

Echt & Skene Community Council

Minute of Meeting held 19th March 2020 in Milne Hall, Kirkton of Skene

Attendees: Fiona Bick, Ian Macmaster, Niall MacBeath, Nick Pilbeam, George Glennie, Leofric Studd, Kenny Freeman

Apologies: Steve Gibson, Klaus Wahle, Brian Poppleton, Paula Houston, Cllr Alistair McKelvie

Minute of last meeting: Approved.

Police Report: No police officer attended the meeting. A police report was received in respect of mid-February to mid-March – no crimes were reported but there was one road traffic collision on the B9119 with a fixed penalty notice issued for careless driving as a result.

Garlogie Beam Engine Trust: Guests Leofric Studd informed the meeting that a SCIO has been set up. It will take on a 99 year lease from Aberdeenshire Council for the Beam Engine Museum building behind Garlogie Hall. The Trust is applying for grant funding and has been in discussions with Dunecht Estates regarding possible use of the Garlogie Dam hydro scheme. However, Dunecht Estates still intends to remove the dam and a planning application for removal is expected to be submitted.

Kirkton of Skene Football Pitches: Last summer the football pitches at both the village and Skene School were being frequented in the evenings by groups of Westhill teenagers, who disrupted the summer pitch reseeding and repairs. To dissuade them from congregating, the groundsman of the village pitch took down the village goal posts but, as a result, use of the pitch by local teams and income has reduced to the point where the groundsman no longer wishes to continue maintaining it. The pitch is owned by Dunecht Estates. The community would like to retain the pitch facility and wants to find an alternative way to maintain it either by finding another local volunteer or by asking the Council. **Action:** Fiona to investigate how the current arrangement works.

Aberdeenshire Proposed LDP 2020 Consultation: The draft LDP has been approved by the full Council and the consultation process will begin on 27th April with a deadline of 19th June for responses. A series of roadshows are being planned by the Council. An ESCC members meeting will be arranged to discuss the draft once the consultation begins.

MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Community Resilience Checks:

Checks in Garlogie, Lyne of Skene. Kirkton of Skene and Echt are now completed. Dunecht is still to be confirmed. **Action:** Klaus

Forbes Park Landscaping: No change.

Echt Hall Car Park Fly-Tipping: Fiona and George met on site with a staff member from the Council Waste Department. As a result, the Council has now removed the waste. **CLOSED**

Echt Hall Public Convenience Demolition: Fiona emailed the Council. Action still awaited to rectify.

Flooding on Kirkton of Skene to Westhill footpath: No change since last meeting. Fiona still to meet with Brian Strachan.

Kirkton of Skene Village Shop: A company has been set up by KoS residents with the aim of operating a café and shop. A business plan has been put together and a decision is awaited by Dunecht Estates regarding the grant of a new lease for the shop.

New Planning Applications:

- APP/2020/0565 Siting of modular units for Class 4 Office Use (retrospective) – Unit 4, Birchmoss Plant & Storage Depot, Echt. No comment.

Treasurer's Report:

Cash in Bank: £1678.38 Cash in hand: £37.86

As previously agreed, £100 is to be given to George Glennie to buy new compost for the Echt village flower barrels.

AOCB:

COVID-19: Members discussed local response to the COVID-19 pandemic. It was agreed that posts should be made on the village hall Facebook pages suggesting residents look out for vulnerable neighbours needing help with shopping, etc. and offering to put volunteers in touch with those in need. The minister in Echt has already made a similar initiative with the local congregation. Nick will also advise the emergency planner in AVA/Aberdeenshire Council that our halls are available as resilience centres. **Action:** Kenny, George, Niall, Nick

Milne Hall Extension Update: Kenny Freeman advised that the new Mary Gray meeting room has been paid for out of developer contributions. The Milne Hall committee has secured a grant of £10,000 from the Robertson Trust but still needs additional funds of around £35,000 to build the kitchen extension (quoted at £94,000). Alternatively, they are looking at scope reductions to reduce the cost.

Kirkton of Skene Playgroup: The playgroup is at risk of permanent closure due to committee/funding issues although the enforced closure as a result of COVID-19 may have bought some time to try and stabilise the position. **Action:** Kenny to forward a copy of the constitution

Echt Village Shop: The shop is reportedly in financial difficulty. **Action:** George will speak to the owner as it is understood there may be another local business owner interested in taking it on.

Next Meeting

Thursday 30th April 2020 in Echt Hall