

Westhill & Elrick Community Council

Minutes of the Community Council Meeting held on Thursday 9th April 2009 at the Braemar Suite, Holiday Inn Westhill

Chair: Stewart Whyte, Vice Chair: Ian Forsyth, Secretary: Beryl Menzies, Treasurer: David Ritchie,
Minutes Secretary: Heather Robertson

Present: **Committee:** Ian Forsyth, Beryl Menzies, David Ritchie (from 8:05pm), John Menzies (from 9.15), Audrey Findlay, Ian Knapton, Maureen Strachan, Iris Walker, Heather Wood

Diana Robertson, Charlie Flint (LeGRA), Anne Thomson (resident), Andrew Irwin (Academy), Gillian Bell (Aberdeen Journals), Christian Allard, James Moir (resident), Esther Moir (resident)

Councillors: Cllr. Allan, Cllr. Cullen (until 8.15), Cllr. McKail, Cllr. Saluja

Police: No Police officer was present

	Item	Action/ Attention
1	<u>Chairman's Opening Remarks</u> Stewart Whyte was not present at this meeting, so Vice Chair Ian Forsyth was acting chair for this meeting. He thanked everyone for their attendance, and expressed hope that this shows that people still care for the community of Westhill.	
2	<u>Apologies for Absence</u> Stewart Whyte, Heather Robertson (Minutes Secretary), Beryl Burbidge, Julian Maude (Tesco).	
3	<u>Approval Of Minutes Of Previous Meeting</u> Proposed - Maureen Strachan; Seconded - Iris Walker.	
4	<u>Matters Arising</u> Item 4: The Tesco car park has been repaired. A letter of thanks will be sent to Julian Maude to show our appreciation for forwarding the comments of the Community Council. Item 6: The crossing at Elrick Primary School is still in progress. Item 7: Stewart Whyte was to write about the road safety issues to the Council. Action to be carried forward. Cllr. McKail reported an Aberdeen City Council meeting soon where the change from 70mph to 50mph will be discussed. The Chief Constable is in support of this, as are the four Councillors for the Westhill district. Item 8: The travellers at Garlogie have now moved. The Council are to be congratulated on the speed of their clean-up and closure of the Garlogie lay-by.	Beryl Menzies Stewart Whyte
5	<u>Police Report</u> PC Ian Robison has now moved to Inverurie, so there were no police present at this meeting. A thank-you card will be written to him from the Community Council. His letter to the Community Council which thanked us for our support was also read out. The Community Council were uncertain if the new Community Focus Police Officer Mark Cobban is to replace him or not. Two residents from Rowan Drive reported problems with youths in the evenings, resulting in graffiti, noise, broken glass, and breakages to fences etc. They have reported the incidents to the police by telephone. The children involved are mainly	Beryl Menzies

	<p>secondary school but there are also some younger participants. Ian Forsyth suggested that they should talk directly to the police at the station, that they keep an accurate record of the disturbances and that they phone the Police every time that there is a problem. Cllr. Cullen will contact Inspector Bob Thomson and report the level of disturbances as an urgent issue. The W&ECC also supported a letter from the acting chair Ian Forsyth to Inspector Thomson. Cllr. Cullen also offered to phone Wasteline who will remove the broken glass quickly as the Council have not responded and dog owners were inconvenienced.</p> <p><u>Crime trends and figures for Westhill for the period 13/03/2009 – 09/04/2009</u></p> <p>Between the dates specified there were 8 reported thefts in the Westhill area. Three of these were shoplifting type incidents, two of which have various enquiries still ongoing. The other incident led to two persons being given formal warnings.</p> <p>The other thefts include a break in to a locker in a work premises and items being stolen from two vehicles which were left insecure outside of houses overnight. We would therefore remind everyone to ensure that they do lock their vehicles when left unattended and that all personal belongings are not left in view.</p> <p>There were 5 Vandalisms reported during the same period, two of these instances occurring at Elrick Primary school. This is half the number of vandalisms from the previous month, which shows a significant reduction.</p> <p>Two Breach of the Peace complaints were received, one of which was dealt with by means of a fixed penalty notice. The other was dealt with by a formal adult warning.</p> <p>Various people were reported for Road Traffic Offences, including 2 persons who were reported for drink driving in Westhill. A number of conditional offer tickets were also issued throughout the month.</p> <p>Four youths were reported to the children's reporter for taking knives to school. All of the children had taken knives of various sizes with them and although they did not use them, the potential for a much more serious incident to have occurred is clear to see. As such, various plans have been put in place by the school and the police to educate all age groups at the school with regard to the dangers and consequences of carrying knives.</p> <p>As you will no doubt be aware, there was also a high profile robbery at the Holiday Inn Hotel in Westhill at the beginning of April. This was a large enquiry which a number of CID and specially trained officers were involved with, and I am pleased to say that two people were charged in connection to the robbery less than 48 hours after it had occurred.</p> <p>As with last month, this is a positive set of figures which appear to be moving in the right direction. By continuing to work with various agencies and local groups and partnerships, we shall no doubt build stronger bonds which can only benefit Westhill and the surrounding areas.</p> <p>Mark Cobban G0629 Westhill Community Focus Officer</p>	<p>Cllr. Cullen Ian Forsyth Cllr. Cullen</p>
<p>6</p>	<p><u>Library at Westhill Primary School</u></p> <p>A new library is high on the list for Planning for Real. A questionnaire has already gone out to some in the community regarding the preferred location of a new library, and the Planning for Real sub-committee would like to continue with this in order to obtain a more comprehensive survey. They would also like to hold a public meeting in order to discuss the location along with the other requirements of the library. Christian Allard commented that the existing library will need attention because of its current state of deterioration, especially if building development is delayed. Concern was expressed that building cost estimates have escalated. It</p>	

	<p>is hoped that W&ECC can still influence the decision on the location of the library as we represent the views of the community as a whole. (The Councillors are unable to comment on the planning applications). W&ECC will contact Bruce Robertson at the Council to request that the surveys be continued to get a better idea of the community's views and ensure that several options are proposed, not a single option. Ian Forsyth will draft a letter as soon as possible, seeking comments from Stewart Whyte and Christian Allard. A public meeting was also suggested in a neutral location, and the library users will have to be consulted.</p>	<p>Ian Forsyth/ Stewart Whyte/ Christian Allard</p>
7	<p><u>Naming the B9119 road to Carnie</u> It was generally agreed that the road should be named the Tarland Road. Cllr. Cullen stated that a new road sign will be put in place.</p>	
8	<p><u>Planning Issues– Planning Gain Proposal</u> A letter from Ian Fowell was received in March by the Community Council asking that we should suggest where the planning gain should be spent. The document can be viewed on the W&ECC members website Mar-09-R-26.pdf. We did not have time to address this letter at last month's meeting. Although those attending the April meeting were gratified at the opportunity to have a say in how the money was spent, there was confusion regarding the sums of money available and also in the categories described. Further explanation is needed.</p> <p>Ian Forsyth will ask Ian Fowell to attend the next meeting to provide further information and clarification. All committee members were asked to read item 26 of the March 'Received Correspondence' before next month's meeting.</p>	<p>Ian Forsyth All</p>
9	<p><u>Correspondence</u> All correspondence is available on the extranet. Councillors Saluja and Allan will take up the issues over the co-ordination of the contractors working on the roads and pavements on Carnie Avenue.</p> <p><u>Correspondence Received</u> R-01: E-mail – Mr. Ian Fowell, Aberdeenshire Council: Community Council Election – CPP R-02: E-mail – Ms. Linda Papiransky, Aberdeenshire Council: Garioch Area Committee meeting – 17/03/09 & associated papers R-03: Letter – Licensing Board, Aberdeenshire Council: Application for Premises Licence: Key West, Westhill R-04: Letter – Licensing Board, Aberdeenshire Council: Application for Premises Licence: Shepherds Rest, Westhill R-05: Letter – Mr. Alan Edwards, Echt & Skene Community Council: Old Skene Road between Kirkton of Skene and west end of Westhill R-06: E-mail – Mr. Arthur Angus, Aberdeenshire Council: Local Plan R-07: E-mail – Cllr. Ron McKail, Aberdeenshire Council: A944 Accident statistics R-08: E-mail – Mr. John Michie, Aberdeenshire Council: Road closure notification – A944 Straik Road, Elrick R-09: E-mail – Mr. Richie Fraser, Aberdeenshire Council: Aberdeenshire Council's Draft Walking and Cycling Action Plan R-10: E-mail – Ms. Kathleen Moir, Aberdeenshire Council: CDG Meeting 18/03/09 R-11: E-mail – Mr. Arthur Angus, Aberdeenshire Council: Reply to Community Council e-mail – Local Plan R-12: Letter – Licensing Board, Aberdeenshire Council: Application for Premises Licence – Jimmy Chung, Westhill R-13: Letter – Licensing Board, Aberdeenshire Council: Application for Premises Licence – Holiday Inn, Westhill R-14: Letter – Licensing Board, Aberdeenshire Council: Application for Premises Licence – Co-op, Westhill R-15: Newsletter – Aberdeenshire Community Planning Partnership: 15th Survey – Jobs and the Economy R-16: E-mail – Mr. John Michie, Aberdeenshire Council: Street naming – Westhill R17: Letter – Mr. Richard Lochhead MSP, Scottish Government: National Spring</p>	

	<p>Clean 2009 R-18: E-mail – Ms. Audrey Hendry, Aberdeenshire Council: EL & L Committee R-19: E-mail – Mrs. Valerie Harries (Westhill resident): School field rubbish R-20: E-mail – ASCC Office: Community Engagement – Making it Work R-21: E-mail – Ms. Helen Young, ASCC: ASCC Updates R-22: E-mail – Mr. Arthur Angus, Aberdeenshire Council: ASCC Updates R-23: E-mail – Ms. Jan Lythgoe, Aberdeenshire Council: Ranger Service events R-24: E-mail – Cllr. McKail, Aberdeenshire Council: Volunteers reception R-25: E-mail – Mr. Arthur Angus, Aberdeenshire Council: Summary from Community Planning board – March 2009 R-26: E-mail – Cmdr. Chris Hunneyball, Aberdeenshire Council: Community Councils Communications Forum R-27: E-mail – Ms. Jill Sowden, Aberdeenshire Council: Community Councils Communications Forum – Minutes of Meeting 02/02/09 and Constitution</p> <p><u>Correspondence Sent</u> S-01: E-mail – Ms. Audrey Hendry, Aberdeenshire Council: Westhill Library – next steps (SW) S-02: E-mail – Mr. Ian Fowell, Aberdeenshire Council: Planning Gain / Developer Contributions (BM)</p>	
10	<p><u>Sub-Committee Reports</u></p> <p><u>Lights:</u> The tree lights need to be sorted out, to separate the working strings from the vandalised strings -David Ritchie will do this in the summer, Ian Knapton offered to help. The tree at Sauchen can be put up by just two people – the method is quite straightforward.</p> <p><u>Litter:</u> The missing litter bin on Old Skene Road has been replaced. The monthly litter picks continue, with a good response from volunteers Some Academy classes have been litter picking as part of their education.</p> <p><u>PfR (MiR):</u> The bus forum was held on the 25th March. There was a petition from Kirkton of Skene to join the bus service currently running from Aberdeen to Westhill; however it was not felt that there was enough public support to justify this service. Dial-a-bus information was instead disseminated to the Kirkton of Skene residents, with a note that it was hoped that the hours could be increased.</p> <p>There has been no progression over the issue of drivers not being trained to deal with disabled access to their buses. Christian Allard will write to the bus forum to remind them of this correspondence, and to request a progress report.</p> <p>The preferred options for the Community Cafe have been the old school, the town centre, or behind the Trinity Hall. The Feasibility study would be required to look at the location, type of building required and costings for such a project. It would also be useful to find out if the playgroup would move to the primary school in order to release the old school, before the study was put out.</p> <p>The Planning for Real sub-committee is very active at the moment. They are currently planning to meet Ian Fowell. He will be invited to the next meeting. On May 7th there will be a meeting of the Transport Department. This will discuss forward planning regarding transport issues.</p> <p>Finally Maureen Strachan is looking for carers views on what respite care is required in Westhill for the Mental Health Forum.</p> <p><u>Public Art:</u> The group have drafted an Artist's Brief, which should go out to potential applicants in May. We hope to conduct interviews soon after that. Ian Forsyth asked when the first art work will be installed. This is difficult to predict as it will</p>	Christian Allard

	<p>depend on what the artist proposes (based on our theme), how much it will cost, and whether funds will cover it. We may need to fund-raise to make up the difference. However, ours is a five year plan, and we see the first installation being possible within a year.</p> <p><u>Hanging Baskets:</u> Bill has spoken to Steve at Brightshine, regarding the watering of the baskets. The cost of £20 per run has been agreed by both parties. He has also been in touch with the Council regarding the lamp standards for the baskets.</p>	
11	<p><u>Treasurer's Report</u> The bill for the website has come through – this covers two years. It was agreed to renew the raffle licence.</p> <p>See attached report.</p>	
12	<p><u>Bulletin / Website</u> The deadline for the summer edition will be the 8th May. 4800 copies were delivered last issue. It has been requested that the church information and telephone numbers should be added to the next issue. A small article will also be written on Bill Rose – Sally Leiper will be asked to do this. His map may also be used at the entrance to Carnie woods. Heather Wood will speak to the Carnie Wood Management Committee.</p> <p>Two new contact names have been added – one to contact the Community Council, and one for the Community Council and the four Councillors.</p>	<p>David Ritchie/ Sally Leiper/ Heather Wood</p>
13	<p><u>AOCB</u></p> <p>M&S will no longer be expanding. Two units are still to be converted to a café. The occupants are currently unknown and the plans have been delayed due to the recession, but this development is still planned to go ahead.</p> <p>The Leddach Grange Estate Spine Path is unlit and consists of whin dust as opposed to tarmac. LeGRA contends that appropriate permission (Road Construction Consent) was not granted for the creation of this path and that if appropriate permission had been sought then a higher standard of construction might have been achieved.</p>	
14	<p><u>Date of Next Meeting</u></p> <p>The next meeting will be held on Thursday, 14th May 2009 at 7pm in Westhill Academy staffroom.</p>	

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR W&ECC MEETING 9/4/09						
	GENERAL FUNDS	ADVERTISING PRE-PAID FOR 2009	XMAS LIGHTS & TREE	MAKING IT REAL	LITTER CAMPAIGN	TOTAL
FUNDS IN BANK AT 12/03/09	6723.35	8720.00	3095.52	200.00	2086.74	20825.61
Receipts in period 13/03/09 to 9/4/09						
Bulletin advertisers- prepaid for 2009		3250.00				3250.00
Bulletin advertisers- spring issue	1276.00					1276.00
Transfer of spring 09 pre-paid adverts to General Funds	3042.00	-3042.00				
Bank interest	1.76					1.76
Payments in period 13/03/09 to 9/4/09						
Halcon- Bulletin Spring issue printing	-4950.00					-4950.00
Fee to Minutes Secretary for March	-40.00					-40.00
Purchase of matting & wicks for hanging baskets	-38.53					-38.53
Taghairn Partnership- web site hosting, May 2007 to May 2009	-218.50					-218.50
Lottery licence renewal	-20.00					-20.00
FUNDS IN BANK AT 9/04/09	5776.08	8928.00	3095.52	200.00	2086.74	20086.34
(Includes £8,177 in Halifax Guaranteed Reserve, on 5.91% interest to 8/4/09)						