

Echt & Skene Community Council

Minute of Meeting held 21st April 2022 via Zoom

Attendees: Fiona Bick, George Glennie, Niall MacBeath, Nick Pilbeam, Chris Minchin, Gian Pia, Cllr Iris Walker, Cllr Ron McKail, 3 Echt residents, Leofric Studd & David Wolfe (Garlogie Beam Engine Trust)

Apologies: Ian Macmaster, Klaus Wahle, Paula Houston, Cllr Alistair McKelvie

Minute of last meeting: Approved.

Police Report: Police Reports have been received for January February and March. The most significant crime was a theft of sheep near Echt. There were a number of minor traffic collisions. No speed checks were carried out.

Garlogie Beam Engine Trust: Leofric Studd informed the meeting that a heads of terms has been agreed with the Council for lease of the beam engine building and this is expected to go before the GAC in June for approval. The Trust plans to participate in the Doors Open Day in September 2022.

Leofric also gave a presentation about the heritage features at Garlogie associated with various historic power schemes on the Leuchar Burn over several centuries. A planning application is now imminent to remove Garlogie Dam and drain the loch behind. (Fiona and Nick have a site meeting with River Dee Trust and SEPA on 22nd April to hear about this.) The Beam Engine Trust believes the loss of the dam and loch should be offset by creating a circular heritage trail around the site of the loch with information boards, and would like to see this included in the planning application, but Dunecht Estate is against facilitating public access. Members noted that if a trail were to be created, the privacy of residents in Garlogie Cottages would need to be respected.

Proposed Co-Option to ESCC: A proposal was circulated to members on 10th April 2022 to co-opt Gian Pia from Mason Lodge to the ESCC. The proposal was agreed unanimously.

May 2022 CC Elections: Three existing members' 3-year terms come to an end this year. Fiona, Niall and Nick are all willing to stand for re-election. Gian Pia will also need to complete a nomination form to be formally elected. Sophie Byers has resigned and moved to USA. The CC is currently short of two members (for Garlogie and Echt). Aberdeenshire Council has provided election posters which members will put up on local noticeboards. Nominations close on 12th May.

MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Community Action Plans: The Echt CAP Steering Group held its first meeting on 17th March. The group still has to agree what questions to include on the residents' questionnaire and which houses to include in the survey.

Echt Hall Public Convenience Demolition: No progress on clearing topsoil from the hardcore path.

Echt B977 Street Names: No update from Council. **Action:** Fiona to ask Ann Overton about the results of the residents' consultation.

Echt speed activated signs on B977 and B9119: Signs to west and north of crossroads have been removed, whilst sign at east end is not working. Residents would like new signs and/or traffic calming measures to reduce vehicle speeds. **Action:** Cllr Walker to discuss with Roads.

Flooding on Kirkton of Skene to Westhill footpath: WECC arranging site meeting with Brian Strachan (Roads) to discuss safety concerns at Hill of Keir road junction. Fiona will attend to raise the flooding issues as well.

Flooding at Greystones: Still waiting for outcome of Scottish Water legal review.

Garlogie Speeding: No news about Pop-Up Bob trials. Ian MacMaster carried out a survey of residents' opinions regarding a reduction in the speed limit. The results show no majority consensus for a reduction to 30mph, although some houses were unoccupied at the time of the survey. There is a clear desire for traffic calming to try to get vehicles to observe the speed limit, whether it be 30mph or 40mph. Some residents have had correspondence with Brian Strachan (Roads), who has expressed the opinion that Garlogie doesn't satisfy the criteria for a 30mph limit under the Council's policy, but this is based on the housing density along the whole of the current 40mph zone rather than looking at Roadside of Garlogie only (Roadside of Garlogie being the part of the settlement at the junction with the B9126). **Action:** Fiona to contact Brian Strachan about the potential for traffic calming.

Lyne of Skene Speed Limit: Police are reluctant to commit resources to a new speed survey in Lyne of Skene. **Action:** Cllr McKail still to ask for results of previous speed surveys in Lyne of Skene

Mason Lodge Speeding: Council's speed monitoring device is not working at the moment. **Action:** Cllr McKail to ask again for it to be deployed at Mason Lodge.

Dunecht and Echt Playpark Improvements: No new funding secured for Echt since last meeting but Paula continues to make applications. Sophie Byers has handed over the information about the proposed Dunecht playpark equipment to Chris Minchin.

Queen's Green Canopy Tree Project: More young trees have been planted by residents in Echt in the play area behind Orchard Grove. George has offered to keep the grass down whilst they establish. The manufacture of the plaque for the Echt community orchard at Westhill Men's Shed is on hold whilst Ian is away.

Echt B977 South Road Safety: Residents seem to have differing views about the purpose and route for any new path. Owners of Old Manse are concerned at loss of privacy if path goes across the Glebe field along their east boundary. Suggest this is addressed via the Echt CAP process.

Queen's Platinum Jubilee: Niall has agreement for a beacon on Thursday 2nd June at the Breemie Circle subject to confirmation of the ESCC insurance for TP liability. The event will be open to all ESCC residents.

Dunecht Estate is going to hold a bring-a-picnic-to-a-picnic lunch at the Dunecht playground on Sunday 5th June, which will be by invitation only to Dunecht residents and estate workers.

Community Resilience Plans: Nick is obtaining quotes to modify the wiring of 4 halls (not Dunecht) to be able to connect up a hired generator. There is an SSEN fund which may offer a grant to pay for the work.

Echt Glass Recycling Point: No progress. **Action:** George still to contact Waste Services and discuss their criteria for suitable sites.

New Planning Applications:

- APP/2022/0803 Erection of 3 dwellinghouses, 3 detached garages and change of use of agricultural land – Northbank Steading, Skene, AB32 6YP. No comment.
- APP/2022/0391 Extension to dwellinghouse – 1 Letter Road, Lyne of Skene, AB32 7FP. No comment.

Treasurer's Report:

Expenditure since last meeting: £75.96 on gas canisters, £60 website hosting fees

Cash in Bank: £7,812.92 (£5,400 ring-fenced for Echt play-park equipment installation; £2,412.92 general ESCC funds)

Cash in hand: £39.89

Draft Accounts issued for approval at AGM

Correspondence/Consultations/Upcoming Events:

- Murdo Fraser MSP Consultation Member's Bill Fly-tipping (deadline 23rd May) – it was noted that the proposals were largely around compliance and enforcement of regulations against fly-tipping. Members felt that if it was made easier for people to take their waste to the recycling centres then there would be less waste dumped illegally. The booking system and other restrictions regarding vehicles currently in force at council recycling centres is a barrier to doing the right thing. Cllr McKail said the Council didn't want trade waste deposited at the household recycling centres as it could cost the council £500k to deal with it. Members felt that the costs of dealing with fly-tipping were also significant and were not being taken into account. Cllr McKail said the council was going to do some trials with unrestricted access at some recycling centres with a report back expected in the summer.

Future Meeting Dates

- Wednesday 8 June 22 AGM at Echt Hall