

Westhill & Elrick Community Council

Minutes of the Community Council Meeting held on Thursday 9th July 2009 at Trinity Church hall, Westhill

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

Present: **Committee:** Stewart Whyte (Chair), Ian Forsyth (Deputy Chair), David Ritchie (Treasurer), Beryl Menzies (Secretary), Christian Allard, Beryl Burbidge, Audrey Findlay, Ian Knapton, Bill Loudon, John Menzies, Becky Menzies (Academy Rep.), Maureen Strachan, Heather Wood, Iris Walker

Diana Robertson, Malcolm Macmillan, Charlie Flint (LeGRA), Mike Grattidge, Susan Ronald, Susan Cuthbertson, Sally Hind (Evening Express)

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

Police: Sgt. Inness Coull, WPC Amanda White

	Item	Action/ Attention
1	<p><u>Chairman's Opening Remarks</u> Due to the fact that this is the summer meeting, it should be shorter than normal. Becky Menzies was welcomed as our new Academy youth representative.</p>	
2	<p><u>Apologies for Absence</u> Gillian Bell (P&J), Heather Robertson (Minutes), Cllr Cullen.</p>	
3	<p><u>Approval Of Minutes Of Previous Meeting</u> Proposed - Bill Loudon; seconded – Maureen Strachan</p>	
4	<p><u>Matters Arising</u> Ian Forsyth wrote to Mr. Bert McIntosh (McIntosh Plant). The Council stated that this is indeed the responsibility of the contractor. Ian will continue to follow this up to ensure that the situation does not arise again.</p>	Ian Forsyth
5	<p><u>Police Report</u></p> <p><u>Crime trends and figures for Westhill for the period 09-06-2009 to 06-07-2009</u></p> <p>During this period the following offences were reported.</p> <p>There were 2 domestic incidents, 3 vandalism, 3 thefts, 2 Breach of the Peace and 4 Road Traffic Offences.</p> <p>There have also been incidents of Graffiti at various locations within Westhill, currently the officer dealing with this has suspects and the enquiries are ongoing.</p> <p>One male with a 'mini moto' type motor cycle was reported to be on Old Skene Road, he was subsequently charged with having no insurance and his bike was seized by Police.</p> <p>One male was reported driving in an anti-social way on his motor cycle at Lawnsdale Playing Fields. He was subsequently charged with driving elsewhere other than on a road and has been issued with an anti-social behaviour order which applies to both himself and his vehicle.</p> <p>One male has been charged with driving without a valid driving licence.</p>	

	<p>One male has been charged with having possession of a class A drug within local licensed premises.</p> <p>Regarding the recent incident at Westhill Golf Club whereby items of golf equipment were removed from the course and damaged, 3 males have now been charged with Wilful Fire Raising. There were more youths believed to be responsible, however there was not enough evidence to charge them although all of the youths involved were interviewed in the presence of their parents.</p> <p>There have also been 2 youths charged with the recent spate of thefts of alcohol from residential garages.</p> <p>On Wednesday the 1st July PC Malcolm Grant from Grampian Crime Prevention department, along with local officers and representatives from Crime stoppers attended at all of the Westhill Primary schools to give a talk on prevention of vandalism at the schools during the holidays. It highlighted the need for pupils to tell an appropriate adult if they have any information regarding any vandalisms that have been carried out or to pass information to crime stoppers anonymously. It was stressed to pupils the effects on the school when vandalism occurs.</p> <p>Between Monday 6 and Monday 20 July 2009, Grampian Police, in conjunction with all Scottish Police Services, will be taking part in the annual Summer Safety Drink/Drug drive campaign.</p> <p>During 2008's campaign, 320 motorists in Scotland were prosecuted for driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs.</p> <p>During the campaign, Roads Policing Officers will be deployed intelligently, focusing on areas in the community where there is potential for motorists to be tempted to drink and drive: large organised events, beer tents, etc. This means all motorists committing any moving road traffic offence, no matter how minor, and following their involvement in all road traffic collisions will be breathalysed.</p> <p>Officers at Westhill have been carrying out speed checks using the hand held speed gun at various locations within Westhill and Dunecht. About 20 members of the public were educated regarding their speed. One area in particular where drivers were driving at excessive speeds was around Westhill Heights whilst coming out from the Golf Course. These drivers were also educated and were given leaflets reminding them to watch their speed. Officers will be carrying out further checks in the Westhill area on a regular basis.</p> <p>Amanda White 0778 Westhill Community Officer</p>	
6	<p><u>Planning Issues</u></p> <p><u>Application to build on gateway to Westhill</u></p> <p>The developers will have to consult the local community twelve weeks before their application is submitted. An advert will be put in the next Bulletin to say the date of the public meeting and of further consultation with the Community Council. Arnhall Business Park is the main developer for the area. The size is limited to 5000 m².</p> <p>This site is important as it is a highly prestigious site – the 'Gateway to Westhill'. The new consultation process was welcomed. The current intention is not to screen with landscaping, but to have an impressive development which surpasses the need to screen. The roads development committee have said that currently £5m is needed to ease problems in Westhill, and that further development could raise this to £20m. Some of the land is currently planned to use for linking the road with Tesco filling station roundabout. It is likely that the units will be low density due to the pipeline – smaller office buildings or retail. Stewart Whyte thanked our guest for coming to share ideas at this early stage.</p>	

<p>7</p>	<p>Proposal to site library at Westhill Primary School</p> <p>Ian Forsyth spoke at the Area Committee meeting on behalf of the Community Council, commenting on the need to consult, based on local Government and Scottish Executive regulations. He went on to show that in this case the necessary consultation had not taken place, and thus the planning application should not go ahead. The parents also had representation at this meeting. An architect spoke on behalf of the Council, giving their view on the development. An amendment was proposed at the voting stage to include more consultation, however this was not passed. The planning application was passed by the Councillors.</p> <p>Stewart Whyte asked each of the Ward 13 Councillors present to explain their votes. Cllr. McKail felt that the consultation process had been adequate for this development, and that the proposed site at the primary school was the best available - the Academy was too expensive to be used. Car parking and security would not be issues at the primary school. The issue about schoolchildren being watched was dismissed as all the schools are open plan. Cllr. Allan stated that from comments that she has been given both from in and outside the Community Council there was quite a lot of support, that residents felt that this was the best site, and that the children's education would not be compromised. Cllr. Saluja, who abstained, felt that the consultation was inadequate, but did not oppose the application as all planning regulations were covered. At the public meeting it was said that there was no difference in cost between the primary and Academy, but since then it has been said that the difference amounted to £400,000. The parents commented that they still considered the consultation to be inadequate, and voiced that they did not know how/where to get their views heard – they only heard of decisions after they had been made. They also felt that space would be an issue. The implication by planning authorities was that the Parent Council of the primary school was in favour of the decision. They had no response when they requested meetings with Councillors. It was questioned whether the councillors' decisions were made based on their own opinions, or those of the community, however, the councillors reiterated that their decisions were based on information from everyone who contacted them. The Parent Council were also unhappy that their petition was discounted.</p> <p>The Community Councillors were then asked to comment. In summary, these comments included the impression that Councillors had not been straight with them, that there was poor publicity of meetings and strong local opinion which was ignored. Council planners had made up their mind on where the Library would be and guidelines on consultation were not followed. General opinion was that the Academy needed these facilities and that the money would have been better spent on refurbishment at the Academy.</p>	
<p>8</p>	<p>Cllr. Cullen's comments about the Community Council</p> <p>In the Spring 2009 issue of the Bulletin (p64) Cllr. Cullen's report included a statement of support for the location of the Library at the primary school. Stewart Whyte raised the question to the Community Council that for Cllr. Cullen to then vote at the Planning application was in breach of regulations according to the Code of Conduct for Councillors. A vote was held to decide whether to write to the Chief Executive regarding our concerns. This was passed, with 9 votes in favour and 4 abstentions.</p> <p>This letter will be circulated to all Community Councillors prior to it being sent.</p> <p>Ian Forsyth has summarised the comments made at the Garioch Area Committee meeting, by Cllr. Cullen about the Community Council. In summary that W&ECC does not represent the views of the community, and that they have a history of being against developments in Westhill. Community Councillors agreed that this was quite offensive, and it was proposed to write to Ian Fowell as the Chair of the Garioch Area Committee, with a copy sent to the deputy Chair. Twelve Community Councillors passed this proposal, no abstentions. Stewart Whyte will circulate this letter before sending it.</p>	<p>Stewart Whyte</p> <p>Stewart Whyte</p>

<p>9</p>	<p><u>Correspondence</u></p> <p>(a) Susan Brown from Mearns Community Council is the nominated representative to attend meetings on behalf of all the Community Councils in the area.</p> <p>(b) There is currently £15,000 of community money available – the Central Government is asking for ideas as to how to spend this money – ideas should be brought to the meetings.</p> <p>(c) On 14th September there will be a consultation by the Core Paths Plan – this was passed on to the Westhill Walking Group.</p> <p>Aberdeenshire Open Space have a list of sites, however this included an area of private land. Beryl Menzies will write to them to let them know that this site and others may not be available. A questionnaire has also been sent to the Community Council, for completion. This will be raised at the August meeting.</p> <p><u>Correspondence Received</u></p> <p>R-01: Letter – Mr. Charlie Flint, LeGRA: LeGRA comment R-02: E-mail – Cllr. McKail, Aberdeenshire Council: Cashback for Communities (funding for Youth Work activities) – Round 3 R-03: E-mail - Mr. Charlie Flint, LeGRA: W&ECC June meeting R-04: E-mail – Ms. Mari Hellman, Westhill Primary School Parent Council: Request to speak at the meeting on 23/06/09 R-05: E-mail – Ms. Mary Arkless, Westhill Primary School Parent Council: Policy & Resources Committee Meeting on 11/06/09 R-06: E-mail - Mr. Charlie Flint, LeGRA: GHA response R-07: E-mail – Ms. Linda Papiransky, Aberdeenshire Council: Garioch Area Community Council Forum AGM 17/06/09 – Agenda and associated papers R-08: E-mail – Ms. Mari Hellman, Westhill Primary School Parent Council: Meeting on 23/06/09 R-09: E-mail - Church of Scotland, Westhill: Let to W&ECC R-10: E-mail – Ms. Alison Cumming, Aberdeenshire Council: Planning Application APP/2009/0678 R-11: E-mail – Ms. Linda Papiransky, Aberdeenshire Council: Garioch Area Committee Meeting 23/06/09 – Agenda and associated papers R-12: E-mail – Mr. Ian Fowell, Aberdeenshire Council: LDP Main Issues Report R-13: Letter – Mr. John Swinney MSP, Scottish Government: Community Councils R-14: E-mail - Mr. Bert McIntosh, McIntosh Plant Hire Ltd: Recent closure of Endeavour Drive R-15: Letter – Ms. Linda Mathieson, Aberdeenshire Council: Aberdeenshire Core Paths Plan – Final Consultation R-16: E-mail – Mr. Ian Fowell, Aberdeenshire Council: Garioch Area Committee meeting 23/06/09 R-17: E-mail – Cmdr. Chris Hunneyball, Aberdeenshire Council: Community Council Minutes R-18: E-mail – Mr. Bert McIntosh, McIntosh Plant Hire Ltd: Closure of Endeavour Drive R-19: E-mail – Mr. John Michie, Aberdeenshire Council: Closure of Endeavour Drive R-20: E-mail – Cmdr. Chris Hunneyball, Aberdeenshire Council: MiR Draft Submission by the GACCF R-21: Letter – Banchory & Leggart: Structure Plan and Local Development plans for the region R-22: E-mail - Cmdr. Chris Hunneyball, Aberdeenshire Council: GACCF Meeting 17th June 2009 R-23: Letter – Mr. Bruce Robertson, Aberdeenshire Council: Westhill Library R-24: Letter – Ms. Heather Hamilton, Aberdeenshire Council: Westhill Library</p>	<p>All CC Members</p> <p>Beryl Menzies</p>
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	<p>R-25: E-mail – Cllr. McKail, Aberdeenshire Council: Garioch and North Marr CSG Meeting 07/07/09 – Agenda and associated documents R-26: Letter – Transport & Infrastructure, Aberdeenshire Council: Audit of Aberdeenshire’s Open Space – Community Consultation</p> <p>Correspondence Sent</p> <p>S-01: Letter – Mr. Martin Smith, Gladedale Capital: Town Centre Regeneration Fund (IF) S-02: Letter – Mr. Bert McIntosh, McIntosh Plant Hire Ltd: Recent closure of Endeavour Drive (IF) S-03: E-mail – Ms. Alison Cumming / Mr. Ian Fowell, Aberdeenshire Council: Westhill Library- Planning meeting on 23/06/09 S-04: E-mail – Mr. Ian Fowell, Aberdeenshire Council: Community Council Budget 2009 – Budgets 1 and 2 (IF) S-05: E-mail – Sgt. Inness Coull, Grampian Police: W&ECC June meeting (IF) S-06: E-mail – Church of Scotland office, Westhill: Church Let to W&ECC (IF) S-07: E-mail – Ms. Audrey Hendry, Aberdeenshire Council: Westhill Primary School Placing Requests (IF) S-08: E-mail – Ms. Mari Hellmann, WPS Parent Council: Meeting on 23/06/09 (IF) S-09: E-mail – Mr. Ian Fowell, Aberdeenshire Council: LDP Main Issues Report (IF) S-10: E-mail - Church of Scotland office, Westhill: Church Let to W&ECC (IF) S-11: Letter – Mr. Bruce Mackenzie, Aberdeenshire Council: Westhill Library (IF) S-12: E-mail – Ms. Alison Cumming, Aberdeenshire Council: Planning Application APP/2009/0678 S-13: Letter – Mr. Bruce Robertson, Aberdeenshire Council: Westhill Library (MS) S-14: E-mail –Mr. John Michie, Aberdeenshire Council: Closure of Endeavour Drive (IF) S-15: E-mail – Cllrs. Hood / Stuart, Aberdeenshire Council: Westhill Library (SW) S-16: E-mail – Mr. Bert McIntosh, McIntosh Plant Hire Ltd: Closure of Endeavour Drive (IF) S-17: E-mail –Mr. John Michie, Aberdeenshire Council: Closure of Endeavour Drive (IF)</p>	
<p>10</p>	<p><u>Sub-Committee Reports</u></p> <p><u>Lights</u>: Nothing to report.</p> <p><u>Litter</u>: Nothing to report.</p> <p><u>MiR</u>: Nothing to report.</p> <p><u>Public Art</u>:</p> <p>1. The group applied for funds from the Council’s top-up budget, but haven’t heard back yet. The money would be used to employ an artist to develop the compass theme. We have already thought through what could be done at each of the compass points, so once this is further developed, we should have more detailed proposals to put to the community for approval or rejection.</p> <p>2. Three members of the group went on a fact-finding trip earlier this month. We visited Helen Denerley in her sculpture studio in Strathdon, to view some of her work. Then we went to the Scottish Sculpture workshop in Lumsden, and discussed ideas with the management there. We then went to Country Frames Gallery in Leslie, to see which other local artists might be able to help us. We plan to visit other studios and artists in the next few weeks, so we have a better idea of what is possible for Westhill.</p> <p>3. We had a stand at this year’s Gala & were able to tell lots of people about the Art project. We also had a children’s drawing competition, with winners in two age categories. The winning entries are presently on display in Gallery C.</p>	

	<p><u>Hanging Baskets:</u> Stewart Whyte congratulated Bill Loudon, the rest of the Community Council volunteers and the team from Foxlane for all their hard work. Nominations for the garden competition should be sent to Bill Loudon.</p>	
11	<p><u>Treasurer's Report</u> There are still 20 advertisers who have still to pay for the Summer edition. See attached report.</p>	
12	<p><u>Bulletin/Website</u> The deadline for the next issue will be 7th August.</p>	
13	<p><u>AOCB</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Mental Health Forum; the Westhill Buddies group who are self supporting require £200 to help with admin. costs (they already have £200 from other sources). This goes towards room rent, postage etc. It was suggested that the group approach the Rotary Club, as W&ECC have declined such individual groups in the past. This will be reviewed at the AGM. (b) Charlie Flint; responses from Aberdeenshire Council has thus far not been satisfactory. Council cutting has not been much better than previous contractors. (c) Complete Driver Project; need feedback from CC participants. (d) Our youth representatives are currently allowed to give their views, but it is felt that they should perhaps be included more – perhaps there should be an agenda item. (e) The Garioch Area Community Forum was attended by Stewart Whyte and Iris Walker. The same Chair was elected, and Iris will act as our representative. Stewart Whyte and Audrey Findlay agreed to be deputies. <p>Stewart Whyte will be stepping down as Chairman at the AGM in September.</p>	
14	<p><u>Date of Next Meeting</u> The next meeting will be held on the 13th August 2009 at Trinity Church Hall, commencing at 7pm.</p>	

Heather Robertson
Minutes Secretary

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR W&ECC MEETING 9/7/09						
	GENERAL FUNDS	ADVERTISING PRE-PAID FOR Autumn & Winter 2009	XMAS LIGHTS & TREE	MAKING IT REAL	LITTER CAMPAIGN	TOTAL
FUNDS IN BANK AT 11/06/09	4767.74	5878.00	3055.17	200.00	2086.74	15987.65
Receipts in period 12/06/09 to 9/7/09						
Bulletin advertisers- summer issue	2102.00					2102.00
Bank interest	1.43					1.43
Payments in period 12/06/09 to 9/7/09						
Fee to Minutes Secretary for June	-40.00					-40.00
FUNDS IN BANK AT 9/07/09	6831.17	5878.00	3055.17	200.00	2086.74	18051.08
(Includes £8,369 in Halifax Guaranteed Reserve, on 2.5% interest to 13/4/10)						