

# Echt & Skene Community Council

## Minute of Meeting held 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2021 via Zoom

**Attendees:** Fiona Bick, Ian Macmaster, Nick Pilbeam, George Glennie, Niall MacBeath, Chris Minchin, Paula Houston, Cllr Alistair McKelvie, Cllr Iris Walker

**Apologies:**, Cllr Ron McKail, Sophie Byers

**Minute of last meeting:** Approved.

**Police Report:** The police report for July indicated 4 public nuisance calls relating to youths camping and 9 traffic incidents. A report for August was still pending. Members reported that the police carried out speed checks in Dunecht beside the school at the start of the new term and in Echt during August.

### MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

**Council Housing Improvement Programme – central heating:** Following email correspondence between Fiona, Iris, Alistair and the Housing Manager, Dave Thomson, the Council housing department has agreed that tenants will have the option to keep their oil boilers and continue to have them repaired by the Council, rather than having to bear the much higher running costs of a new electric heating system. The tenant at 16 Barmekin Park has been advised of this change of heart. However, Mr Thomson has suggested that repairs will not be made if they are “beyond a reasonable economic repair”. **Action:** Iris to enquire how the assessment of whether a future repair is “economic” will be made.

**Community Action Plans:** The Garioch Area Manager has a budget allocated to this but is still looking for resource to facilitate the process with communities.

**Echt Hall Public Convenience Demolition:** No progress. **Action:** Iris to ask Ian Mitchell, Landscape Manager whether the demolition contractor has agreed to rectify the hardcore path.

**Echt B977 Street Names:** Fiona has advised Roads Development that the community supports the names James Soutter Road and Main Road West but proposes Kirkton Brae for the B977 south of the crossroads in place of Church Street. It’s not clear what the next step in the process will be.

**Echt speed activated sign on B977:** Cllr McKelvie is waiting for Roads to provide the results of any speed survey carried out north of the crossroads which supports their assertion that a sign isn’t needed. It was noted that the speed activated sign on Main Road West has now also been removed, although it’s not clear if this is a temporary or permanent removal.

**Flooding on Kirkton of Skene to Westhill footpath:** A meeting took place between Stuart Young (Dunecht Estates), Fiona, and Guy Bromby on August 6<sup>th</sup>. Stuart passed on some useful information regarding land ownership alongside the path. It was acknowledged that any solution would need to involve tie-in to drains and/or ditches on Dunecht Estate land on the downhill/south side of the road and DE is unlikely to object provided it doesn’t increase the risk of flooding to downstream properties, in particular, at the south lodge at Kirkton House which has experienced issues in the past.

**Flooding at Greystones:** Fiona and Klaus had inspected the state of the road drains and manhole since the last meeting. Fiona has advised Lee Watson the outlets to the ditch need to be jetted and the road drain gullies need to be de-silted. Fiona also passed on information regarding the history of the installation of the water supply pipes. A response is awaited.

**Garlogie Speeding:** Still awaiting Aberdeenshire Council trials of Pop-Up Bob. **Action:** Fiona to ask Cllr McKail for an update

**Echt Lorries:** Roads investigated the drain/manhole covers on Main Road East and report that they're not loose. The noise from lorries and trailers is believed to be because the covers are below the level of the resurfaced road causing the vehicles to rattle/clank. **Action:** Cllr McKelvie to speak to Roads Department about raising the ironwork.

**Lyne of Skene Speed Limit:** Klaus has been told by Roads that extending the 40mph limit further east wouldn't comply with the Council's speed limit policy. However, there have been instances in Aberdeenshire where communities have been able to make a case on safety grounds for a policy exception to be made. Iris will forward an example to Klaus/Fiona to see if the same can be done for Lyne of Skene.

**Dunecht and Echt Playpark Improvements:** Approval of the plans for Dunecht is awaited from Dunecht Estate. The Council has provided a cost estimate of £10,600 for the Echt equipment installation. Paula has investigated a number of funding opportunities and holds two possibilities at the moment but will wait until Dunecht is ready to go ahead so that applications can be made for both projects together.

**Litter Picking Equipment:** Niall proposed applying for a grant of £200 to purchase 6 sets of equipment to use in any of the ESCC settlements. Fiona advised that the Council Waste department had coordinated pick up of the rubbish bags with Inverurie CC litter picks and presumably could be asked to do the same for ESCC. **Action:** Niall to apply for funds and purchase the equipment.

**Queen's Green Canopy Tree Project:** Dunecht Estate has confirmed the Echt Pleasure Park was gifted to the Council many years ago and DE permission is therefore not required. George and Paula met with the Greenspace Officer, who has drawn up a plan for a community orchard in Echt. The Council is willing to supply some fruit trees and there is support from the school and volunteer tree planters from the community. George will also send an application for trees to the Woodland Trust on behalf of the ESCC.

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

- APP/2021/1880 Condition 1 (siting, design, landscaping, access, etc.) of planning permission in principle reference APP/2021/0285 for erection of 2 dwellinghouses – 5 Redhill Croft, Garlogie AB32 6UT. No comment.

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

Cash in Bank: £2661.08 Cash in hand: £39.89

The annual grant of £933.03 has been received from the Council since the last meeting.

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

- **Queen's Platinum Jubilee:** ESCC received a letter from the Lord Lieutenant suggesting that Aberdeenshire community groups participate in the event by organising either a street party or a bonfire/beacon. Niall to see if a bonfire could take place at the Breemie Circle.

#### **AOCB:**

- Tour of Britain Cycling Race 12<sup>th</sup> September – Roads department are proposing to impose no waiting/parking restrictions in Dunecht between the Echt junction and the east end of the village from 6pm Saturday to 5pm Sunday. Jaffs and Dunecht Garage are concerned about the adverse impact on their businesses as their customers will have nowhere to park. **Action:** Fiona to write to Brian Strachan to ask that no parking restrictions are imposed west of the garage.
- Garioch Area CC Forum Meeting 1<sup>st</sup> September – The main topic at the meeting was paths and access. The Council provides assistance and advice to community groups wanting to extend the path network and or resolve access issues. There will be a slide pack provided with a link to the Council's Information Pack.
- Echt B977 South – residents have expressed concern about the lack of a safe walking route to South Kirkton Cottages. **Action:** Fiona to ask if Dunecht Estates is willing to allow a country path along the edge of the field behind the New Manse.
- Echt B977 South – hedges obstructing the line of sight for cars exiting Barmekin Park. **Action:** George to report via Council Road Faults webpage
- Local Development Plan – Iris advised that 7 reporters have now been appointed to examine the proposed LDP and will be making unaccompanied site visits over the next 2/3 months. At the present time no significant weight can be placed on the policies of the proposed plan.

### **Future Meeting Dates**

Although face to face CC meetings are now permitted under COVID regulations, face masks would have to be worn. It was agreed that meetings would continue online for the time being.

- 28 October 21
- 16 December 21
- 27 January 22
- 3 March 22
- 21 April 22
- 2 June 22 AGM