Echt & Skene Community Council

Minute of Meeting held 18th June 2020 via Zoom

Attendees: Fiona Bick, Ian Macmaster, Niall MacBeath, Nick Pilbeam, George Glennie, Paula Houston, Cllr Iris Walker, Echt resident

Apologies:, Klaus Wahle, Brian Poppleton, Steve Gibson, Cllr Ron McKail, Cllr Alistair McKelvie

Minute of last meeting: Approved.

Police Report: No police report was received.

MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

COVID-19: Grampian Coronavirus Assistance Hub leaflets were all delivered locally by members. The Echt residents whom Paula and George had been providing assistance to are now able to cope without their help given the easing of lockdown restrictions and the resumption of the operation of the Westhill A to B bus. No new requests for help have been received. **CLOSED**

Kirkton of Skene Playgroup: Fiona made contact with the committee and has been providing assistance with staff issues and the closure process. The playgroup will formally close for good at the end of this school term. **CLOSED**

Forbes Park Landscaping: No progress since last meeting.

Echt Hall Public Convenience Demolition: No progress since last meeting. The Pleasure Park is not being maintained by the Council at the moment either.

Echt Street Signs: No progress since last meeting

Skene School Flashing 20mph signs: Fiona reported the irregular timing of the lights. Roads won't fix them until COVID situation improves.

Flooding on Kirkton of Skene to Westhill footpath: No progress since last meeting.

Kirkton of Skene Village Shop: A planning application for part change of use to a café has been submitted and a new company has been set up to run the business as Bothy 57. They have negotiated a new lease with Dunecht Estate and hope to open soon with social distancing measures in place.

New Planning Applications:

- APP/2020/0904 Part Change of Use of Shop (Class 1) to Include Cafe (Class 3) - Shop 7 Kirkton Cottages Kirkton Of Skene Westhill Aberdeenshire AB32 6XE. Comments submitted in support following email poll of members.
- APP/2020/0845 Conditions 1 ((a) Siting, Design, Layout, External Appearance and Finishing Materials (b) Access, Visibility Splays and Refuse Bin Store Area (c) Landscaping (d) Levels Survey, Cross Sections and Finished Ground Floor Levels (e) Foul and Surface Water) and Condition 5 (Layby) of Planning Permission in Principle Reference APP/2018/2405 for Demolition of Outbuildings and Erection of 3 Dwellinghouses with Detached Garages - Site At Barnton Steading Skene Westhill. – No comment

- APP/2020/0684 Erection of 7 Dwellinghouses and a Convenience Store - Site at Strawberryfield Road Skene Westhill Aberdeenshire. Objection submitted following email poll of members. It was noted that SSE has also objected due to encroachment on the ETL 40m wide exclusion corridor by 4 of the houses and the shop.

Treasurer's Report:
Cash in Bank: £2343.05 Cash in hand: £39.89

Since the last meeting £237.92 has been spent on bedding plants for Lyne of Skene and Echt, and £20 on Scotways membership. The Annual Grant of £924.61 was received from Aberdeenshire Council.

Correspondence/Consultations/Upcoming Events:
- Request for scoping opinion on EIA for proposed Section 37 application for east coast 400kV Overhead lines upgrade – deadline for responses 1st July 2020. No comment.

- Aberdeenshire Draft LDP 2020 Consultation – revised deadline 31st July 2020 5pm. Ailsa Anderson from the Planning Team will be invited to present on the proposed plan at a special meeting via Skype.

AOCB:
- Klaus has resigned as Secretary. George Glennie volunteered to take on the role.
- APP/2015/1681 Erection of Agricultural Shed on land north of Lyne of Skene – a question was raised as to whether the Council would take any action in respect of the fact that the plans show the access to the shed being taken from the existing gate whereas the owner has been creating a new access point from the B977. **Action**: Iris to follow up with planning/roads departments
- Treasurer – it was suggested that a handover from Brian to Paula could take place ahead of the AGM.
- Aberdeenshire Council Financial Crisis – The Council has suffered a material drop in income as a result of COVID-19 restrictions. Measures to try and rebalance the budget will be debated at full Council meeting next week.

Future Meeting Dates:
30th July Lyne of Skene
10th September Echt
29th October AGM at Garlogie