

Westhill & Elrick Community Council

Minutes of the Community Council Meeting held on Thursday 8th January 2009 at the Westhill Academy Staffroom

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

Present: **Committee:** Stewart Whyte (Chair), Beryl Menzies (Secretary), John Menzies, Audrey Findlay, Bill Loudon, Iris Walker, Maureen Strachan, Beryl Burbidge, Ian Knapton, Heather Robertson (Minutes).

Christian Allard, Diana Robertson, Anne Thomson, Sally Hind (Aberdeen Journals).

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

Police: PC Ian Robison.

	Item	Action/ Attention
1	<u>Chairman's Opening Remarks</u> The Chairman welcomed those present to the meeting, and wished everyone a Happy New Year.	
2	<u>Apologies for Absence</u> Ian Forsyth (Vice Chair), David Ritchie (Treasurer), Heather Wood, Angela Allan, Cllr. Cullen, Andrew Irwin (Academy pupil).	
3	<u>Approval Of Minutes Of Previous Meeting</u> Item 4b: the meeting is to be held on Jan 30 th , not Dec 29 th . Proposed - Beryl Menzies; Seconded - Maureen Strachan.	
4	<u>Matters Arising</u> (a) Chocolates have been given to the staff at the civic centre and to the shop unit staff, who were delighted. (b) <u>Item 6:</u> Cllr. McKail received an email from Inspector Thompson, Grampian Police, communicating that the Police would be in support of a crossing here. Yellow lines here would also be beneficial. There was also a follow up in the Evening Express and in the Piper and the PTA have been involved. The Community Council was very pleased with this result, and thanked Andrew Keay for his hard work and excellent presentation. (c) <u>Item 7:</u> The application has been submitted for the top up grant, which is due to be discussed on Tuesday. Lottery funding is also being investigated. It was suggested that there might be a possibility of a grant from the Police, and it was suggested that John Wallace should submit a proposal. There is currently £5200 left to raise. (d) Cllr Cullen: The proposed 20mph limits on Hays Way are to be installed, and the existing ones removed as originally planned.	
5	<u>Police Report</u> A discussion followed involving the recent vandalism at Westhill Inn. The only damage was a large tear in a seat cover and some baubles were stolen, despite what was reported in the press.	

Also, the suggestion of a statistical table was discussed – PC Robison explained that the current form of police report is much more informative and accessible than such a report, and it was decided that the Community Council was happy with the current method of reporting.

Speeding vehicles were also reported at the bottom of Wellgrove Road, between Fraser Drive and Henderson Drive. The police will look into this, in particular speaking to the bus Transport Manager, as they were reported as one of the worst culprits.

Crime trends and figures for Westhill for the period 04-12-2008 to 18-01-2009

I would like to start by hoping that you all had a really good time at Christmas, and wishing you a Happy New Year.

In this period we have experienced relatively little crime. There were 4 reported thefts, 3 of which were items left insecure and unattended. The other rather oddly was a gate from the Tennis Club!

There was one car broken into, and again avoidable as it was most probably as a consequence of a highly visible sat. nav. device.

There was a problem with shoplifters coming out from town and targeting our larger stores, but we were able to add some high visibility patrols at strategic times which resulted in a male from the City being pursued and caught. He was locked up for court as a result.

There were 3 Vandalism reports, 2 of which concerned damage to garden fences.

Four Breach of the Peace complaints led to reports being submitted to the Procurator Fiscal on 3 occasions.

Two Assaults were also reported with persons reported on both occasions.

Six people were reported for Road Traffic Offences by local and Roads Policing Officers.

I have consulted with our Temporary Youth Justice Management Supervisor who is very happy with the current level of youth offending in the town. We have almost dropped off her radar which is a good thing. This is largely down to the early intervention policies adopted by the Police, Schools and Community and Youth workers as well as the use of ABC's and ASBO's where required. It has been brought to my attention by local shopkeepers that they have noticed a marked improvement in the behaviour of our youngsters at lunchtimes and I would hope that this can continue.

We have recently set up a new Neighbourhood Watch in Elrick and are very close to launching a second one nearby.

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.

Ian R Robison 8143,
Westhill Community Officer.

6	<p><u>Planning Issues: Local Plan</u></p> <p>All Community Councils in Aberdeenshire have been asked to give their comments on the local plan, which has been proposed for the next five years. Areas to be protected and also those recommended for construction should be identified. The Community Council decided that they were not against development, and proposed that north of Meadowlands, on the other side of the hill would be a good site. Also, on the Echt Road, opposite the current industrial development, could be built on. However, between Kirkton of Skene and Westhill; towards the political boundary with Aberdeen city; triangular site between Tesco and the roundabout; south of Carnie Woods and the golf course were all put forward for protection. Although it is not put forward at this stage, the Community Council decided that it should request that some of the land to be developed should be used for leisure facilities and affordable housing. The areas suggested by the landowners for development were shown to the Community Council. These are also available on the council's website.</p>	
7	<p><u>Garioch Area Community Forum</u></p> <p>The last meeting was poorly attended. The importance of there being a Community Council representative at these meetings was emphasised, as there are only four meetings a year. Stewart Whyte, Audrey Findlay and Iris Walker agreed to represent the Community Council at these meetings.</p>	
8	<p><u>Sub-Committee Reports</u></p> <p><u>Lights:</u> The vandalised Christmas tree lights were mostly repaired on Saturday 13 December, using 2 spare transformers and one Alan Edwards gave us. Further work to get more lights working was planned for 20th December, but the tree was blown over by strong winds on evening of Friday 19th December. It snapped at the base. At time of erecting the tree it was suspected this might happen as a lot of wood had to be sawn off the trunk to fit into the base. It was not going to be possible to get the tree put up again quickly so Alan Edwards and David took the lights off it. The top 10ft. or so was put back into the base and Cllr. Cullen put lights on it on Monday 22nd. This meant we still had a very attractive tree during the main festive period.</p> <p>For next year we should go back to buying a 20ft. tree, not a 25ft. one.</p> <p>The lamppost lights and small tree were taken down on morning of Saturday 3rd January. The work was completed in two hours, thanks to the good number of helpers. The new trestle ladder is very effective and the cable ties are much quicker to remove than the small bolts we used to use to secure the light to the lamppost bracket. The lights are in David's garage at moment. They were not put up to the golf course shed as there is too many lights now for the storage area provided there. Cllr. Cullen has arranged with Bert Mcintosh of Mcintosh Plant Hire that the lights can be stored at his large warehouse near Garlogie. He is also going to give us crates to put the lights in and has said he will arrange for transport of the crates between the warehouse and Westhill.</p> <p>Cllr. Allan suggested a wall or raised area around the tree such as that at Sauchen. This could be used to hold a memorial, and would be planted in summertime. Money from the planning gain could be used for this.</p> <p><u>Litter:</u> The new litter rota has been sent out. The new Tesco bins will be located by the council this month</p>	

	<p><u>PfR:</u> The items not dealt with at the last meeting were identified, and these are being followed up. The DofE students are soon to start surveying the open spaces and to suggest new equipment for them. Dog bins in the new housing estates are also being investigated – these were meant to be put in already. A mountain bike trail and a youth café are being discussed – more information on these will be available at the next meeting.</p> <p><u>Hanging Baskets:</u> Cllr. McKail has been in touch with the Council re. plants. Gordon Henderson (Fox Lane) is still willing to help out with planting and soil. The times for this are still to be confirmed. Bill Loudon will find out about watering solutions for the next meeting.</p>	Bill Loudon
9	<p><u>Treasurer's Report</u></p> <p>See attached report.</p>	
10	<p><u>Bulletin / Website</u></p> <p>Deadline for articles for inclusion into the Spring edition of the Bulletin is 13th February. There have been some new volunteers to help batch the Bulletins. It was mentioned that David Ritchie does a lot of work for the Bulletin, and that the Community Council should continue to give him as much help as possible. The extranet is now working well again, and the Bulletin will be on the website for the next issue. The licensing problem has now been resolved. An email will be sent around to help those who had difficulty in opening files.</p>	
11	<p><u>Correspondence</u></p> <p><u>Correspondence Received</u> R-01: Letter - Planning Aid for Scotland: Forthcoming events R-02: Letter – Ms. Fiona Smith, Aberdeen City Council: Proctors Trust – Future Use of Proctors Orphanage R-03: E-mail – Mr. Arthur Angus, Aberdeenshire Council: Scottish Government R-04: E-mail – Ms. Fiona Banks, Aberdeenshire Council: Litter on Arnhall Moss R-05: E-mail – Ms. Linda Papiransky, Aberdeenshire Council: CCWG Consultation R-06: E-mail – Mr. Arthur Angus, Aberdeenshire Council: Community Council Forum Meetings R-07: E-mail – Insp. Bob Thomson, Grampian Police: Crime reporting for the W&ECC R-08: E-mail – Ms. Jill Sowden, Aberdeenshire Council: Successful Leader Bids R-09: E-mail – Ms. Kathleen Moir, Aberdeenshire Council: CDG Members R-10: E-mail – Ms. Maureen Adamson, Aberdeenshire Council: Administration Grant</p> <p><u>Correspondence sent</u> S-01: E-mail – Ms. Judith Wight, Westhill Academy: Litter on Arnhall Moss (IF) S-02: E-mail - Ms. Fiona Banks, Aberdeenshire Council: Litter on Arnhall Moss (IF) S-03: E-mail – Insp. Bob Thomson, Grampian Police: Crime Reporting for the W&ECC (IF) S-04: Letter – Ms. Jill Sowden, Aberdeenshire Council: Westhill Tennis Court – Shell Community Grant (SW) S-05: E-mail – Insp. Bob Thomson, Grampian Police: Westhill crime statistics (IF)</p>	

12	<p><u>AOCB</u></p> <p>(a) Pictures of tree planting will go into the next issue of the Bulletin</p> <p>(b) Arnhall Business Park link road; services 215 and X15 have now been revised to go through here. Bus shelters and raised kerbs will be put in in the future.</p> <p>(c) GACCF will be discussing 20mph limits on Eastside Drive, Avenue and Green.</p> <p>(d) Peter McAllen emailed Cllr. McKail with details of new transport development: proposals for duelling between roundabouts with signals; 'keep clear' markings on the Tesco roundabout will be refreshed; Improvements are planned at the Business Park and Tarland to cope with rush hour traffic; Streetlights will be put in between Tarland roundabout and Westhill.</p> <p>(e) Lights at the crossing outside Aldi are an issue; glare from them is distracting. It was suggested that perhaps a pelican crossing here would be more appropriate.</p> <p>(f) The Advanced Driving exam (Pass Plus) currently costs £25. You are able to do it in your own car. Limited financial help with this can be sought. It was suggested that Community Council members could take the lead with this scheme, along with the 50+ group.</p>	
13	<p><u>Date of Next Meeting</u></p> <p>The next meeting will be held on 12th February 2009, commencing at 7pm; venue to be confirmed.</p>	

Heather Robertson
Minutes Secretary

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR W&ECC MEETING 8/1/09					
	GENERAL FUNDS	ADVERTISING PRE-PAID FOR 2008	XMAS LIGHTS & TREE	LITTER CAMPAIGN	TOTAL
FUNDS IN BANK AT 11/12/08	5627.68	2600.00	3196.02	2093.10	13516.80
Receipts in period 12/12/08 to 8/1/09					
Bulletin advertisers- winter issue	1392.00				1392.00
Transfer of winter 08 pre-paid adverts to General Funds	2600.00	-2600.00			
Bank interest	13.31				13.31
Payments in period 12/12/08 to 8/1/09					
Halcon- Bulletin Winter issue printing	-4732.00				-4732.00
FUNDS IN BANK AT 8/01/09	4900.99	0.00	3196.02	2093.10	10190.11
(Includes £8,177 in Halifax Guaranteed Reserve, on 5.91% interest to 8/4/09)					