

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, 12TH FEBRUARY 2026, AT HOLIDAY INN & BY ZOOM.

Community Council		
Name	Position	Present
Mervyn Barr	Member	✓
Malcolm Collie	Member	✓
Heather Cook	Member	✓
Becky Ferguson	Vice-Chair	✓
Audrey Findlay	Member	✓
Darren Green	Member	*
Kate Lumsden	Member	✓
Arthur McArthur	Chair	✓
Iain McCombie (Rotary)	Associate Member	✓
Elaine Manley	Member	✓
William Munro	Vice-Chair	✓
Hazel Mustard	Co-opted Member	✓
George Okoroma	Co-opted Member	*
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	✓ (via zoom)

Members of Public- Felixisreal Tabenda

1	<p><u>Welcome and opening remarks</u> Chair Arthur opened the meeting. -Willie introduced his neighbour Felix who has been to a few WECC meetings in the past</p>
2	<p><u>Apologies and Declarations of Interest</u> Apologies received from Darren, George, Diane, CLlr Mckail, and CLlr Miller.</p>
3	<p>Sharon Whitehead - Proposal for sensory garden at Community Rest Area opposite Tesco Sharon presented her concepts of what the sensory garden could look like, It would be appealing for both adults & children. A sensory garden is about sight, sound, touch, smell, and sometimes taste. Willie & Gordon expressed concern about the proposed site being close to a busy roundabout and there is no current proposals to install pedestrian crossings that would make the site more accessible. Also the risk of vandalism at that site would be quite high. From the open spaces audit we did in 2025, there is quite a few little pocket parks with nothing happening in them. One of these sites may be more suitable. Also a possible site at Denman Park has been identified. Gordon has been advised by consultants for the Aberdeen Rapid Transport Project that additional pedestrian crossings near the roundabout have been recommended to the Council but Council have not indicated if or when they are likely to be installed. Becky recommended that a sensory garden at Denman Park can be looked at as part of the proposed Playpark there so she will follow up with the Council to get answers to their questions about that.</p>

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	<p>Becky and possibly other CAP group members offered to meet Sharon to review other sites with a view also to amend the LPP.</p>
4	<p><u>Approval of Minutes of Meeting 15th January 2026</u></p> <p>Re Correspondence, Audrey queried that the state of the roads network was marked as ‘Matter now closed’. David clarified that it meant that no further correspondence with the Roads dept. was required as the recent email from them clarified a few matters. To avoid confusion it was agreed that the ‘Matter now closed’ sentence should be removed.</p> <p>Re Police report, Mervyn requested an addition to the section about a Garioch newsletter replacing the statistical reports. He had made a point that <i>‘Changing to a newsletter would be a further erosion of the concept of neighbourhood policing’</i>.</p> <p>With these 2 amendments the Minutes were approved. Proposed by Mervyn, seconded by Arthur. The EGM Minutes for the changes to the Constitution were also approved.</p>
5	<p><u>Matters Arising (not covered elsewhere)</u></p> <p>1. Correspondence</p> <p>Re the AWPR Evaluation survey, it will be difficult to do a group response as it can’t be saved and re-started. Also the wording of the email indicates they are looking for individual responses. It closes on 6th March.</p> <p>Home Energy Scotland - they want to work with us to <i>‘support residents locally on home energy issues’</i> We felt there would be limited benefit in them speaking to us directly. David will pass this to Colin Currie in Rotary who is arranging the stalls for Lazy Sunday in June. Also to the CAB as they provide advice to residents on energy issues. David will pass on the contact details for LCP re the Shopping Centre. Becky may invite them to set up in the foyer at Community Church as there is a large footfall there,</p> <p>2. Funding of Public Services in Aberdeenshire (Willie)</p> <p>Willie advised that the draft Joint Statement has been finalised. Disappointing that only 17 CCs had indicated support for the draft that was issued on 9th December.</p> <p>Willie will send the updated Statement to all CCs and ask those that hadn't signed up to the draft whether they agree with the sentiment but just don't want to get involved, or whether they feel that the funding distribution is okay.</p> <p>He will also send it to the MSPs and to a wider audience like Aberdeenshire Voluntary Action & the CAB. A press release will be issued.</p> <p>Alexander Burnett MSP had a Motion granted to discuss Fairer share of Public Services Funding to Aberdeenshire at the Scottish Parliament on Thursday 29th January but that was postponed. Awaiting a new date. Mervyn will still plan to go if available</p> <p>3. Adopt a Grit Bin Scheme (Gordon)</p> <p>The Council have advised that they weren't going to be able to complete their audit of the grit bins until end of March, but they would allow us to fill the undamaged bins (66 out of 76). Gordon will commission a contractor to do that. Becky recently did a Facebook post which has had 45k views already!</p>

	<p>4. Gypsy/traveller encampment in August 2025.</p> <p>The Council have confirmed recently that the damaged fencing will be repaired soon. The possible mitigating measures are Mono block deterrents and trees planted along the edges where access was gained by the encampment. Soil bunding is another option. Arthur will check what they mean by Mono block.</p> <p>Suggested that large pieces of natural stone could be used as a possible blocking obstacle</p>
6	<p>Rotary Update/Exchange (Iain McCombie)</p> <p>Rotary Stone lighting – Iris has helped Rotary to get permission from Council to engage a contractor to repair the light.</p> <p>Recruitment- Iain thanked us for allowing Rotary leaflets to be distributed with the Spring Bulletins, free of charge.</p> <p>Litter-picking will be starting again in March.</p>
7	<p>Questions from Members of Public- no questions</p>
8	<p>LOCAL PLACE PLAN (Diane Priestly)</p> <p>See circulated report</p> <p>In Diane’s absence Audrey reported that Dianne wants to call a WECC meeting soon to undertake a mapping exercise to discuss where the identified developments could be sited. Jackie Niven will facilitate this meeting. Date agreed as Tuesday 17th February, at 7pm. David will book meeting room</p>
9	<p>Other Planning Matters (Diane Priestly)</p> <p>See circulated report</p> <p>Gordon advised that the Tesco planning application is for a Timpsons pod.</p> <p>Becky advised that the Mcdonalds application is for 24 hour opening.</p> <p>Becky commented on <i>App/2026/0030 Land South of Leddach Road, Westhill-full Planning Permission for Change of Use of Open Space to Form Garden Ground and Form Driveway-awaiting a decision.</i></p> <p>What is our general policy on this? Mervyn reminded us that a few years ago we did agree that we would in principle not approve of any loss of green spaces. This house is currently land-locked and the new driveway would allow easier access from Leddach Road instead of a steep drive on to Old Skene Road. There is no objections from the neighbours but it isn’t clear if they have been consulted.</p>
10	<p>Ward 13 Councillors updates</p> <p>Cllr Iris Walker</p> <p>Westdyke Leisure Centre- The Denman Playgroup are running this now, on a lease arrangement with Council, but the proper governance is not in place. It should be run as a SCIO. A committee needs to look at the governance. Appealing for anyone who would like to help them with this. Willie indicated he may be able to help, but not for a few months.</p> <p>Cllr Fatima Joji</p> <p>Fatima commented that we are the only CC in Garioch that has adopted grit-bins. Gordon pointed out that bins can be adopted but not filled at this stage. Securing the bins in the community but not filling them is relatively cost free</p> <p>Some lampposts have been taken down, but not clear if they are going to be replaced.</p>

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11	<p>Westhill Green Spaces Update- see circulated report from Gordon</p> <p>Additional Points-</p> <p>Gordon is going to ask some of the volunteers if they would like to be part of a steering group to progress establishment of desirable walking routes, like to Brimmond Hill. Establishment of a steering group was supported by members</p> <p>Re the Carnie Woods proposed works, the City Council have agreed to provide funding for the £7k excess of the contractor quote over the £10k donation. Site meeting planned for 13th February.</p> <p>ALOAF to request audit of Core Paths from all Community Councils.</p> <p>Larg Park requires a formal path connecting Westdyke Drive & Terrace.</p> <p>Litter Pick scheduled for 14th Feb has been cancelled</p> <p>Mervyn advised the Landscape architect Tajana Susic has been transferred to Formartine area. Mervyn will thank her for all that she helped us with.</p>
12	<p>Financials (Gordon Prentice)</p> <p>See circulated report</p> <p>Community Support Fund- the two donations of £500 to the Tennis Club and Lyne of Skene Hall were approved.</p> <p>Mervyn proposed a vote of thanks to David & Gordon for being instrumental in WECC achieving the large income stream from the Bulletin</p>
13	<p>Urgent items arising since agenda issued</p> <p>A response was received from Natalie Wood on 5th February re our concerns on the A944 closure in Elrick last year. Willie will draft a response on some points that we want to follow up on</p>
14	<p>Asylum Seeker Hotel (David)</p> <p>The notes from yesterday's monthly community reps meeting have been received & will be circulated, Currently 223 SUs in hotel but likely to rise again.</p> <p>The Clothes Bank team are needing donations of suitcases & holdalls for the <u>SUs</u> to use when moving to new accommodation.</p>
15	<p>Police Report</p> <p>No Police report received for January. Expect to get report in March covering January & February</p>
16	<p>AOB & Close of Meeting</p> <p>Gordon commented that the bus timings on display at the bus stops often don't match timings on the App so suggested we raise this with Stagecoach.</p> <p>Meeting closed at 10.05m.</p> <p>Date of Next Meeting- 12th March, 7pm at Holiday Inn, with Zoom option.</p>