

## **Echt & Skene Community Council**

### **Minute of Meeting held 29th October 2020 via Zoom**

**Attendees:** Fiona Bick, Ian Macmaster, Niall MacBeath, Nick Pilbeam, George Glennie, Klaus Wahle, Paula Houston, Cllr Iris Walker, Cllr Ron McKail, 1 Dunecht resident

**Apologies:** Steve Gibson

**Minute of last meeting:** Approved.

**Police Report:** No police report received for the period since 1<sup>st</sup> August. Residents report vehicles at excessive speed in Garlogie and Dunecht. **Action:** Ron & Fiona to write asking for police presence to deter speeding

#### **MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

**Westhill A2B Bus Service:** Copies of a petition for the reinstatement of the service were left in the village shops and more than 80 people signed over a period of 10 days. On 7<sup>th</sup> October the Council decided to restore the service which will restart on 2<sup>nd</sup> November. CLOSED.

**Dunecht Car Parking:** Members discussed the reasons for large numbers of cars parking on the A944 in Dunecht. Some cars belong to residents, but most parking during the day do not. Cars are parked for short periods by customers of the garage shop and burger van, and for longer periods by customers of Jaffs, and walkers visiting Dunecht Estate (who may also visit the shop or Jaffs before/after their walk). In addition, Dunecht 4x4 parks its traded vehicles or cars left for servicing on the main road. The garage has a forecourt area for its customers to use but members didn't think there was any possibility of a public car park being provided. A question was raised as to whether the burger van had a street trader's licence. **Action:** Iris Walker to follow up and ascertain the status of the licence application for the van.

**Forbes Park Landscaping:** An officer from Landscaping is still to visit the site and ascertain the health of the trees for a report to Planning Enforcement, who will then decide any further action.

**Echt Hall Public Convenience Demolition:** The Council doesn't appear to have taken any action yet to get the path cleaned up by the contractors who did the demolition. **Action:** Ron McKail to follow up with Ian Mitchell from Landscaping.

**Echt Street Signs:** No response received from Roads. **Action:** George to report missing sign as a Road Fault via My Aberdeenshire instead.

**Flooding on Kirkton of Skene to Westhill footpath:** Council Roads department seems to think there is nothing that can be done to improve the drainage but has so far refused to engage with ESCC to discuss alternatives such as raising the level of the path. **Action:** Iris Walker to seek a meeting between Roads and ESCC/community representatives.

**Developer Obligations:** Paula and George conducted a consultation with Echt residents to establish the preferred options for using available sports and leisure funding, and met with Jim Robertson of Landscape Services to discuss the siting of new play equipment in the park. The Council has agreed to use the funding to install two new play items in the park. **Action:** Iris Walker to confirm with Susan Adams that the deadline for using the funds has been met.

### **New Planning Applications:**

- APP/2020/1901 Alterations and extension to Dwellinghouse - Cairnielea, Garlogie, Westhill, AB32 6UT. No comment.
- APP/2020/1884 Alterations and extension to Dwellinghouse - Rosellan, Garlogie AB32 6RX. No comment.
- APP/2020/1836 Alterations and extension to Dwellinghouse and relocation of rooflight - Millstone House, Greystone, Road, Dunecht AB32 7BS. No comment.

### **Prior Planning Applications:**

- APP/2020/0684 Erection of 6 Dwellinghouses and a Convenience Store - Site at Strawberryfield Road Skene Westhill Aberdeenshire – Approved by GAC on 15<sup>th</sup> September. Some roads issues still being ironed out so formal decision not yet issued.
- APP/2015/1681 Formation of Access (retrospective) Land to North of Lyne of Skene - Roads department has objected on a number of grounds including visibility splay and proximity to existing access. Awaiting decision.

### **Treasurer's Report:**

Cash in Bank: £2343.05 Cash in hand: £39.89

### **Correspondence/Consultations/Upcoming Events:**

- **Scottish Govt Consultation on extension of Permitted Development Rights:** The proposals include new PDRs to allow conversion of farm buildings to houses and commercial use. As they stand the proposals would conflict with Aberdeenshire LDP policies. The concerns are that (i) the proposed limits depend on how a farm is defined and will prompt farms to be subdivided in order to maximise the development value and by-pass the limits; (ii) the interaction with the LDP will be additive so landowners will be able to use PDRs for some buildings and also obtain planning permission for other buildings for change of use under LDP policies; and (iii) allowing 1000sqm buildings will increase flood risks.  
**Action 1:** Members to advise any further comments to Fiona by 6<sup>th</sup> November to meet the response deadline of 12th November 2020  
**Action 2:** Iris Walker to follow up with Council planning team to see if they are aware of consultation and intend submitting a response.

### **AOCB:**

#### **Flooding Issues:**

1. Surface run-off has been flooding through the gardens of houses at Greystones (between Lyne of Skene and Kirkton of Skene) from the B9126 threatening to enter the houses as well. This may be due to the culvert under the road being partially blocked.
2. Surface run-off has also been flooding through the gardens of houses at Carpenters Croft (Nos 10,12,14) in Kirkton of Skene despite the Council having supposedly resolved this problem last year.
3. The core path north of Echt flooded twice in October despite deepening the field ditches, with a lake forming on the NE part of the proposed LDP housing allocation site. There was also a "fountain" issuing from a broken pipe supplying water to some Estate houses from Hill of Fare.

**Action 1:** Klaus to provide a sketch illustrating the problem at Greystones

**Action 2:** Iris Walker to speak with Roads and Council flood management team about Greystones and Carpenters Croft issues

**Westhill to Aberdeen Travel Improvements Consultation:** George to follow up with NESTRANS regarding raising speed limit to 50mph on the A944 dual carriageway between Westhill and Kingswells.

**Future Meeting Dates:**

17<sup>th</sup> December 2020

28<sup>th</sup> January 2021

11<sup>th</sup> March 2021

22<sup>nd</sup> April 2021

3<sup>rd</sup> June 2021 AGM