

Echt & Skene Community Council

Minutes of AGM held 29th October 2020 at 7.30 pm via Zoom

Present: Fiona Bick (chair), Nick Pilbeam (vice-Chair), George Glennie (Secretary), Niall McBeath, Klaus Wahle, Ian MacMaster, Paula Houston, Cllr Iris Walker, Cllr Ron McKail, 1 Dunecht resident.

Apologies: Steve Gibson

Minute of last A.G.M. – No matters arising. Minute approved.

Chairman's Report:

2020 has been an unprecedented year as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Since March, the Community Council has been unable to hold face-to-face meetings, the normal round of member elections has not taken place and our AGM was delayed from June to October. Despite the government restrictions placed on all our lives, we have continued to hold regular meetings online and to act for our community. And members stepped up to deliver leaflets advertising the Grampian Assistance Hub, and to provide assistance to vulnerable people in our community by delivering prescriptions and groceries. Unfortunately though, progress on a number of other issues has been slow as a result of COVID measures.

Since the last AGM we co-opted Klaus Wahle and George Glennie back onto the Community Council but Grant Duguid stepped down. Brian Poppleton generously offered to continue as independent Treasurer despite standing down from the Community Council at the last AGM, and we are grateful to Paula Houston for volunteering to take over from Brian in August 2020. We are sad to say goodbye to Steve Gibson at this AGM but thank him for his contribution over the last 16 months.

There are still vacancies to be filled and if there are others in the community who would like to get involved then we would be able to welcome them as co-opted members at any time.

We had success in persuading Aberdeenshire Council to re-instate the Westhill A2B bus service after it was suddenly withdrawn in August as part of the Council's emergency cost-saving measures. The bus is relied upon by many older people in our area to reach the medical, shopping and cultural amenities in Westhill. Thank you to everyone who signed our petition.

We have also continued to resist moves by BT to remove the 2 remaining public phone boxes at Echt and Kirkton of Skene. BT have sought to remove them twice in the period since our last AGM.

Sadly, the Kirkton of Skene Playgroup closed its doors this year and it appeared for a time that the Kirkton of Skene village shop might follow. But the shop has now been transformed into a café and its prospects look much brighter thanks to the efforts of a group of village residents. The success of the café relies on good pedestrian links with Westhill though, and the periodic flooding problems on the footpath from the Community Church threaten this and remain unresolved as yet.

Another matter that remains unresolved, but still live, is the enforcement of the planning conditions relating to landscaping of the Forbes Park development in Echt.

We will continue to seek resolution of these and other ongoing matters on behalf of our residents during the coming year.

Treasurer's Report:

Echt & Skene Community Council Accounts 2019-20

Reserves Statement

	As at 31/03/2019	As at 31/3/2020
Cash in Bank	2396.97	1678.38
Cash in Hand	7.32	37.86
Total Funds	2404.29	1716.24

Income & Expenditure Statement

Income

Aberdeenshire Council Grant	908.64	
Garioch Partnership Grant	750.00	
Total Income		1658.64

Expenditure

Meeting Room Hires	76.75	
Annual Subscriptions	60.00	
Community Projects (See Note 1)	2082.48	
Incidental Expenses	127.46	
Total		2346.69

Overall Surplus/Deficit **-688.05**

Note 1 Community Projects

Garlogie Hall Trace Heating	282.48
Milne Hall Committee Donation	300.00
Dunecht Golf Club Defibrillator	300.00
Lyne of Skene Defibrillator	1050.00
Kirkton of Skene Playgroup Donation	150.00
Total Projects Spend	2082.48

Acceptance of Accounts:

Proposed by Nick Pilbeam and seconded by Iain MacMaster. The accounts were unanimously accepted.

Election of Office Bearers/Co-Option of Members:

Due to COVID-19 restrictions there are no Community Council elections taking place in Aberdeenshire in 2020. Klaus Wahle and George Glennie will continue as co-opted members until the May 2021 elections.

All of the Office Bearers are happy to continue in post until the next AGM:

Chair	Fiona Bick
Vice-Chair	Nick Pilbeam
Secretary	George Glennie
Independent Treasurer	Paula Houston

A discussion took place on how to increase the visibility of the ESCC in the community and encourage new people to come forward as members given that the ESCC numbers are now at the minimum. It was agreed to put up posters on the village noticeboards advertising for new members. **Action:** Fiona to create poster for members to print and pin up

A.O.C.B

Nick Pilbeam proposed a vote of thanks to Fiona for her contributions as Chair, minute writer and lead on consultation responses.

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