

Westhill & Elrick Community Council

Minutes of the Community Council Meeting held on Thursday 14th May 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, Audrey Findlay, Ian Knapton, Bill Loudon, John Menzies, David Ritchie (from 8.30) Maureen Strachan, Heather Wood, Heather Robertson (Minutes)

Aberdeenshire Council: Ian Fowell, Audrey Hendry (until 9.30), Heather Hamilton (until 9.30)

Christian Allard, Malcolm Macmillan (Westhill Primary Parent Council), Claire Thomson (until 8:15), Leslie Murison (until 8:43), Dirk Maliepaard (until 8:45), Gillian Bell (P&J) (until 9:30), Sally Hind (EE) (until 9:30), Helen Dewar (Library) (until 9:30), Scott M^cDovann, Andy Peerless, Mike Bruce, Yvonne Peerless, Diana Robertson

Councillors: Cllr. Allan, Cllr. McKail

Police: Inness Coull (until 9.30), Amanda White (until 9.30)

	Item	Action/ Attention
1	<u>Chairman's Opening Remarks</u> Stewart Whyte welcomed all those present to the meeting, particularly the guests and newcomers joining us.	
2	<u>Apologies for Absence</u> Ian Forsyth, Beryl Menzies, Andrew Irvine, Beryl Burbidge, Elspeth Winram, Charlie Flint (Legra), Cllr. Saluja, Cllr. Cullen, 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: Car park at Tesco; it was commented that the car park was repaired very well and now looks much better than before.	
5	<u>Police Report</u> PC Amanda White who is new to the area was introduced to the Community Council. She will be replacing PC Ian Robison. An area of youth annoyance was also brought up, which the police agreed to investigate. The Community Council is supportive of the new youth driving scheme which will be starting in Westhill. The vandalism at the Holiday Inn was not believed to be local. Finally, inquiries were made about the outcome of an incident in Westhill, however this took place after the report was made, so will be included in the report for the new meeting. <u>Crime trends and figures for Westhill for the period 12/04/2009 – 12/05/2009</u> In this period there were 11 reported thefts, which included a shop lifting incident resulting in a male being charged. A number of the thefts were from motor vehicles and 3 youths are being dealt with through our Youth Justice Management system in connection with these.	

	<p>There was a robbery at the Holiday Inn and 2 males have been charged and appeared at Court in relation to the incident.</p> <p>Grampian Police have identified that drivers between the ages of 16-25 years are consistently involved in high levels of fatal and serious collisions. As a result 'Operation Piston' was set up. This ongoing initiative targets drivers of this age group and during this reporting period, one male has been charged with careless driving and another with dangerous driving.</p> <p>There were 11 Vandalism reports, 2 of which were at Elrick School. However due to poor quality of CCTV the culprits could not be identified. Westhill Golf Club recently had various pieces of equipment stolen. Some of the items have turned up damaged and enquiries in relation to this are still ongoing.</p> <p>There was a Breach of the Peace complaint regarding 'bangers' being let off at the football pitch. As a result of Police enquiries, 3 males were issued with fixed penalty notices in relation to anti social behaviour.</p> <p>An assault took place at the Holiday Inn. Enquiries into this incident are still ongoing.</p> <p>Westhill officers are still keen to work with local licensees and set up a 'Pub Watch' scheme, either solely for the Westhill area or Garioch wide. PC Ian Robison, who is now the Community Beat Officer at Inverurie, still retains a part role in relation to Community Policing in Westhill. He will be working with PC George Bennett, a local CFO and both will be contacting the licensees in relation to this. The benefits of these schemes have been realised in other Aberdeenshire areas.</p> <p>PC Amanda White has now taken over from PC Ian Robison and will be attending future Community Council Meetings.</p> <p>Amanda White 0778 Westhill Community Officer</p>	
6	<p><u>Proposal to site library at Westhill Primary School – Heather Hamilton</u></p> <p>Bruce Robertson had a prior meeting and sent Heather Hamilton in response to the Community Council's invitation to attend the meeting to discuss the consultation on the issue.</p> <p>The concerns which were raised at the last meeting about the way in which this issue was taken forward were raised with the guests. However, Heather Hamilton summarised the communication to date: a meeting with the Parent Council; and a public meeting (which was advertised on notice boards around the town) on 16th March at the school, (attended primarily by parents though the whole community was invited). This meeting was also advertised in leaflets and papers, and the community was invited to give its opinion via feedback forms.</p> <p>It was also mentioned that several policies had to be considered, and that the whole Council is involved in this decision, rather than solely the education sector. There were many leaflets given out in the library to users. Currently, issues raised by the community and funding are being considered, but it is ultimately the planning permission body that will decide on the location. A stand alone site in Westhill would not be viable as this would be very expensive.</p> <p>The original response sheet questionnaire was commented on, and criticised due to the fact that it only considered its location at the primary school, as opposed to including other options. However, it did invite opinions, many of which came back with other suggestions for its location. Although the proposal was for the use of the primary school, Community Council views on a review of other sites would also be taken back to the Council.</p>	

	<p>Policy is to locate libraries next to existing educational establishments. It was commented that the procedure for public consultation was not followed properly, however this had been attempted and Ian Fowell said that this had been followed satisfactorily, but these concerns will still be taken back to the Director. The Community Council felt that work done by the Planning for Real group had not been taken into consideration by the Council.</p> <p>The main reasons for choosing Westhill Primary were because it would cost less than the Academy, and the forecasted school roll shows that there should be room, although it was commented that these forecasted rolls had been wrong at Kintore Primary. The exact costs were not available.</p> <p>The Community Council asked that the planning application should be put on hold, and that other possible options should be presented to the community with proper figures and pros and cons of each. It was also commented that the existing library at the Primary School is excellent.</p> <p>A leaflet giving these options may go out with the next Bulletin or, as the deadline is very soon, it may be delivered separately. Heather Hamilton and Ian Fowell undertook to put the Community Council's request for a new consultation to Bruce Robertson.</p>	
7	<p><u>Garioch Area Manager – Ian Fowell</u></p> <p>The Main Issues Report is on the website, but not much development is currently planned for Westhill due to the traffic and roads issues. Comments must be sent in by July 6th. The proposed development for Westhill will be discussed at the next meeting. The public consultation will be held on the 27th May from 7-9pm at the Holiday Inn.</p> <p>Ian Fowell requested that all applications for top-up grants and Community Council grants should be in before the end of May/June. The purpose of each of the planning gain funds was discussed. Most are specific but those that are more flexible are the 'town centre' grant and the 'Community facilities' grant. At the next meeting we will discuss what the Community Council (particularly the MiR sub-committee) thinks that this money should be spent on, and what we want to see from the planning gain. A large amount of this money is for the new pavilion at Leddach Grange and to finish the re-surfacing of the tennis courts if required. A 'Sports Trust' was suggested to amalgamate all interested groups in order to ensure that this money is spent most effectively.</p> <p>It was decided that the Community Council should distribute the Community Council grant directly, as this way more money is available than if this process is done through project grants. The Public Art and MiR sub-committee were asked to bring proposals for grant to the next meeting.</p>	Heather Wood/ Maureen Strachan
8	<p><u>Update on Christmas Tree Feature</u></p> <p>Not addressed due to lack of time.</p>	
9	<p><u>Planning Issues</u></p> <p>There were no planning issues.</p>	
10	<p><u>Correspondence</u></p> <p>Not addressed due to lack of time, but this was mainly covered in the rest of the meeting.</p> <p><u>Correspondence received</u></p> <p>R-01: E-mail – Mr. John Michie, Aberdeenshire Council: Road closure notification – A944 Straik Road, Elrick</p> <p>R-02: E-mail – Ms. Fiona Smith, Aberdeenshire Council: Survive & Thrive in the current economic climate</p> <p>R-03: E-mail – Insp. Bob Thomson, Grampian Police: Westhill & Elrick April meeting</p>	

	<p>R-04: E-mail – Ms. Linda Papiransky, Aberdeenshire Council: Garioch Area Committee meeting 21/04/09 – Agenda and associated papers</p> <p>R-05: E-mail – Ms. Denise Scott, Aberdeenshire Council: CDG Meeting 22/04/09 - Agenda and associated papers</p> <p>R-06: E-mail – Cllr. Amanda Allan, Aberdeenshire Council: Latest news from GraffitiHotline</p> <p>R-07: E-mail – Mr. Ian Fowell, Aberdeenshire Council: Planning Gain/ Developer Contributions</p> <p>R-08: E-mail – Cmdr. Chris Hunneyball, Aberdeenshire Council: Local Development Plan – Scheme</p> <p>R-09: E-mail – Mr. Ian Fowell, Aberdeenshire Council: Local Development Plan – Scheme</p> <p>R-10: E-mail – Mr. Fowell, Aberdeenshire Council: W&ECC May Meeting</p> <p>R-11: E-mail – Mr. Fowell, Aberdeenshire Council: 20 mph zone – Westhill Heights</p> <p>R-12: E-mail – Ms. Kathleen Moir, Aberdeenshire Council: Workers Updates</p> <p>R-13: E-mail – Mr. Vincent Waters, ASCC: Community Councils in North East - ASCC Regional Meeting</p> <p>R-14: E-mail – Mr. John Michie, Aberdeenshire Council: Road closure notification – Broadstraik Road 04/05/09</p> <p>R-15: E-mail – Ms. Jill Sowden, Aberdeenshire Council: Community Input into Garioch Local Community Plan</p> <p>R-16: Letter – Mr. Bruce Robertson, Aberdeenshire Council: Westhill Library</p> <p>R-17: Letter – Mr. Arthur Angus, Aberdeenshire Council: Area Committee Top-Up Budget – Applications for 2009/2010</p> <p>R-18: E-mail – Ms. Linda Papiransky, Aberdeenshire Council: Garioch Area Community Council Forum – Minutes of Meeting 05/03/09 & Advance Notification of AGM 17/06/09</p> <p>R-19: E-mail – Ms. Linda Papiransky, Aberdeenshire Council: Representative of Aberdeenshire Community Council</p> <p>R-20: E-mail – Ms. Jill Sowden, Aberdeenshire Council: Community Planning E-Bulletin</p> <p>R-21: Letter – Mr. Piers Blaxter, Aberdeenshire Council: Local Development Plan 2009 – Main Issues Report</p> <p>R-22: Letter – Ms. Jacquie Forbes, Halliday Fraser Munro: Kirkton of Skene Development Proposals – Real Planning & Design Workshop – 18/05/09</p> <p>R-23: E-mail – Cllr. Ron McKail, Aberdeenshire Council: Garioch & North Marr Community Safety Group meeting – Agenda 05/05/09, AGM Agenda 05/05/09 and associated papers</p> <p>R-24: E-mail – Ms. Emma Binns, Rural Housing Scotland: Aberdeenshire rural housing enabler</p> <p>R-25: E-mail – Ms. Linda Papiransky, Aberdeenshire Council: Garioch Area Committee meeting – Agenda 12/05/09</p> <p>R-26: E-mail – Cmdr. Chris Hunneyball, Aberdeenshire Council: Local Plan meeting</p> <p>R-27: E-mail – Cllr. Ron McKail, Aberdeenshire Council: Learning Disability Alliance Scotland Newsletter</p> <p>R-28: E-mail – Mr. Arthur Angus, Aberdeenshire Council: Letter from Mr. Vincent Waters</p> <p>R-29: Letter – Ms. Maureen Corley, Aberdeenshire Council: Implementation of the Planning etc. (Scotland) Act 2006; New Requirements for Pre-Application Consultation with Communities</p> <p>R-30: E-mail – Ms. Isabel Page, Community Council Rep, Community Planning Partnership Executive: Final Structure Plan Objections</p> <p>R-31: E-mail - Cmdr. Chris Hunneyball, Aberdeenshire Council: ASCC Ltd.</p> <p>R-32: E-mail – Mr. Ian Fowell, Aberdeenshire Council: Urgent - Planning 'Main Issues Report'</p>	
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	<p><u>Correspondence sent</u> S-01: E-mail – Insp. Bob Thomson, Grampian Police: W&ECC April meeting (IF) S-02: Letter – Mr. Bruce Robertson, Aberdeenshire Council: Westhill library (IF) S-03: E-mail - Insp. Bob Thomson, Grampian Police: W&ECC April meeting (IF) S-04: E-mail – Mr. Ian Fowell, Aberdeenshire Council: Planning Gain/ Developer Contributions (IF) S-05: E-mail – Mr. Ian Fowell, Aberdeenshire Council: 20 mph zone – Westhill Heights (SW) S-06: E-mail – Mr. Ian Fowell, Aberdeenshire Council: Planning Gain/ Developer Contributions (IF)</p>	
11	<p><u>Sub-Committee Reports</u> <u>Lights:</u> The two faulty Tesco roundabout lights are back at Blachere for repair. Repair cost is £40.</p> <p><u>Litter:</u> The monthly litter picks continue, thanks to a group of committed volunteers. The brownie pack meeting in Crombie School is planning a litter pick one evening in May and we have agreed to help them with advice and loan of our litter picking equipment.</p> <p><u>PfR (MiR):</u> A full report will appear in the Bulletin. This is because there was not time to discuss anything at the meeting.</p> <p><u>Public Art:</u> The Art Project group will be taking part in the Gala in June. Artist Ginny Hutchison will be back for the day helping us raise awareness of the art project within the community. Still looking to swell our numbers on the team. So far, only one new member has joined us. Looking into additional sources of funding, and will be applying for funds from the 'Top-up Budget', and possibly 'Awards for Scotland', which is a lottery small grants scheme. The latter requires information on community council finances, so would require members to agree to this being given.</p> <p><u>Hanging Baskets:</u> These are due to be collected during the last weekend in May, and the plants in early June.</p>	
12	<p><u>Treasurer's Report.</u> Not addressed due to lack of time.</p>	
13	<p><u>Bulletin/Website</u> Printer sent first proofs of completed Summer issue on Wed 13th May. This is the earliest we have ever got proofs after the deadline. Summer issue is 104 pages, the biggest ever. Most recent issues have been 88 pages. We are going to have to turn down new advertisers. Beryl Burbidge wants to stop being the phone contact point for advertisers.</p>	
14	<p><u>AOCB</u> (a) <u>Westhill Primary School</u> Parents of children who have been refused entry to Westhill Primary School attended this month's meeting in order to get support from the Community Council in their forthcoming appeals.</p> <p>The children were refused entry on the basis that they live outside the catchment area. This, though in accordance with the policy, seemed to be different to the way in which this policy has been implemented in the past. The council officials explained that this year was the first time in the recent past that this policy had to be implemented, as allowing the 17 extra children to attend would mean that an extra teacher had to be employed. The children have been attending Westhill Nursery; however this does not guarantee the children entry into primary one at Westhill Primary.</p> <p>It was commented that this had been the way in the past, and that these</p>	

	<p>children attending a different school to their peers did not really fit in with the 'curriculum for excellence' which the government is promoting. This curriculum speaks of a 'smooth transition' from nursery to primary one; however, it was explained that if the policy were not implemented then the cost across Aberdeenshire would be very large, which would cause a loss of resources elsewhere in the education system. Heather Hamilton also stated that additional efforts were being put into place to ensure that all children receive a smooth transition to the primary one classes at whatever school they were attending.</p> <p>The pupils have been allocated places at Crombie Primary School, for which they are in the catchment area, despite it being 230m further away from their homes than Westhill Primary. All children requesting entry to the primary school are treated equally regardless of which nursery school they previously attended; however those who have older siblings at the school are given priority.</p> <p>The current zoning for the primary school was criticised, although the Community Council could not ask for this to be changed in time for the current nursery children to be affected. Stewart Whyte asked for the documents on the zoning for the primary schools to be sent to the Community Council, along with the current forecasts for the primary schools.</p> <p>(b) There was no time to discuss further AOCB; any other AOCB should be emailed to the Community Council.</p>	
15	<p><u>Date of next meeting</u> The next meeting will be held on the Thursday, 11th June 2009 at 7pm in Westhill Academy staffroom.</p>	

Heather Robertson
Minutes Secretary

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR W&ECC MEETING 14/5/09						
	GENERAL FUNDS	ADVERTISING PRE-PAID FOR 2009	XMAS LIGHTS & TREE	MAKING IT REAL	LITTER CAMPAIGN	TOTAL
FUNDS IN BANK AT 9/04/09	5776.08	8928.00	3095.52	200.00	2086.74	20086.34
<u>Receipts in period 10/04/09 to 14/5/09</u>						
Bulletin advertisers- prepaid for 2009						0.00
Bulletin advertisers- spring issue	986.00					986.00
Bank interest	199.86					199.86
<u>Payments in period 10/04/09 to 14/5/09</u>						
Fee to Minutes Secretary for April	-40.00					-40.00
FUNDS IN BANK AT 15/05/09	6921.94	8928.00	3095.52	200.00	2086.74	21232.20
(Includes £8,369 in Halifax Guaranteed Reserve, on 2.5% interest to 13/4/10)						