

Echt & Skene Community Council

Minute of Meeting held 27th January 2022 via Zoom

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

Apologies: Paula Houston,

Minute of last meeting: Approved.

Police Report: Police report for December shows just 2 offences and 8 incidents relating to road traffic. Speed checks were carried out in Echt on one day, and in Dunecht on one day when one driver was warned about this speed. No concerns were raised.

MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Community Action Plans: Fiona met with Jacky Niven, who is the new Council CAP facilitator, on 25th January. To start the CAP process for Echt and Kirkton of Skene we need to form a Steering Group for each settlement comprised of 6-10 residents with a diverse range of interests. **Action:** Fiona to draft a post for Facebook/poster to advertise for volunteers.

Echt Hall Public Convenience Demolition: Cllr McKail received the following response from Council officials *The demolition works were carried out by a contractor working on behalf of "others" and we have previously chased the contractor looking for the works to the path to be completed and are disappointed that this has not been rectified. I will ask the local team to pursue this again and ask for repairs to be carried out at an early date.*

Echt B977 Street Names: No update.

Echt speed activated sign on B977: Cllr McKelvie received speed survey results from 2-8 March 2021 recorded at the west end of the village. They showed 9037 vehicles passing with 79% of traffic exceeding the 30mph limit. 85 percent of traffic was travelling at 42mph or less. The maximum speed was 71 mph. **Action:** Cllr McKelvie to respond to Roads and ask if traffic calming measures could be put in place at the west end to slow traffic as it enters the village.

Flooding on Kirkton of Skene to Westhill footpath: Cllr McKail received a response from Roads agreeing that they would contact Dunecht Estates to discuss potential solutions to move the water under the road from north to south.

Flooding at Greystones: Roads Dept has now cleared the drains under the road and jetted the blocked pipe from the manhole to the ditch on the south side. **Action:** Fiona to follow up with Flood Team on Scottish Water legal review.

Garlogie Speeding: Ian MacMaster and another Garlogie resident will be knocking on doors to seek the views of Garlogie residents on a potential reduction in the speed limit to 30 mph. Traffic calming measures at the east end of the village may also be appropriate if a lower limit is put in place.

Lyne of Skene Speed Limit: Cllr McKail contacted the Police asking for a speed survey to be carried out close to the last house east of the crossroads. Response received was along the lines that this has been done before a few times and they wouldn't allocate manpower to doing it again. **Action:** Cllr McKail to ask for the results of previous speed surveys.

Dunecht and Echt Playpark Improvements: The WECC has now agreed that ESCC area groups are eligible for funding from the Westhill Bulletin profits and so the application for Echt has been submitted and will be considered in February.

Queen's Green Canopy Tree Project: Ian has sourced materials for the plaque within the budget of £100 – stainless steel on teak – and Westhill Men's Shed will make it up.

Echt B977 South Road Safety: Fiona will be meeting with Stuart Young on 11th February in Echt to look at the potential routes round the back of the houses.

Queen's Platinum Jubilee: Niall still to discuss bonfire at the Breemie Circle further with Alan Brownie.

Community Resilience Plans: Nick, Fiona, Chris and George met to discuss updates to plans and equipment. The actions from that meeting were:

- Find a way of communicating the plans to residents ahead of and during an emergency. Many residents have lost or never seen the leaflet which ESCC delivered 3 years ago.
- Fiona will set up a WhatsApp Group of ESCC members so we can communicate more easily
- We should review options for heating the halls during a power cut, including enabling Echt Hall to be powered using a hired generator.

Echt Glass Recycling Point: Waste Services rejected ESCC's proposal to site it in the football pavilion car park on the basis that it was too close to a house, but the distance from the nearest house is no less than the previous site behind the hall. Fiona has written to them again suggesting siting it beside the garages in Barmekin Park but has had no response. **Action:** George to contact Waste Services and discuss their criteria for suitable sites.

New Planning Applications:

- APP/2021/2793 Erection of dwellinghouse and domestic storage shed – West Millbuie, Skene AB32 6YL. No comment.

Treasurer's Report:

Application submitted to Virgin Money for new account for Echt Neighbourhood Watch.

Expenditure reimbursement since last meeting of £259.21 to Niall MacBeath for litter picking equipment and masonry paint (to cover up graffiti in LoS)

Cash in Bank: £7548.88 09 (£5,000 ring-fenced for Echt play-park equipment installation; £2,548.88 general ESCC funds)

Cash in hand: £39.89

Correspondence/Consultations/Upcoming Events:

- Kirkwood Homes Echt Phase 3 Consultation – a public exhibition was held in Echt Hall on 25th January. Fiona attended and met Allan Rae of Kirkwood Homes, who has offered to attend the March meeting of the ESCC to present a summary of the public feedback and how Kirkwood Homes intends to address issues raised. Members agreed this would be useful. **Action:** Fiona to invite Allan Rae to March meeting
- CALA Homes Burnland Housing Development Consultation – there was a virtual event for this on 27th January. The development is in the WECC area but adjacent to the boundary with ESCC area.
- Association for Protection of Rural Scotland sent invitation to ESCC to join as an affiliated group. Annual fee is £30. Members were unsure what the APRS aims are or what the benefits of membership might be so decided not to pursue.

AOCB:

- Echt Noticeboard needs to be refurbished again as the plywood backing board has rotted. Nick/George to liaise with Westhill Men's Shed.
- Litter Picking – two sets of equipment have been lent to Echt residents who expressed interest in using it on their daily walks. A tidy up will be organised with volunteers in Lyne of Skene next month.
- A944 through Elrick will be closed for 3 weeks from 31st January
- Westhill – Kirkton of Skene footpath/cycle path baffle barriers were removed from road junctions by Roads Dept in January following complaints from two cyclists. An alternative means of enhancing pedestrian safety at the Hill of Keir road junction is needed.

Future Meeting Dates

- 3 March 22
- 21 April 22
- 8 June 22 AGM