

Westhill & Elrick Community Council

Minutes of the Community Council Meeting held on Thursday, 12th February 2009 in 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:** Beryl Menzies (Secretary), David Ritchie (Treasurer), Heather Robertson (Minutes Secretary), John Menzies, Heather Wood, Bill Loudon, Iris Walker, Audrey Findlay, Maureen Strachan, Ian Knapton

Andrew Irwin (Academy), Gillian Bell / Sally Hind (Aberdeen Journals), Keith Robertson, Christian Allard, Charlie Flint (LEGRA), Sgt. Peter Mackenzie / Flt. Lt. Karl Stevens, (875 Westhill Squadron, Air Training Corps)

Councillors: Cllr. McKail, Cllr. Allan, Cllr. Saluja, Cllr. Cullen

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 Secretary Beryl Menzies was acting Chair for this meeting. She expressed thanks to the hotel for allowing us to hold our meeting here, and welcomed those present to the meeting.	
2	<u>Apologies for Absence</u> Stewart Whyte, Ian Forsyth, Beryl Burbidge, Elspeth Winram.	
3	<u>Approval Of Minutes Of Previous Meeting</u> It was suggested that under AOCB the title should have been driving 'check' rather than 'test', as the instructor will simply make recommendations on how to improve driving, as opposed to formally 'testing' people. Proposed - Maureen Strachan; Seconded - Bill Loudon.	
4	<u>Matters Arising</u> (a) Application forms for the driving check have now been received, and those Committee members who have volunteered for this were asked to collect theirs from Maureen Strachan, and others were encouraged to sign up. (b) With regards to the crossing at Elrick, Audrey Hendry, Senior Education Officer, will be invited to the next meeting. The impression at the Parent Council meeting was not very positive; although a 'walking map' and further promotion of the 'Park and Stride' from the leisure centre was suggested, along with the possibility of inclusion in the 2010 cycle rack scheme, the issue of the crossing was not properly considered. The Committee felt that this issue should be considered separately, and is an absolute necessary. (c) Mr. Bob Rose is continuing to pass information about Christmas lights to Audrey Findlay; she is waiting for specifics before passing this information onto the Community Council.	Stewart Whyte
5	<u>Tesco - Road Surface and Fuel Prices</u> Unfortunately Julian Maude was acting Duty Manager tonight, so was unable to attend the meeting. The delay in fixing the road surfaces is due to Tesco's request that Barr Construction pay for this, because the store was given a ten year guarantee.	

	<p>However, when this does happen, it is planned to involve resurfacing of the entire car park. It was mentioned that other roads in Westhill are also becoming rather worn, however this cannot be fixed right now, due to the adverse weather conditions. Ian Forsyth emailed Julian Maude, because the diesel prices are currently much higher than those to the north of Westhill and in the city. The reply was that the prices are volatile, and are still competitive within a three mile radius of Westhill. However, when the petrol station was established it was agreed that prices would be competitive with the city as well as the surrounding area; this was communicated to Julian Maude, along with a complaint that the areas around disabled parking bays and the pavements at the store were not adequately cleared, making access difficult. As yet there has been no reply.</p>	
<p>6</p>	<p><u>Police Report</u></p> <p>PC Craig Robertson, along with an officer from Kemnay, is the only officer on duty in the area at the moment. It was commented that it was nice to see that curfew orders and compensation payments have been ordered for Halloween. The traffic officers were also praised for the very active role they are currently playing in the community.</p> <p><u>Crime trends and figures for Westhill for the period 08-01-2009 to 12-02-2009</u></p> <p>In this period there were 2 reported thefts, one of which was beer from an insecure garage. There were also 2 attempted thefts both involving insecure or unattended property, where beer from a garage was also the target. It would appear that our young people may have discovered that residents in Westhill leave cases of beer lying in unlocked garages, hence one of the thefts and one of the attempted thefts.</p> <p>There were 10 Vandalism reports including a series of vehicles scratched in the Elrick area.</p> <p>Five Breach of the Peace complaints led to reports being submitted to the Procurator Fiscal on two occasions.</p> <p>One person was reported for carrying an offensive weapon.</p> <p>Four Assaults were also reported with persons reported on two occasions.</p> <p>Five people were reported for Road Traffic Offences by local and Roads Policing Officers.</p> <p>Our pro-active team for Aberdeenshire which operates from Westhill have been working closely with local publicans to deal with the increased use of drugs within licensed premises. This involved plain clothed officers attending at local licensed premises with a device which could detect if drugs had been used within toilet areas etc. Our local licensees have responded very favourably and are keen to be involved in a 'Pub Watch' scheme either locally or Garioch wide. We will be working closely with them on this.</p> <p>We have recently set up another new Neighbourhood Watch in Elrick and are working with our Crime Reduction Officers to investigate the possible lighting of the footpath which runs through the Carnie estate.</p> <p>It is testament to the close working practices that all agencies working within this Community have adopted that we are able to keep the crime figures low and I would like to think that we can continue to make Westhill a safe and desirable area to live in.</p> <p>Ian R Robison 8143, Westhill Community Officer</p>	

7	<p><u>Air Cadet Squadron Westhill: Sgt. Peter Mackenzie</u></p> <p>The Air Cadet Force in Westhill is trying to get more involved in the community and to expand their numbers. They are also looking for sponsorship from and around Westhill. Currently they have only 14 members. The two representatives from their team gave a presentation on the Air Cadet Force, designed to expel the many misconceptions that people tend to have about the Cadet Force. The talk was very inspiring, and there were many suggestions about how the cadets could be more prominently involved in the community, from delivering Bulletins to helping out with the monthly litter picks and with Planning for Real Projects. An article will be put into the next Bulletin.</p>	
8	<p><u>Planning Issues</u></p> <p>There are very few planning applications at the moment, because of the weather and the time of year. However, a Tor Ecosse Project at Mason Lodge has been proposed, for 6 executive one-off properties at Leddach Croft. This will be passed to Echt and Skene Community Council.</p>	
9	<p><u>Greenbelt Group Public Meeting Report : Cllr. McKail</u></p> <p>Everyone who went to this meeting was thanked for going, and the Press were thanked for the write up the next day. It was a very successful meeting, with 4 MSPs and 110 residents in attendance. Stewart Milne and Cala were also there, however Gladedale was not present. The three estates concerned will keep each other and the MSPs informed of any new developments. A copy of the presentation will also be sent to the MSPs and Gladedale. Mr Middleton of Greenbelt has promised to write a detailed report, something which he will be held to. It was offered that the land could be negotiated to a limited company, of which the residents would be shareholders; however, outstanding debts and large sums from each of the residents would have to be paid to Greenbelt first. It was agreed that more explicit costs would have to be proposed before this went any further. A motion is to be taken to the full Council that Aberdeenshire Council will write to all major developers in the area recommending that they do not use Greenbelt, and a letter will be written to Greenbelt themselves. A letter was sent to all Leddach Grange residents, which will be posted on the extranet. Thanks go to Cllr. McKail and Charlie Flint for the organisation of this meeting.</p>	
10	<p><u>Proctors Update: Cllr. Saluja</u></p> <p>Due to the confidentiality of these meetings, Cllr. Saluja was unable to disclose much information to the Community Council. However, the three bidders and the trustees will be present at the next Trust meeting. Presentations will be made there, and that is possibly when a decision will be made. Everyone involved is keen to forward this project.</p>	
11	<p><u>Sub-Committee Reports</u></p> <p><u>Lights:</u> The lights are due to be picked up next week to go to their new storage. The two which were not working will be sent back if they cannot be fixed. As yet there are no plans to purchase more lights in 2009.</p> <p><u>Litter:</u> Adopt-a-Street is going well, and the programme for this years litters picks has started. The next litter pick takes place on 28th February. We are awaiting the installation of the new litter bins in the Westhill and Skene primary schools. The bins along with the artwork have been received and are stored in the Academy.</p> <p><u>Making it Real (MiR)</u> An article will be sent to the Bulletin, outlining the recent progressions that have been made.</p>	

	<p><u>Art:</u> At our last Art Project meeting it was recommended that we seek out greater representation from the community to be on the Art Project team. We are in the process of doing this by contacting all the clubs & societies in the area, to try & recruit new members from them. Once we have done this, we will move on to the next stage. We had to cancel a meeting today (12th) because of the snow.</p> <p><u>Hanging Baskets:</u> It was commented that the Fox Lane site has been done very nicely; the wetlands have also been kept conserved. It is due to open around the 21st of March or soon after that date. Bill Loudon has been in touch with Steve about watering and cost. Next year he is hoping to get real baskets for the flowers.</p>	
12	<p><u>Treasurer's Report</u> The Council Admin grant of £750 has finally been received.</p> <p>See attached report.</p>	
13	<p><u>Bulletin/Website</u></p> <p>The deadline for this issue is tomorrow (13th). There has been a good uptake of year-long advertisers this year.</p> <p>The address WECC@westhill.org now works to contact the entire Community Council.</p>	
14	<p><u>Correspondence</u></p> <p>There was no correspondence to discuss, however several items were highlighted to the Community Council:</p> <p>11 – Nominees for sports awards 13 – Community Safety Group Seminar and Awards, march 28th 26 – Planning Aid for Scotland free information event to be held 28 – Over 60s central heating from Scottish Gas For more information on any of these items, please visit the extranet.</p> <p><u>Correspondence Received</u></p> <p>R-01: E-mail – Ms. Angela Allan, Aberdeenshire Council: Youth and Community Café R-02: E-mail – Transportation Manager, Aberdeenshire Council: Traffic and road issues Westhill R-03: E-mail – Ms. Linda Papiransky, Aberdeenshire Council: Garioch Area Committee meeting 13/01/09 and associated papers R-04: E-mail – Ms. Angela Allan, Aberdeenshire Council: CDG Meeting 14/01/09 and associated papers R-05: Letter – Aberdeenshire Council: Application for premises licence: Costco Wholesale UK Limited, Westhill R-06: Letter – Aberdeenshire Council: Application for premises licence: Broadstraik Inn, Elrick, Westhill R-07: E-mail – Transport & Infrastructure Operations, Aberdeenshire Council: Loose chippings Westhill R-08: E-mail – Ms. Michelle Herd, Crimestoppers Scotland: Caught in the Act – Comedy Cabaret R-09: E-mail – Mr. Ross Anderson, Aberdeenshire Council: Leisureland leaflet R-10: Letter – Planning Aid for Scotland: Information event, Saturday 21/02/09, Aberdeen Maritime Museum, Shiprow R-11: Letter – Ms. Alison Hodgson, Aberdeenshire Sports Council: Aberdeenshire Sports Awards Evening – 27/03/09 R-12: E-mail – Ms. Jill Sowden, Aberdeenshire Council: Information re. ARI signage</p>	

	<p>R-13: E-mail – Ms. Jill Sowden, Aberdeenshire Council: Community Safety Groups’ Annual Seminar and Awards – 28/03/09</p> <p>R-14: E-mail – Mr. Arthur Angus, Aberdeenshire Council: Community Safety Awards 2008-2009 and Service Contact List</p> <p>R-15: E-mail – Mr. Ian Fowell, Aberdeenshire Council: Flooding on Old Skene Road</p> <p>R-16: Letter – Licensing Department, Aberdeenshire Council: Unit 4A, Ashdale Drive, Westhill</p> <p>R-17: E-mail – Mr. George Niblock, Aberdeenshire Litter Initiative: Update on ALI</p> <p>R-18: E-mail – Mr. Bob Gray, Aberdeenshire Council: Flooding on Old Skene Road</p> <p>R-19: E-mail – Mr. Peter Rhodes, Aberdeenshire Council: Westhill Litter</p> <p>R-20: E-mail – Ms. Jill Sowden, Aberdeenshire Council: Love Your Hall</p> <p>R-21: E-mail – Mr. Julian Maude, Tesco: W&ECC – Fuel Prices</p> <p>R-22: E-mail – Ms. Linda Papiransky, Aberdeenshire Council: Garioch Area Committee meeting 03/02/08 and associated papers</p> <p>R-23: Letter – Ms. Christine Gore, Aberdeenshire Council: Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan</p> <p>R-24: E-mail – Ms. Linda Papiransky, Aberdeenshire Council: Budget Briefing Paper</p> <p>R-25: E-mail – Ms. Arlene Munro, Aberdeenshire Council: Garioch Area Bus Forum</p> <p>R-26: Letter - Planning Aid for Scotland: Information event 21/02/09 - change of venue</p> <p>R-27: Letter - Aberdeenshire Council: Application for premises licence - Yan restaurant, Westhill</p> <p>R-28: Letter – Scottish Gas: Scottish Government Central Heating Programme</p> <p>R-29: E-mail – Ms. Linda Papiransky, Aberdeenshire Council: Budget Briefing Paper No. 9 – 200</p> <p>R-30: Letter – Ms. Fiona Smith, Aberdeen City Council: Proctors Trust – Future Use of Proctors Orphanage</p> <p>R-31: Letter – Harlequin Ltd: Proposed Site Share on Orange PCS Ltd Radio Base Station on land at GPH DIY & Builders Merchants Ltd, Westhill</p> <p>R-32: E-mail – Ms. Jill Sowden, Aberdeenshire Council: Briefing Note Community Planning Executive 04/02/09</p> <p>R-33: E-mail – Ms. Fiona Smith, Aberdeenshire Council: Shire Connections Networking Event – 20/02/09</p> <p><u>Correspondence Sent</u></p> <p>S-01: Letter – Mr. Ian Fowell, Aberdeenshire Council: Outdoor Fitness/ Mountain Bike Trail (MS)</p> <p>S-02: Letter – Mr. Ian Rendall, Aberdeenshire Council: Elrick Primary School (SW)</p> <p>S-03: Letter - Mr. Ian Fowell, Aberdeenshire Council: Dog Fouling and Litter Bins (MS)</p> <p>S-04: Letter – Mr. Martin Smith, Gladedale Capital: Planning for Real / Making it Real Westhill (MS)</p> <p>S-05: E-mail – Mr. Peter Rhodes / Mr. Alistair Black, Aberdeenshire Council: Tesco litter bins (IF)</p> <p>S-06: E-mail – Mr. Ian Fowell, Aberdeenshire Council: Flooding on Old Skene Road (SW)</p> <p>S-07: E-mail – Mr. Julian Maude, Tesco: W&ECC – Fuel prices (SW)</p>	
15	<p><u>AOCB</u></p> <p>(a) Cannabis Factory’ identification; more information about how to do this is under correspondence on the extranet.</p> <p>(b) Cllr. Allan will send the tree planting photos to David Ritchie for the Bulletin.</p>	

	<p>(c) Leddach Grange bus route; Gladedale has not completed the road on which the bus had planned to run, so as yet there is no bus service for residents in that area, where it is especially needed. The pavement has also not been completed. Stewart Whyte will be asked to write to Gladedale, and to copy this to the Councillors. Cllr. Allan will send this to Planning Enforcement.</p> <p>(d) The Library is planned to be moved to Westhill primary school. No one has been informed about this yet – there has been very poor communication and an extreme lack of consultation and detail about this issue. It was discussed that this could result in loss of classrooms in the school. A survey has been compiled to find out if the community think that this is the best location for the new library, although it may be affected by funding also. This survey, along with a letter of query will be sent to Bruce Robertson, requesting that the development is delayed until the community has been properly notified. It was suggested that Heather Hamilton may come to one of our meetings – Stewart Whyte will be asked to request this. It was also suggested that we should perhaps request a public meeting to allow the community to express their opinions.</p>	<p>Stewart Whyte / Cllr. Allan</p> <p>Stewart Whyte</p>
<p>16</p>	<p><u>Date of Next Meeting</u></p> <p>The next meeting will be held on Thursday, 12th March 2009 at 7pm in Westhill Academy staffroom.</p>	

Heather Robertson
Minutes Secretary

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR W&ECC MEETING 12/2/09	GENERAL FUNDS	ADVERTISING PRE-PAID FOR 2009	XMAS LIGHTS & TREE	LITTER CAMPAIGN	TOTAL
FUNDS IN BANK AT 8/01/09	4900.99	0.00	3196.02	2093.10	10190.11
<u>Receipts in period 9/01/09 to 12/2/09</u>					
Bulletin advertisers- winter issue	1211.00				1211.00
Bulletin advertisers- prepaid for 2009		5140.00			5140.00
Admin Grant from Aberdeenshire Council	733.20				733.20
<u>Payments in period 9/01/09 to 12/2/09</u>					
Fee to Minutes Secretary for December & January	-80.00				-80.00
FUNDS IN BANK AT 12/02/09	6765.19	5140.00	3196.02	2093.10	17194.31
(Includes £8,177 in Halifax Guaranteed Reserve, on 5.91% interest to 8/4/09)					