

Echt & Skene Community Council

Minute of Meeting held 31st October 2019 in Dunecht Hall

Attendees: Fiona Bick, Nick Pilbeam, Ian Macmaster, Klaus Wahle, Niall MacBeath, Steve Gibson, George Glennie, Paula Houston

Apologies: Brian Poppleton, Cllrs Walker, McKelvie, McKail and Aitchison

Minute of last meeting: Approved

Police Report: No police report was received.

Co-Option of George Glennie to ESCC: This item was held over from the last meeting, when there was no quorum for a decision. The members voted unanimously to co-opt George onto the Community Council.

Community Resilience Checks: As the composition of the ESCC has changed it was agreed to allocate the following members to be the points of contact for each village hall resilience cabinet:

Lyne of Skene – Nick Pilbeam

Kirkton of Skene – Fiona Bick

Garlogie – Ian MacMaster

Echt – George Glennie

Dunecht – Klaus Wahle

The cabinets will each be checked, the rechargeable torches wound up and the documentation updated before the next meeting.

Feedback SSEN Transmission Draft Business Plan: Fiona went to a round-table consultation in August. SSEN were consulting about their business plan for the five-year period 2021-26, which has to be approved by Ofgem. They are not proposing any new ETLs for the North of Scotland but will be upgrading some existing routes to increase capacity – with some larger, but fewer, pylons. They have dropped the proposal for new onshore overhead lines (i.e. the controversial route past Bennachie) and have said any new transmission link south will be run offshore, not onshore. None are currently proposed. They also propose to spend more on cyber and other security measures. The plan will result in transmission charges increasing from £4.72 to £6.80/year per UK household.

Skene School Crossing Safety: The upgraded road markings have still not been implemented. In addition, several members had observed that the flashing lights at each side of the school were not flashing at the same time. **Action** Fiona to advise Roads.

Forbes Park Landscaping: The Planning Enforcement complaint regarding the dead trees on the N and E external boundaries which were planted to satisfy Condition 2 of the planning permission for Phase 2 is still live. No new planting has yet taken place. **Action** Fiona to write again to Kirkwood Homes to enquire about their timescale for replanting.

Helimed Crisp Packet Collections: The Council forwarded an information note from Steve about the scheme to the heads of all schools in Aberdeenshire. He has been invited to give a talk to pupils at Turriff School.

New Planning Applications:

- APP/2019/2339 Condition 1 Siting, landscaping, drainage, access, etc for Planning Permission in principle for erection of dwellinghouse - Broomhill Farm, Dunecht, AB32 7DA. No comment.
- APP/2019/2265 Erection of shower block (retrospective) - Broomhill Farm, Dunecht, AB32 7DA. It was noted that the shower block is not the only development carried out and still without planning permission at Broomhill. No comment
- APP/2019/2298 Discharge of planning obligation (Affordable Housing) of Planning Permission APP/2011/2651 for erection of 24 houses - Land west of Tillybrig, Dunecht. No comment
- APP/2019/2498 Demolition of cottage and erection of replacement house & garage - Forbridge, Garlogie, AB32 6UT. No comment.

Treasurer's Report:

Cash in Bank: £1800.09 Cash in hand: £52.06

AOCB:

- **Consultation on supported Bus Services** - closes 9th December 2019. Members were asked to encourage residents to respond.
- **Ross Mackay University Project (Echt development)** – George & Paula agreed to assist with queries relating to community involvement in planning matters
- **BT Phone Box Removal Consultation** – BT has agreed to retain the public phone boxes at Echt and Kirkton of Skene
- **Dunecht Estate Mobile Phone Mast** – a resident had enquired when the taller mast, which gained planning permission in 2017, would be erected as it was hoped mobile coverage in Echt would be improved as a result. **Action** Fiona to enquire of Dunecht Estate
- **Road Salt Piles** – residents have complained about the unconfined piles of road salt which have been placed in the car park at Milne Hall and Barmekin Park by the Council Roads Department because the piles get spread by rain and kill nearby vegetation. **Action** Fiona to write to Roads and ask for bunkers/bins to be used.
- **Flooding on Kirkton of Skene to Westhill footpath** – low-lying parts of the path were flooded in October, as they have been in previous years, making the path unusable. **Action** Fiona to raise with Roads
- **Lyne of Skene Defibrillator** – is now in place and commissioned ready for use. The access code is held by the emergency services who will disclose it if anyone makes a 999 call regarding a relevant medical emergency.
- **Echt Street Lighting** – it was reported that Echt is to get new LED streetlights in 1Q 2020.
- **Echt Hall Car Park Entrance Pillar** – it was reported that the stone pillar at the entrance to the car park has been hit by a Council lorry emptying the recycling bins. Paula has contacted the Council for a resolution as the pillar is currently unsafe.
- **Echt Hall Car Park Fly-Tipping** – Some large items have been dumped behind the recycling bins. Council is aware but has not so far removed them on the basis that they are too heavy for manual handling. **Action** – Fiona to write to Waste Services
- **Echt Public Convenience Demolition** – the toilet has now been demolished but the contractors have left vehicle ruts through the park and have spread topsoil and grass seed over part of the hard-core, all-weather path laid in 2018. **Action** Fiona to write to Tom Buchan requesting full restitution.
- **Echt Flower Barrels** – George requested money from the ESCC to replenish the compost in the flower barrels. Members agreed to fund up to £100 from ESCC funds.

Next Meeting

Thursday 19th December 2019 in Lyne of Skene Hall