

Westhill & Elrick Community Council

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on Thursday 12th November at the Westhill Academy Staff Room

Chair: Ian Forsyth, Vice Chair: Audrey Findlay, Secretary: Beryl Menzies, Treasurer: David Ritchie,
Minutes Secretary: Heather Robertson

Present: **Committee:** Ian Forsyth (Chair), Audrey Findlay (Vice Chair), Iris Walker, Maureen Strachan, Bill Loudon, Elspeth Winram, Stewart Whyte (until 9.05pm), Heather Wood, Christian Allard, David Richie (from 8.00pm)

Simon Greenway (Tesco) (until 8.20pm), Mary Bourne (Artist), Siân Doughton (Academy & Primary Parent), Susan Donald (Academy Parent) (until 9.15pm), Helen Robertson (Playgroup Staff), Mieke Gruijt (Parent) (until 9.15pm), Alison Hannah (Chair of Old School Playgroup) (until 9.15pm), Gillian Cunningham (Parent), Angela Allan (Senior CDG Worker) Diana Robertson, Heather Robertson (minutes).

Councillors: Cllr Saluja, Cllr McKail (from 8.05pm)

Police: P.C. Amanda White and Inspector Bob Thomson (until 8.00pm)

	Item	Action/ Attention
1	<u>Chairman's Opening Remarks</u> Ian Forsyth welcomed everyone to the meeting, especially the numerous guests. He voiced how much Beryl Menzies, who has returned to hospital, will be missed and wished her a full and fast recovery. We are still awaiting the final decision on the Brodiach proposals– this has been sent to the full council. The young man who we previously heard had been seriously injured is reportedly doing well, and showing signs of recovery.	
2	<u>Apologies for Absence</u> Beryl Menzies (secretary), John Menzies, Becky Menzies, Cllr Cullen, Cllr Allen.	
3	<u>Approval Of Minutes Of the Previous Meeting</u> Item four should read 'Blacktop' instead of 'Blackdog'. Proposed by Maureen Strachan, Seconded by Bill Loudon	
4	<u>Follow up of actions on items (not addressed in agenda)</u> (a) Item 6: review of the constitution – carried forward (b) Item 6: away day – no facilitator yet, decided to postpone the away day until John and Beryl can be present. Ian Forsyth will check with John Menzies if a facilitator has been appointed and get a new date. (c) Item 6: youth review – no youth representatives were present to give a review but a written report was presented – see under sub group reports (d) Item 6: Communication with the Community – this will be discussed at the away day. A notice board could be put in place (with seats) at the shops. It was also suggested that upcoming road closures should also be posted here. It was suggested that many of the A4 notices could be swapped for A5 versions, so that there would be more space. (e) Item 8: Mark Cullen did not reply to his letter, but was to be coming to the away day when in November. (f) Item 9: Ian Fowell was taken to the places suggested. Charlie Flint and the youths who wrote originally will be involved in the any future	John Menzies Ian Forsyth

discussions regarding the football pitches.

- (g) Item 10: GLCP input – this has been completed, any further comments should be sent to Audrey Findlay by the middle of the week.
- (h) Item 15: The Community Council's feedback on the open spaces audit will be shared with the student council when the MiR sub committee get a reply
- (i) Item 15: there are no spaces left for the ASCC meeting, but Iris Walker will be going.

Maureen
Strachan

5 Police Report
Crime trends and figures for Westhill for the period 07102009 - 07112009.

During this period some of the following offences reported were:

5 x thefts, 3 X vandalism, 1 X housebreaking, 2 X graffiti, 1 X wilful fire raising, 1 X breach of the peace.

The thefts were made up of pedal cycles being removed from various domestic garages as well as other garden items going missing. 3 Youths have been charged in connection with some of the reported incidents and the pro active team are working with enquiry officers regarding the outstanding incidents.

The reported incidents of vandalism included, windows at Westhill Primary being smashed. Temporary CCTV has now been set up there. There was an incident at Elrick primary school whereby a gate was damaged, the enquiry is still on going.

A fire had been set within Elrick primary School, one youth has been charged.

There have been various incidents of graffiti taking place at domestic properties and the recycling centre. Enquiries are on going and the pro active team are working with the enquiry officers.

During Halloween there were various 'egg throwing' incidents reported. The enquiry officer has suspects and the enquiry is ongoing.

Bob
Thompson

Grampian Police Initiatives

Air Gun and replica Gun Campaign

As highlighted in last months report, the airgun scheme was launched on Friday 9 October. This was a month-long drive to take unwanted and unused airguns out of circulation. People were able to dispose of airguns at special bins stationed at police offices across the force area between Friday 9 October and Friday 6 November. More than 50 unwanted air guns and replica firearms were surrendered to Grampian Police. A total of 51 air rifles and pistols, BB guns and replica firearms have been marked for destruction after owners across the force area responded to an appeal to surrender them. A hard-hitting DVD emphasising the dangers of air weapon misuse will be launched and shown in schools throughout Grampian.

Winter safe journey 2009

Northern Constabulary and Grampian Police have teamed up with Diageo Malt Whiskey Distillery to ensure drivers in the North East, Highlands and Islands are geared up, by running the second winter safety awareness campaign across the two force areas. Commencing on Monday 2 November 2009 and running until the end of January 2010, the 'Winter Safe Journey' campaign on Moray Firth Radio and Northsound will highlight the consequences of drink driving, tips to prepare your vehicle for winter as well as encouraging responsible driver behaviour.

In addition, to raise awareness through the on-air campaign, the AA will be providing free car safety checks at various Tesco retail outlets over the month of November. These will be available between 9am and 11am at the following locations:

7 Nov - Tesco, Inverness (on A96)

14 Nov - Tesco, Elgin

21 Nov - Tesco, Wick

28 Nov - Tesco, Danestone, Aberdeen

This campaign is all about helping to reduce the number of casualties on the roads this winter, by encouraging drivers and riders to make small changes to their attitude and behaviour while on the road. PC Amanda White G0778

(discussion)

It was asked if anything had been reported regarding the alleged throwing of paint at cars. The proactive team is following this up, and there were also reports of other substances being thrown at cars.

It was commented that there seemed to be a large increase in the amount of crime in Westhill this month, compared to what we normally see. This is normal for Westhill, for the crime to come in periods of 'peaks and troughs'.

It was asked what action had been taken regarding the speeding issues that had been raised at the AGM. Speed surveys had been carried out but these did not show high levels of speed – but the marked cars usually reduce people's speed. Extra patrols were also put on for Halloween and bonfire night. However, the period of fireworks this year was much shorter than previously. The texts received by Westhill academy parents were also very effective – 'do you know what your child is doing'.

The suggestion of making Blacktop one way in an emergency was raised, but the police said that such situations were dealt with at the specific time, as each were so individual, and having an emergency procedure for each road was not practical. However Inspector Thompson agreed to investigate.

Vandalism and noise were also reported on Rowan Drive, but the officers did not know any details of this incident. Ward 13 Councillors have received a letter of complaint about drivers failing to stop at the crossing outside the Holiday Inn. Other crossings are also a problem. The post box outside the shopping centre makes this crossing a particular problem. The Community Council have been asking for this box to be moved for a long time. Iris Walker will contact the royal mail and find out if this can happen.

Iris Walker

6 Art Project: Mary Bourne

Mary Bourne gave a slide show on her previous projects, to show the style of her work. She will also be holding a session in the library on Monday from 6 to 7.30pm where she will show some of her tools and stones. More information can also be found on her website (www.marybourne.co.uk).

7 Tesco: Simon Greenway

Simon Greenway is Tesco's new Customer Services Manager. He talked about the policies introduced for Halloween this year, such as not selling eggs or flour to youths leading up to the event. There will also be very strict measures in force to prevent antisocial behaviour in the store. Pictures of people with previous convictions for selling alcohol to underage people have been circulated, and they will not be allowed to buy any restricted products. Additional security personnel have also been recruited to watch the outer ramp, especially when the schoolchildren come for lunch. Fireworks were also only sold for a limited period this year, which reduced the disturbance caused to residents.

Tesco are also expanding their attempts to reduce litter. Hot food is now put into cardboard containers which can be recycled. The extra security will also be used to combat littering on-site. Tesco also hope to catch more people littering with their new cameras. They now also have face recognition, zoom and pan around at night.

The Community Council also commented that the resurfacing of the car park that has taken place was very good. The entrance now also has a porch area, which will keep both customers and staff warmer near the exit. The car park itself now has an inspector from NCP who fines people parking in the disabled spaces without a badge. There was some flooding in the car park after the heavy rain last week.

8 Playgroup Changes

The Old School and Academy playgroups are having their support withdrawn. They now have to review their finances, number of children attending and staffing. It is a possibility to amalgamate the two at the Academy and the Old school. All work on this issue was ordered to stop as of this morning, until a report is given to the department for Education, Learning and Leisure on the 8th of December. The issue of providing enough spaces for 3 year olds was also raised, and what will happen to the 2 ½ year olds who will be in the same year at school. Nurseries are now more about the curriculum than the social education they used to provide.

June 2010 will mark the end of CDG controlling playgroups. Westhill was made aware of this issue from the start, unlike many other communities, so this is not the same situation as the library. However, the same chairperson will preside over the decision. The meeting where the report will be read in December will be open, but attendees will not be able to speak. This issue will be passed to area level as part of the consultation, and all 68 Councillors will be involved. Letters from individuals should be sent to the Garioch Area Committee to express opinions. They should also write to the local Councillors.

Audrey Findlay will write a letter to the director and to the chairperson., and a report will also be put into the Bulletin (but not the proposed letter, as this is now outdated)

Audrey
Findlay

9 Planning Issues

There is a large development proposed in Kirkton of Skene (Barratts). However, it is not to join the two settlements, so is not a concern of our Community Council. It will be discussed at the next Area meeting in January. Any individual opinions should be sent to the Councillors.

10 Correspondence

1- R06

Criminal Justice Consultation, would anyone like to attend? It was decided that the Community Council were unable to give any useful feedback on this issue, but anyone who wishes to attend as a member of the public should do so.

2- R17

Smarter travel – Heather Wood attended the meeting on this subject previously. Anyone wishing to go may do so, and personal comments can be sent in. The Community notice board should be used to advertise these meetings to the public.

11 Sub-Committee Reports

Youth Report

Within the Academy we have achieved a number of things lately, including:

- raising over £630 for Cancer Research after a 'Wear Pink' day a number of sporting achievements, both recent and coming up, with many awards won lately regarding national swimming competitions, and also a fifth year pupil who will be captaining the under 19's Scotland team at an upcoming game.
- The Duke of Edinburgh award is continuing, with more participants than ever, and a number of past participants now becoming volunteers to help out with the younger ones.
- All pupils and staff involved in World Challenge are continuing fundraising, and doing very well with it. Next fundraiser is actually this Friday, with a Ladies Night at the golf club. Last one raised over £1000 so hoping for the same again!

Lights:

Erection planned for Sat 14th November from 9am. 6 helpers expected so should be finished by noon.

Tree

Expect to put it up on Friday 4th December. Will get smaller tree than last year. Mark Cullen has said he can't help on the day but can arrange for Landscape Services to help as normal.

Litter:

The October litter pick took place. I have had correspondence from a resident on dog excrement being left on playing fields - this is the main point of the litter report in the Bulletin. The November litter pick takes place on the 21st - all welcome

MiR:

Crossings/Traffic Lights/Roundabouts. Library, Traffic – speed around Schools, Health and NHS Dentist have been removed from our list of priorities because we have done as much as we can to progress these. The new Dentist in Westhill has

made a difference to the N.H.S. waiting list which is welcome news. However The Garioch and North Marr Community Safety Group are always monitoring safety issues so if you have any concerns please either contact Cllr. Ron McKail (742095) or myself.

Adventure Playgrounds/Sports Pitch/Goal Posts. The Uniformed Organisations in Westhill have surveyed most of these areas and listed what is there, the condition of equipment and who it is for. If you live beside one of these areas and have any thoughts on improvements/changes please let me know.

Outdoor Fitness/Mountain Bike Trail. It is impossible to have a Mountain Bike Trail in Westhill but both Countesswells and Kirkhill are excellent facilities. Pitfichie and Monymush are also being developed.

Dog Fouling – Elrick area. Gladedale will erect a pole to enable the Council to install a dog foul bin

Housing We are preparing a survey asking people what kind of houses Westhill lacks so if you have any thoughts on this please let me know and we will arrange for you to have a form.

Public Toilets. We do hope that when the Shopping Centre is redesigned the available toilets will be upgraded and will include a toilet for the disabled. During a recent walk-about in Westhill these toilets were open and were clean and tidy but this is not always the case. If you are disabled are you aware that you are entitled to a key which would allow you access at any time?

Lay-By/Information Board/ Seats/ CCTV and Lights. Hopefully these will all be provided and/or improved when the work starts on the Shopping Centre but we will contact Gladedale about seats and an Information Board before that happens.

Community Café' Visits have been made to Kemnay and Old Meldrum to see how they operate their cafes. A Feasibility Study will be carried out in Westhill shortly hopefully to identify a suitable site

Shop window competition

Heather Wood and Elspeth Winram were asked to judge the shop windows competition for this year.

Art:

Artist Mary Bourne has been contracted to design, create and install an Art Work for us to be located in the Denman Park by next summer. We are very excited about this next Phase of our project. Mary will present images of her previous works at our Community Council Meeting on November 12th, and between now and the end of 2009 will be meeting other local groups as part of her Community Engagement. The next of her visits will be on Monday 16th November in the Public Library. Mary will hold an event there from 6 – 730pm, so please invite as many local residents as you can.

Out of these consultations and discussions will come Mary's designs for us to consider early in the New Year.

Hanging Baskets:

Diana Robertson was thanked for helping to judge the gardens in Westhill. Heather Wood will be given a year's free Bulletin subscription for her help with the storage of the hanging baskets. Plant containers would be more expensive, so these will not be purchased yet. Bill Loudon will organise a date to move the plants.

Bill Loudon

13 Treasurer's Report

Last months' minutes had the September accounts attached, instead of the October ones. This will be changed on the website.

For this month's accounts, see below.

- 14 Bulletin/Website**
Winter issue on schedule for being ready for delivery on 27th November. Good help from Carol Imray and Rhona Christie, the two new helpers
- 15 AOCB**
- (a) If anyone took part in the Safe Driving Scheme Pass Plus, they are asked to give their feedback to Maureen Strachan. Pass Plus Participants
 - (b) It was asked if the Community Council would buy the bulbs for the Rotary Club to plant this year, as the Council will not be providing them. It was decided that the Rotary should be asked to buy them. The Trinity Church are also interested in planting bulbs
 - (c) Any questions that Community members would like to be raised at the ASCC meeting should be emailed to Iris Walker before Saturday.
 - (d) There will be a Lollipop Person at Elrick Crossing from November 23rd.
- 16 Date of next Meeting**
The next meeting will be held on Thursday December 10th in the Academy Staffroom, Westhill, beginning at 7pm.

Heather Robertson
Minutes Secretary

<u>TREASURER'S REPORT FOR W&ECC MEETING 12/11/09</u>						
	GENERAL FUNDS	ADVERTISING PRE-PAID FOR Winter 2009	XMAS LIGHTS & TREE	MAKING IT REAL	LITTER CAMPAIGN	TOTAL
FUNDS IN BANK AT 8/10/09	9537.61	3080.00	3021.17	200.00	2093.10	17931.88
<u>Receipts in period 9/10/09 to 12/11/09</u>						
Bulletin advertisers- Autumn issue	1395.00					1395.00
Shell grant for Youth café study				2225.00		2225.00
<u>Payments in period 9/10/09 to 12/11/09</u>						
Lunch at Keywest for Ian Fowell visit	-37.45					-37.45
Flowers for Beryl Menzies	-19.99					-19.99
Gift to Diane Robertson for judging gardens	-20.00					-20.00
Fee to Minutes Secretary for October	-40.00					-40.00
FUNDS IN BANK AT 12/11/09	10815.17	3080.00	3021.17	2425.00	2093.10	21434.44
(Includes £8,369 in Halifax Guaranteed Reserve, on 2.5% interest to 13/4/10)						