

Echt & Skene Community Council

Minute of Meeting held 28th January 2021 via Zoom

Attendees: Fiona Bick, Ian Macmaster, Niall MacBeath, Nick Pilbeam, George Glennie, Klaus Wahle, Paula Houston, Cllr Alistair McKelvie, Cllr Ron McKail

Apologies: Cllr Iris Walker

Minute of last meeting: Approved.

Police Report: A Police Report for November-December was received in early January. There were 9 road accidents (many weather-related) and 20 other roads related issues reported.

Echt Disused Bus Shelter Community Project: The bus shelter is on the B9119 just west of the crossroads. The bus shelter is a stone lean-to built onto the gable end of the Old Bakery. It's owned by Aberdeenshire Council. No bus services have operated west of Echt for some years. **Action:** Paula to issue questionnaire to Echt residents inviting suggestions and interest in possible re-use as community facility.

MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Dunecht Car Parking: Fiona & George visited the garage in January to assess the extent of car parking available on site for shop and burger van customers. There are at least 6 parking spaces available including 3 reserved spaces in the car storage yard at the rear with signage. Members agreed the objection to the planning application should be withdrawn. It's understood the Police were in Dunecht monitoring vehicle speeds and parking in mid-January.

Forbes Park Landscaping: Iris received an update from Planning Enforcement. An officer from Landscape Services visited the site on 26th January and carried out a detailed examination of the landscaping and planting. As a result of the visit it has been confirmed that out of the 79 feathered trees (mixed species) which were approved to be planted within the hedgerow to the north and east of the site only 59 feathered trees were found, 6 of which were dead. In addition, there was no evidence of a mixed species hedge having been planted along the eastern and northern site boundaries.

Planning Enforcement will liaise further with Kirkwood Homes in respect of these matters with a view to having the landscaping at the site rectified to the standard detailed in the approved landscaping plans and condition. CLOSED

Echt Hall Public Convenience Demolition: George had a site meeting with Ian Mitchell from Landscape Services. Aberdeenshire Council are to arrange a follow-up site meeting with the demolition contractor.

Echt Street Signs: No progress.

Flooding on Kirkton of Skene to Westhill footpath: Ann Overton is still to respond on whether the Council would have any objections or stipulations with respect to the boardwalk option.

Flooding at Greystones and Carpenters Croft: No update. **Action:** Ron to chase Ann Overton for information.

Garlogie Speeding: Aberdeenshire Council is planning to trial Pop-Up Bob in the spring and have identified two sites (not Garlogie) where they will monitor speeds before, during and after Bob is put out. If the trial shows positive results they will expand Bob's use and are aware of the interest for Garlogie.

Community Action Plans: Caroline Smith, the Community Action Planning officer, will attend the next meeting to present on this topic.

New Planning Applications:

- APP/2020/2003 Installation of flue (retrospective) – Red Star Inn, Kirkton of Skene

Treasurer's Report:

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

Correspondence/Consultations/Upcoming Events:

- Library Book Return Box: Library Services propose placing book return boxes in rural locations for people to be able to return books without a trip to library. The mobile library visits Echt and Lyne of Skene each fortnight. Members agreed that Dunecht would be the best location for the box. **Action:** Fiona to respond
- COVID-19 Vaccination Transport – The Westhill Community Minibus is to be made available for transporting people to vaccination centres if they're unable to make their own way there, subject to finding volunteer drivers. **Action:** George and Nick agreed to volunteer for pick-ups in the ESCC area.
- A96 Dualling CC Forum Meeting 29th January – Fiona will attend
- A96 Dualling Public Consultation – Bennachie CC is seeking support to extend the consultation period. **Action:** George to write to Transport Secretary
- NHS Social Care and Frontline Workers Day 5th July 2021 – ESCC does not propose to arrange any events
- GACCF 3rd March – Fiona and George will attend

AOCB:

- Summer Bedding Plants: George proposed buying 6 whisky barrels for Echt flower displays at a cost of £10 each and has assembled volunteers willing to grow summer bedding plants for Echt this year from seed. Members agreed ESCC would pay for the barrels and seeds.
- Echt Notice Board perspex is crazed. George will see about replacement.
- Westhill Men's Shed Zoom account licence will expire at the end of March so ESCC will need to find alternative way to hold online meetings after the March meeting. **Action:** Fiona
- Aberdeenshire Council Participatory Budget – the Council is obliged to set aside £4.5 million for this. It will open for applications in April.

Future Meeting Dates:

11th March 2021

22nd April 2021

3rd June 2021 AGM