

## **Echt & Skene Community Council**

### **Minute of Meeting held 17th December 2020 via Zoom**

**Attendees:** Fiona Bick, Ian Macmaster, Niall MacBeath, Nick Pilbeam, George Glennie, Klaus Wahle, Cllr Iris Walker, Cllr Alistair McKelvie, 1 Dunecht resident, 1 Garlogie resident

**Apologies:** Paula Houston, Cllr Ron McKail

**Minute of last meeting:** Approved.

**Police Report:** The police officer responsible for ESCC changed in July but ESCC was not informed of the change. Following enquiries a Police Report for July to October was received in early November from the new officer, PS Graeme Allan. He advised he would send a report in December before he went on leave on 10<sup>th</sup>. But no police report has been received yet for the period since 31<sup>st</sup> October.

Iris advised an email was sent by Alison Cumming to CC secretaries recently concerning communications with the police. CCs are advised to contact Inspector Gareth Hannan direct in case of difficulty. **Action:** Fiona

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

**Dunecht Car Parking:** The application for a street trader's licence is under consideration. In the meantime, a planning application has also been submitted for the burger van. The van customers are parking on the main road and at peak times (lunchtimes) there is increased incidence of parking on the pavements as well whilst customers wait for their food.

**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. **Action:** Iris to follow up with Landscaping Officers

**Echt Hall Public Convenience Demolition:** No progress. The path is a muddy mess at the moment where the topsoil was spread across it. George has tried to get hold of Ian Mitchell. **Action:** Ron McKail still to follow up with Ian Mitchell from Landscaping.

**Echt Street Signs:** George contacted Brian Strachan, who is looking into why no sign was erected on John Souter Road at the time Forbes Park Phase 1 was finished.

**Flooding on Kirkton of Skene to Westhill footpath:** An online meeting between Brian Strachan, Ann Overton, Iris, Fiona and a KoS resident took place on 30<sup>th</sup> November. The main problem area is at the lowest point on the path, which is lower than the road and field on each side of it, where water can be up to 12" deep. Options for resolving the issue by raising the level of the path were discussed. The Council are not keen on using hardcore/tarmac to raise the path height as it is difficult to predict where the water would be displaced to. An alternative is to install a boardwalk/bridge alongside the tarmac path, if ESCC can secure funding via grants and if maintenance costs can be addressed (use of recycled plastic lumber could resolve this). Ann Overton took an action to consider whether the Council would have any objections or stipulations with respect to the boardwalk option and report back by early January.

**Developer Obligations:** The Council purchased the new play equipment for the Echt Pleasure Park before the spending deadline and is holding it in storage until funding is found to pay for the installation. CLOSED.

**Flooding at Greystones and Carpenters Croft:** Nos 11 and 12 gardens at Carpenters Croft were affected by water coming off the Rogiehill fields recently. The garage at No.11 was also flooded. The Council Flood Team looked into it. They believe the work done by the Council to deepen the ditch and create a bund between the ditch and the houses prevented a repeat of the 2009 and 2016 flooding issues for the rest of the development. The Beechy Burn is believed to be the cause of the residual issue, but its ownership (and responsibility for its maintenance and clearance) and enlargement of the culvert underneath Manse Road are still unresolved.

At Greystones, a culvert carries water south under the road from a disused mill pond and the road surface drains to an inspection chamber, and two drainage pipes should carry the water from the inspection chamber east to the fieldside ditch. One of the drainage pipes is blocked though so the culvert backs up and overflows through Greystones properties. Two private water supply pipes have been fed through the culvert and the blocked drainage pipe making it impossible to clear/repair/replace the drainage pipe. The ownership of the water supply pipes is unclear. Ann Overton has asked the Flood Team to investigate and is also looking to see if the Council can shed any light on the ownership of the water pipes via Council Tax records.

**Garlogie Speeding:** Fiona contacted Roads regarding the last speed survey. It was carried out in July 2019. The monitoring took place over a period of 8 days with a total of circa 66,000 vehicles. The results were Average speed = 35mph, 85th percentile speed = 39.5mph, so both below the 40mph limit and therefore nothing that would trigger any intervention by the council or the Police. Fiona has asked Inspector Gareth Hannan about sourcing a Pop-Up Bob instead (a lifesize cut-out of a bobby holding a speed gun) which is apparently quite an effective speeding deterrent.

#### **New Planning Applications:**

- APP/2020/2234 Change of use, alterations and extension of steading to form Dwellinghouse and erection of garage - Land at Landerberry Steading, Echt. No comment.
- APP/2020/2263 Siting of Food Van - Dunecht Garage, The Terrace, Dunecht AB32 7AX. **Object** – the application makes no provision on the applicant's site for parking by customers.
- APP/2020/2431 Erection of wind turbine (hub height 9m, total height 11.8m) - Land at Newton Fields nr Lyne of Skene. No comment – the nearest 3<sup>rd</sup> party properties are 340m away and the turbine will sit below the height of the nearby ETLs.

#### **Prior Planning Applications:**

- APP/2015/1681 Formation of Access (retrospective) Land to North of Lyne of Skene – Application refused by GAC decision on 10<sup>th</sup> November because of Roads' objections on safety grounds.

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

Cash in Bank: £2308.05 Cash in hand: £39.89

A request was received from Garlogie Hall Committee for assistance with the cost of new flooring for the refurbished Hall kitchen. Members agreed to fund £400 of the expected £800 cost.

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

None

#### **AOCB:**

**Community Action Plans:** Ann Overton has suggested the ESCC may want to put in place Community Action Plans in order to provide a framework and context for making requests for community improvements.

**Action:** Fiona will arrange for Caroline Smith (Council Community Planning Officer) to present on the topic at a future ESCC meeting.

**B9126 Speed Limit:** Klaus suggested the B9126 speed limit be reduced from 60mph to 40 mph between Lyne of Skene and the A944. However, there is no history of accidents on this stretch of road and the Council's new speed limit policy would not support such a change.

**Future Meeting Dates:**

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