

Echt & Skene Community Council

Minute of Meeting held 1st September 2022 at Garlogie Hall

Attendees: Fiona Bick, George Glennie, Nick Pilbeam, Chris Minchin, Niall MacBeath, Ian MacMaster, Cllr Iris Walker, Cllr Ron McKail

Apologies: Paula Houston, Cllr Craig Miller, Cllr Fatima Joji

Minute of last meeting: Approved.

Police Report: Police Report received for July and August. Two people charged with a serious assault at the Echt Show. Four public nuisance incidents reported. Two road traffic accidents and two other incidents. Speed checks were carried out in a variety of locations over the period.

MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Speeding Issues in Dunecht, Echt, Garlogie, Lyne of Skene and Mason Lodge: The speed monitoring device was deployed in Dunecht and the results are awaited from the police. Pop-up Bob has also been deployed in the village, alternating with real police officers. Breedon quarry lorries are not speeding in the village. The issues with anti-social driving are mainly with cars, with a variety of video evidence being gathered by residents. Once the speed results have been analysed, Chris will seek a meeting with Brian Strachan to discuss what traffic calming measures can be implemented. The intent is then to repeat the process in the other ESCC villages.

Community Action Plans: The Echt CAP Steering Group met on 18th August with Jacky Niven to discuss how to increase the level of response to the survey. A new online survey has been set up and this will be advertised again through Facebook, and via Echt School and other community groups. Next meeting is in early October.

Echt B977 Street Names: Pending GAC approval.

Flooding on Kirkton of Skene to Westhill footpath: WECC has decided to pursue the Hill of Keir junction safety issues separately from the path flooding. Ron advised that the Roads Department perceives the path flooding issue as expensive to solve, requiring the road to be dug up to lay a drain across to the south side, and it scores low in their priorities. **Action:** Fiona to obtain a quote to mole a drain underneath the road instead

Flooding at Greystones: No update.

Echt & Dunecht Playpark Improvements: Two funding applications turned down since last meeting. **Action:** Iris to ask Ann Overton if Scottish Government monies for playpark development could be used for Echt.

Community Resilience Plans: Nick has arranged for an electrician to visit 4 halls on 9th September and quote to install changeover switches to enable connection of a hired generator. No response from Council regarding reimbursement of Echt Hall costs incurred during Storms Arwen and Corrie. **Action:** Fiona to write to Ann Overton about non-response.

Burnside Footpath: No update.

Proposed Echt Glass Recycling Bins: Council Waste Department has not responded to request for risk assessment/trial. **Action:** Fiona to register complaint with Ann Overton about non-response

Proposed Dunecht Footpath: Chris had a very positive meeting with Stuart Young of Dunecht Estates to discuss route and design for a path to connect Tillybrig with the playpark, with bridges over the Corskie Burn. Dunecht Estate is willing to do the ground works for the path free of charge. A local architect is willing to design the bridges for a fixed fee. A funding application will be made to Paths for All, which provides up to 70% of costs of approved projects. A planning application will need to be submitted.

Defibrillators: Niall has established that the Lyne of Skene defibrillator has a guardian from the village and is on the register. **Action:** Chris hasn't yet asked the Westhill defibrillator group if they would be willing to be guardian for the Echt defibrillator (they already cover the Kirkton of Skene defibrillator).

New Planning Applications:

- APP/2022/1622 Installation of Wood Burning Stove and External Flue - East Lodge, Kirkton House, Kirkton of Skene AB32 6XT. No comment

Treasurer's Report:

Expenditure since last meeting: £9 Key cutting

Cash in Bank: £7,659.97 (£5,400 ring-fenced for Echt play-park equipment installation; £2,259.97 general ESCC funds)

Cash in hand: £39.89

Correspondence/Consultations/Upcoming Events:

Hill of Fare Wind Farm Proposal

A letter was received from the Scottish Govt Energy Consents Unit inviting feedback by 16th September on the Scoping Report for a wind farm application on Hill of Fare. The Scoping Report prepared by the developer proposes assessments of the landscape and visual impact from a number of viewpoints, but members felt the proposed list should be expanded to include more locations on the most commonly used local roads and in ESCC settlements which have a clear view of the hill. The list of existing wind turbine developments which will be taken into account in the cumulative visual assessment is also inadequate and should include the two 45m turbines already on the NW side of the hill at Auchorie Farm. In addition, given the significance of the potential development, it was felt that the wider ESCC community should be made aware of it via a flyer to be posted on local Facebook pages and noticeboards. **Action:** Fiona to draft a letter to the Energy Consents Unit and the community flyer.

Future Meeting Dates

- 20th October Dunecht Hall
- 1st December Lyne of Skene Hall
- 19th January Echt Hall
- 2nd March Milne Hall, Kirkton of Skene
- 20th April Garlogie Hall
- 1st June AGM Dunecht Hall

AOCB

- Klaus Wahle, Community Councillor for Dunecht since 2013, very sadly passed away on 6th August. His funeral was held on 23rd August and was attended by Fiona, Ian, Niall and Nick.
- Echt Noticeboard refurbishment is underway at Westhill Men's Shed
- Council is proposing to run a 12 month trial at Stonehaven Household Waste Recycling Centre, and one other in the northern part of Aberdeenshire, operating a hybrid booking/no booking system.