

Echt & Skene Community Council

Minute of Meeting held 11th March 2021 via Zoom

Attendees: Fiona Bick, Ian Macmaster, Niall MacBeath, Nick Pilbeam, George Glennie, Klaus Wahle, Paula Houston, Cllr Alistair McKelvie, Guy Bromby, Caroline Smith (Aberdeenshire Council)

Apologies: Cllr Iris Walker, Cllr Ron McKail, Cllr David Aitchison

Minute of last meeting: Approved.

Police Report: A Police report was received for February. With the continuing inclement weather during this period there were 2 minor collisions reported. There were 20 other incidents with 18 of them being drivers stuck in the snow. 1 of the others was a report of parking on the pavements in Dunecht but by the time a unit attended all the cars had moved. There were no other crimes or incidents in the area.

There was another minor road traffic accident at the Echt crossroads. **Action:** Cllr McKelvie offered to follow up the absence of the speed activated sign on the B977 north approach to the crossroads with Roads department.

Nick advised the availability of “**Action Fraud Alert**”. This is a shared Alert system run by the Police where you choose:

- who you want to be able to send you messages (Fire and Rescue service, Get Safe Online, Police, Gas emergency for example)
- What type of message you are interested in (Local News e.g. a missing person, residential crimes such as a spate of car thefts, house breaking in your area or phone and computer scams; there are 50 message type options)
- There are 5 priorities of messages and the ability to select areas from a map.

Scams are wrapped up into newsletters. Here is an example of the topics in one newsletter:

- Counterfeit Baby Carriers
- Courier Fraud
- Fake Job Adverts
- Healthcare Phone Scams
- Dating App Scams
- Boiler Scams
- Cyber Action Plan for Businesses
- Product Safety

You won't get too many messages through this and can tune it down if you want to. The service can be accessed here: <https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/sign-up-for-action-fraud-alert>

Community Action Plans: Caroline Smith, the Community Action Planning officer, gave a presentation on this topic. The Community Action Planning process provides a vehicle for residents to express their views about their local facilities and any improvements they would like to see. CAPs can then form evidence of local support/need which can be used to increase the chance of success in making grant applications for funding to deliver the improvements. Members agreed there could be merit in running the process in one or two of the ESCC settlements but local steering groups would be required to run the community engagement in each. **Action:** Caroline Smith to forward the Inch CAP to members as an example of the output.

Community Council Elections 2021: CC elections will reportedly take place this year in May. A number of ESCC members will need to ensure their nominations are submitted to avoid the CC falling below the minimum numbers required. Fiona has drafted a poster to be placed on Community noticeboards to advertise the ESCC website and the CC vacancies. **Action:** Fiona to send the draft to Guy Bromby, who has agreed to add some artwork/colour.

MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Dunecht Car Parking: It's believed there have been fewer parking issues of late but members agreed to monitor the situation.

Echt Hall Public Convenience Demolition: No progress since last meeting.

Echt Street Signs: No progress since last meeting.

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: The road was flooding and overflowing at Greystones again during the snow thaw. Ron is still to receive a response from Ann Overton regarding information on water supplies. The Flood Team has still not responded either. Cllr McKelvie advised that gully clearing works are behind across the Shire, with the winter roads budget being underfunded and unable to cope with the impact of the hard winter.

Garlogie Speeding: Still awaiting Aberdeenshire Council trials of Pop-Up Bob.

Echt Disused Bus Shelter Community Project: Paula suggested that the bus shelter should be included on the Council Asset Register and that the Echt community noticeboard could be relocated from the Hall to the shelter wall after its refurbishment. A number of volunteers have come forward who are willing to keep the shelter clean.

New Planning Applications:

- APP/2021/0285 Demolition of Dwellinghouse and Outbuildings and erection of 2 Dwellinghouses - 5 Redhill Cottage AB32 6UT. No comment.
- APP/2021/0249 Installation of Overhead Line (Retrospective) - Site at Kirkton House, Kirkton of Skene AB32 6XS. No comment.

Treasurer's Report:

Cash in Bank: £1848.05 Cash in hand: £39.89

Since the last meeting £400 has been given to the Garlogie Hall Committee as a contribution towards new kitchen flooring and £60 has been spent on the website and email hosting.

Fox Lane Garden Centre has generously donated seeds and compost for community planting in Echt this year which ESCC had previously agreed to fund, so ESCC will instead pay for a thank you gift for the garden centre.

Correspondence/Consultations/Upcoming Events:

- Community Council Forum on CC Scheme of Establishment Consultation 15th March 7pm
- Demand Responsive Transport (DRT) services in Aberdeenshire Online Survey (deadline 26th March)
- Strategic Transport Projects Review (comments deadline 31 March)

AOCB:

- EV Rural Charging Points– Paula wondered if Echt would be a suitable location for a public EV charging point. George will enquire whether the Hall committee would be happy to host one in the Hall car park.

Future Meeting Dates:

22nd April 2021

3rd June 2021 AGM