

Echt & Skene Community Council

Minute of Meeting held 3rd June 2021 via Zoom

Attendees: Fiona Bick, Ian Macmaster, Niall MacBeath, Nick Pilbeam, George Glennie, Klaus Wahle, Sophie Byers, Chris Minchin, Cllr Iris Walker, Cllr Ron McKail

Apologies: Cllr Alistair McKelvie, Paula Houston, Guy Bromby

Minute of last meeting: Approved.

Police Report: Police reports were circulated after the meeting for April and May. Speed checks were carried out in Dunecht in May - two drivers were charged and four received warnings.

Member Co-Option: Nick Pilbeam was unanimously co-opted as a member for Lyne of Skene.

Aberdeenshire LDP Update and NPF4 Housing Land Requirement Consultation: The LDP is currently with the DPEA for examination. Two reporters have been appointed but it will be the end of the year before they issue their determination. Aberdeenshire Council adopted 4 out of the 6 modification proposals made by ESCC in response to the final draft. The two proposals which were rejected were removal of the housing development site in Echt NE of Forbes Park, and the proposal that change of use of a brownfield site in the countryside larger than 0.5ha to employment uses should have to be proposed as an allocation.

A consultation on LA housing targets within National Planning Framework 4 concludes on 4th June. Currently Aberdeen City and Shire have a joint 10 year target under the joint Strategic Development Plan with 13,200 houses each. The Scottish Government has proposed a minimum housing target for each local authority area instead with the Aberdeenshire figure being 6,500. This would significantly reduce the pressure for more development.

MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Community Action Plans: Aberdeenshire Council has lost the partner organisation it used to assist with CAPs so this cannot be progressed until they find a new partner.

Dunecht Car Parking: Dunecht is still very busy with cars parking.

Echt Hall Public Convenience Demolition: George has a meeting with Ian Mitchell of Landscaping services on 8th June.

Echt B977 Street Name Sign: No update.

Echt speed activated sign on B977: Cllr McKelvie is still to follow up the removal of the sign with Roads department.

Flooding on Kirkton of Skene to Westhill footpath: A site meeting took place on 4th May involving Fiona, Guy Bromby and Caroline Smith, Susan Adams and Malcom Thomson from the Council. Malcolm Thomson suggested possible solutions to the pooling of water but all are likely to be expensive. He also advised that if the Beechie Burn needs to be cleared and the landowner cannot be definitively identified from land registry records because it follows a boundary, then it would be a joint responsibility of the landowners on either

side of the watercourse. The Council is one of the landowners with land abutting the burn downstream of the Manse Road culvert.

Flooding at Greystones: Ron McKail received a response from Ann Overton. The email raises additional questions. **Action** Fiona to feedback via Ron

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

Echt Lorries: The police have been asked to do speed checks on lorries in Echt but have said they may not be able to dedicate resources at the appropriate time of day.

Echt Disused Bus Shelter Community Project: Response from Council is that the shelter can be adopted or transferred to the community regardless of whether it is on their Asset Register. This should be picked up within the Echt CAP process. CLOSED

Echt EV Charging Point: Hall Committee neutral about hosting in the hall car park provided they have no responsibility for the electricity bills. CLOSED

Lyne of Skene Speed Limit: Klaus wrote to Roads asking to reduce the limit from 40mph on the B9126. Roads' response is that the stretch of road doesn't meet the policy criteria for a 30mph limit. Correspondence is ongoing.

Dunecht Playpark Improvements: Sophie met with Iris and Jim Robertson of Landscape Services to discuss additional playpark equipment. Sophie has prepared prices for the equipment.

New Planning Applications:

- APP/2021/1100 Alterations and extension to Dwellinghouse – Garden Cottage, Mains of Skene, Westhill AB32 7BQ. No comment.

Treasurer's Report:

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

Two cheques have been written (but not yet cashed) for a total of £100 for Foxlane gifts and Echt flower barrels.

Correspondence/Consultations/Upcoming Events:

- Garioch Area Community Council Forum on 8th June at 7pm – George and Fiona plan to attend.

AOCB:

- 2021-22 Meeting Dates were agreed:
 - 22 July 21
 - 2 September 21
 - 28 October 21
 - 16 December 21
 - 27 January 22
 - 3 March 22
 - 21 April 22
 - 2 June 22 AGM
- Echt Flower Barrels – many of the plants being grown in the village for the barrels were lost to frosts in the cold spring so residents were invited to “adopt a barrel” to plant up themselves. As a result,

18 of the 37 barrels have been adopted and the Council is also providing plants so there may now be a surplus for donation to other villages in the ESCC area.

- Garlogie Hall Lease – negotiations for a new lease are ongoing with the Council, which initially wanted a joint lease for the Hall and the Beam Engine building. A temporary one year lease has been put in place for the hall meantime.
- Litter Picking Equipment – monies are available from the Council so Niall will research options for acquisition by the CC. Litter picks have previously been carried out by residents in Lyne of Skene and Echt.