email address was slightly wrong. David Castles was at the shopping centre last week and had a short meeting with David R & Meryn. LCP are keen to work with us and we will contact them in autumn about Xmas 2025. We need to clarify roles & responsibilities for the project team.</p> <p>5. Survey re Bus Service to top part of Westhill Drive The leaflets are at printer and should arrive next week. They will be delivered to the relevant streets with Spring Bulletins before end of February. The survey is open till 14th March. If the bus service is re-instated it may be worth doing a 'use it or lose it' flyer,</p>
5	<p>Police Report (see appendix) No significant crimes, assaults are down, road traffic incidents still quite high</p>
6	<p>Correspondence (David) Review of secretary correspondence log for last month. (Circulated). David noted that the Garioch Partnership may have to close down as there is no funding for it now, It's been a while since they sent any updates. The recent Town Centre Health Check can be compared to our CAP.</p>
7	<p>Asylum Seeker Hotel (David) The monthly Community meeting was yesterday. The notes from it will be circulated when issued. No update on decision letters, but some negative decision letters have been received, which are likely to be appealed. The Home Office have responded to our FOI request re use of taxis, but they are saying the information is exempt from disclosure. It was agreed that we should appeal this.</p>
8	<p><u>Rotary Update/Exchange- Alistair Mckelvie</u> Ashdale Hall has opened some free sessions each week for asylum seekers to play badminton & pickleball.</p>

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	<p>Also for the Pool table when the base is completed.</p> <p>Rotary are doing a Race Night on 20th March at the Ashvale in Aberdeen, £20 per ticket</p> <p>Re Lazy Sunday on 8th June, Gordon is thinking about an event like a Family Fun Run on same day in Denman Park to make people more aware of the new paths etc.</p>
9	<p><u>Ward 13 Councillors updates</u></p> <p>No councillors present & no reports submitted</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>Volunteer Activity Since Last Month</i></p> <p><i>Maintenance of Denman planted areas</i> – we’ve had an average of 10 turning out on the first four Wednesdays since the thaw, contributing 77 man hours of pruning and trimming, and sufficient to see all the borders on the perimeter of the park cut back and tidied up. Landscape Services have followed behind with an industrial chipper to dispose of the waste.</p> <p><i>Orbital Trail Development/Maintenance [clockwise from Gateway Sculpture]</i></p> <p><i>Monthly changes highlighted in green</i></p> <p><i>Gateway Sculpture</i> – no activity</p> <p><i>Hidden Garden</i> – no activity</p> <p><i>Silvertrees Drive to Peregrine Road</i> – no activity.</p> <p><i>Mason Lodge to Pitcairn Lodge</i> – path at junction of A944 and Pitcairn Lodge driveway. E&SCC has submitted an application to SSEN Community Fund</p> <p><i>Broadshade/Berryhill Circle</i> – stakeholder meeting involving residents, factor, golf club Manager and WECC arranged for 25th February.</p> <p><i>Westhill Golf Club</i> – Construction of new open ditches on the golf course commenced on Monday, 3rd February. Once flood mitigation measures are completed, some path repairs will be required, using quarry dust. Have agreed location for dust store with Manager.</p> <p>The drystone wall on the golf club boundary needs to be repaired to help slow down water flowing from the field on to the golf course</p> <p><i>Westhill Drive</i> – LS still to cut back overhanging bushes opposite bus turning point.</p> <p><i>Link north to Craigmar</i> – Have agreed with Marshalls that if WECC can find funds for fencing and gates, they will consider providing the labour for to complete the final 100m of path in next field.</p> <p>Marshalls are not keen to support a funding application at this stage.</p> <p><i>Meadowlands Farm track & lane</i> – no activity</p> <p><i>Links to Brimmond</i> – no activity. AC’s Outdoor Access Officer confirmed that the case is currently under review by AC’s Outdoor Access team leader.</p> <p><i>Mains of Kinmundy Hill</i> – no activity</p> <p><i>Links east from Hillside Road</i> – enquiries have revealed that there may be an opportunity to create a new link into the network of historic farm tracks to the east of town. No progress with cut back of pavement vegetation from Hillside Road junction to Lawsondale turn-off.</p>

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Lawsondale – no activity – spring patching work identified

Other Green Spaces

Blackhills Court – no activity – to be followed up - Rhonda at TE has promised to pitch this to Donations Committee in January. This meeting has been postponed to March. ACLS have provided contact for AC's on-site Manager.

Carnie Woods boardwalk removal – no activity - TE 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. Still to be followed up with TE.

Carnie Crescent All Weather Pitches [AWP] – no activity - awaiting reply and consent to effect improvements to path and planted areas.

Denman Park – PBIP Project – There is a small retention [circa £4k] in place to ensure that all snags are addressed.

Denman/Arnhall Moss core path – investigating the possibility of improving the surface of a more direct path between Brimmond Drive and Tesco crossing.

Westdyke Leisure Centre accessible path – Charlie and I met with Adam of Nestrans on the 4th and we are optimistic of receiving an offer of 100% grant and having the contractor engaged by the end of the month. Nestrans need written consent from AC that we can do this work, so have asked Ian Mitchell to supply that.

ALOAF [Aberdeenshire Local Outdoor Access Forum]

I [GP] attended ALOAF's first meeting of 2025 on Monday, 3rd February with some useful thoughts on layered mapping systems and conflict resolution.

Funding Update

£648 spent on new brush-cutter. Budget allocated for 2024/25 - £2,000, Spend so far - £1,796, with an additional £400 committed to Westhill Golf Club for ditch construction. The overspend of £196 is covered by £200 donation of unspent Amazon vouchers from TE.

Planting Update

Daffodils from ACC - Only four bags of bulbs remain

Summer Bedding Plants – Decision carried forward from last month: we may be able to supply the church as normal – subject to approval. We also need to decide whether to support Ashdale Hall.

Mervyn reported that he has contacted the grower at Pitcaple where we have bought plants before. He can match what the Council used to give us for around £1500. Another proposal is re the azaleas in Denman Park. They have not been properly maintained and need replacing. Parkhill Nurseries can supply them for £22 each. Propose that we buy 20 to 25 plants

Mervyn and I had a lengthy meeting with Tajana Sosic on Teams, on 21st Jan about tree planting and wild flower planting ideas for Westhill in 2025. Initial thoughts: Jubilee Drive and/or Westhill Drive between the two roundabouts, plus Elrick.

Last summer AC had put in wildflowers between the dentist and Broadshades, using a special matting infused with seeds, which came up well. Proposed that we buy around £200 of this.

So in total Mervyn is proposing that we spend around £2500 on plants. This can be put into the budget.

Town Centre Planters - David Castles fully supports having the planters and in them being maintained by LCP's Landscape Gardeners under a revised contract.

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Litter Picks

Our first organised pick of 2025 took place the week after the thaw on the 18th, with 12 volunteers attending.

I am supporting the daughter of one of the volunteers through her D of E silver award which involves me verifying weekly litter picks for 26 weeks.

Additional Bins in Westhill – no reply received from Head of Waste, Rachel Alban, but I did receive another promise from Norman Wright on 5th Feb that the 4 much promised bins would be prioritised for Westhill prior to our February meeting. Four new bins have now been installed but only one of them was on our location priority list. Gordon has contacted Waste Services to complain that 3 bins have been installed in wrong places.

Restoration of bin in Aldi car park – no change - to be followed up.

Request to add “clothing/textile bin in LCP/M’s car park” passed to DR to take to meeting with David Castles. DR reported that David Castles would not allow this. LCP would prefer that the bottle banks be removed and that section of the car park made be made into an EV charging area

Gordon & Mervyn

11 COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN (Diane Priestly)

Circulated report in italics:-

Budget information forwarded to Gordon.

We are in the process of planning an audit of the Open Spaces in Spring ,there has been a good response for volunteers to help with this task to cover the areas of Elrick and Westhill but anyone from WECC who would like to take part in this audit please let the planning group know.

Information about the Local Place Plan training has been circulated and the first session will be on Wednesday 12th February followed by 5 further sessions.

Planning Matters (Diane Priestly)

12 Circulated report in italics:-

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

APP/2024/1861 Unit 1 Exploration Way, Arnhall Business Park AB326GD Full planning permission for change of use of land for the siting of Catering Van-approved

APP/2024/1762 Costco is planning to add a petrol station to the Westhill site, plus installation of ev charging points, landscaping and associated works-awaiting a decision. The location is east side if Endeavour Drive, across the road from Tesco. We put in a comment about a pedestrian crossing being required, but the Roads Dept don’t agree as they don’t think there will be a large increase in traffic. The meeting agreed that we should now change the comment to an Objection. Gordon volunteered to be spokesperson for the objection if planners wished to attend site.

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APP/2024/2019 Site opposite to Westhill Drive, Skene, Westhill, Aberdeenshire ,applicant Marshalls Farm Shop- Full planning permission for change of use of agricultural Land to form Additional Fenced Dog Parks, Erection of Fences and Shelters (retrospective)-awaiting a decision.

APP /2024/2150 McDonalds Restaurant Venture Way Arnhall Business Park Westhill Ab326BQ Full Planning Permission for the installation of 2 ev charging stations with ancillary substation and infrastructure-awaiting a decision.

Diane queried what the extensive road works currently going on in the Dobbies area on Lang Stracht are for. The work is going on to April. She will contact the City Planning dept to find out what it is for.

HILL OF FARE - No updates.

PYLONS

On 6th February I received a letter from SSEN about the consultation event following the result of the previously held consultation events for the proposed route for the Kintore to Tealing 400kV OHL, which comprise of 2 huge substations and a 60 mile route of giant pylons, there is a further consultation event organised at the Echt Hall on Tuesday 25th February from 2 -7 pm. There is a survey which closes on 17th February. Diane can pass on details

There is also an event about the Glendye Wind Farm connection which will be at Strachan Village Hall on Wednesday 5th March no time given yet.

ENERGY CONSENTS UNIT

Over the last 28 days there has been an application for 1 windfarm and 3 pre applications for windfarms plus 4 pre applications for 4 Battery Energy Storage Units.

In Scotland there are currently 18 battery storage sites operational but there are many more proposed in the planning system.

LDP

All the topic papers have been completed and the data will now form the Evidence Report which goes before the Council on 24th April. The report will then be submitted to the Directorate of Planning and Environmental Appeals for its Gate Check and will be the baseline data for the proposed Local Development Plan.

Developers have already been contacted to submit their bids for new development sites or resubmission of lapsed sites and there is a closing date of 31 October for these submissions. The Call for Community Ideas will cover what is important in a place, what should be protected and where new developments should be. This is why we should be doing a Place Plan.

Diane Priestley

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

. Matters Arising 9 January:

Westhill Bulletin: *ex gratia payment made to AGP. New bank account opened to improve processes, although standing orders for operation of the new account still require amendment.*

Budget 2025/6: *inputs received from all project leaders [see below]*

Financial Transactions – January

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	<p>Income: £9,874 – comprising 27 payments from Bulletin advertisers</p> <p>Gordon advised that the normal £50 per month from Vinespring Church didn't come in January. David R advised that Chika had been in touch to say that the church would not be submitting articles for Bulletin as they are not based in the Shire now</p> <p>Expenditure: £919 – comprising £273 agreed last month plus 2 payments totalling £656 on approved projects detailed on copy bank statement.</p> <p>Outstanding Commitments: £533, comprising £400 committed to WGC to support costs of for digger hire and associated flood mitigation measures, plus £133 for one month of secretarial and minute honoraria.</p> <p>Bank Balances at Month End: £29,718</p> <p>Main Account: £7,405 Bulletin Account: £22,313</p> <p>Westhill Bulletin</p> <p>70 advertisers have opted to prepay £24,632 for 2025 to take advantage of discounted annual rates. Revenue for the Spring issue is expected to be circa £10,600 [from 112 advertisers]. Costs under the new model are expected to be £4,500 per issue, leading to a quarterly contribution of £6,100 [57%].</p> <p>Provisional figures for Winter Issue [96 pages]: Advertising sales - £11,094; Costs - £5,116; leading to contribution of £5,978, compared to budget of £1,500.</p> <p>Community Support Fund</p> <p>2 applications received in this final round of the year. Rotary requested to share the £200 cost of repairing the pool table which will go in Ashdale Hall to be used by the asylum seekers. £100 donation was agreed. The Tennis Club requested £600 to contribute to costs of spring cleaning the courts. A donation of £500 was agreed as that is the maximum we normally award.</p> <p>The £500 limit has been in place for a few years, suggested that this be raised to £600 due to inflation. This will be considered in the next financial year.</p> <p>Budget 2025/26</p> <p>Thanks to all project leaders for submitting detailed requests which have been plumbed into the spreadsheets attached. This first draft budget shows potential to generate a cash surplus of £8,005 after net spending of £15,400 on projects.</p> <p>Members are asked to review and approve the budget.</p> <p>Gordon proposed that initial approval be given to project leaders to spend up to 50% of their budget, then a review is done in 6 months and estimates for the remaining part of the year can be provided. This was agreed, except where expenditure on activities like planting are front loaded. Project leaders affected to advise Treasurer in order to help with cashflow planning.</p>
14	<p>AOB & Close of Meeting</p> <p>Meeting closed at 10pm.</p> <p>Date of Next Meeting-13th March, 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 31 January 2025

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	2	4
Housebreaking	0	0
Public Nuisance	2	2
Road Traffic	4 collision, 5 other	1 collision, 8 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).

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Drugs – all reports incidents in relation to drugs dealing and use.

Assault:

There have been 2 reports. No injury was sustained in either, with one individual having been charged and reported to the Procurator Fiscal.

Housebreaking:

There have been no reports.

Public Nuisance:

There have been 2 reports regarding youths within the car park at the shopping centre throwing snowballs and youths on a bus refusing to leave. Officers attended on both occasions with no persons traced on the first and the group running off on the second. No crimes were recorded.

Road Traffic:

This period has seen 4 reported collisions with officer attendance required on one occasion only. Enquiry is ongoing into one instance of Careless Driving.

Reports received relate to a car stuck in snow, vehicle breakdown, failing to clear a vehicle of snow and a tree branch in the carriageway.

Drivers have been issued Conditional Offers of Fixed Penalty regarding failure to wear a seatbelt, driving while using a hand held mobile phone and driving with no MOT.

Drugs:

There have 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