

Echt & Skene Community Council

Minute of Meeting held 19th January 2023 at Echt Hall

Attendees: Fiona Bick, George Glennie, Nick Pilbeam, Chris Minchin, Niall MacBeath, Ian MacMaster, Paula Houston, Cllr Craig Miller, Cllr Ron McKail, Cllr Iris Walker, 3 Echt residents

Apologies: No apologies received.

Minute of last meeting: Approved.

Police Report: Police Report received for December-January. No crimes recorded and only 3 road traffic incidents. Speed checks continue to be carried out in a variety of locations.

A2B Bus Service: Echt residents are unhappy that the A2B bus service for Echt, Dunecht and Garlogie is now available on only 2 mornings per week instead of 5 days being shared with Kemnay instead of Westhill. The Westhill A2B bus is still operating in Kirkton of Skene and Skene areas. **Action:** Fiona to write to Council transport officer expressing dissatisfaction with public transport coverage for Echt.

MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Speeding Issues in Dunecht, Echt, Garlogie, Lyne of Skene and Mason Lodge: Following a Dunecht residents' meeting and speed checks carried out by the police, Chris has prepared a 10 page report to send to Roads department asking for a meeting to discuss how to address the speeding and anti-social driving issues being experienced in Dunecht. **Action:** Chris to copy report to members and councillors

Community Action Plans: The Echt CAP validation process (date still to be arranged) will be used to consult on possible locations for siting glass recycling bins. Ann Overton is to provide the council criteria/assessment of potential sites.

Echt B977 Street Names: Ann Overton is to provide the results of the residents consultation exercise. Reportedly, none of the respondents expressed support for naming the roads.

Flooding at Greystones: Scottish Water haven't yet rerouted the water supply pipes from the culvert.

Echt & Dunecht Playpark Improvements: Council Landscape Services will install the play equipment which is currently in storage using Scottish Government funding. They suggest that once the new equipment is in place we can reassess the remaining space and the needs of the community with regards to installing any additional play equipment using the donations received by the ESCC. ESCC would need to secure the approval of the funders to use the money for this different purpose. **Action:** Paula to consult with the funders and local residents on alternative options.

Community Resilience Plans: Each of the four hall committees (rather than ESCC) needs to apply for Council resilience monies to pay for the installation of changeover switches. Lyne of Skene and Milne Hall have submitted applications so far. Garlogie Hall committee need to agree a new constitution before they can submit an application. **Action:** George to prompt Echt Hall committee to apply.

Burnside Footpath: No update.

Proposed Dunecht Footpath: Total cost is expected to be around £100,000, including £10,000 on project planning but the majority of the budget allocated to building two bridges over the Corskie Burn. Breedon may be willing to supply aggregate, and Dunecht Estates is willing to provide a digger at no charge. An application for funding will be made to Paths4People.

Hill of Fare Proposed Wind Farm: Representatives of seven Community Councils met on 21st December, together with Hill of Fare Windfarm Information Group and a Banchory based group to discuss how to further engage with residents next year to gather opinion when and if a planning application is made. Andrew Bowie MP is planning to send letters to all constituents (similar to the Westhill pharmacy letter) inviting opinions.

New Planning Applications:

- APP/2022/2427 Installation of replacement windows (retrospective) – Kirkstane House, Glebe Land, Kirkton of Skene AB32 6XE - No comment
- APP/2022/2426 External alterations (replacement windows, install window, repoint) and Internal Alterations – Monecht House, Echt AB32 6UN - No comment
- APP/2022/2257 Erection of 25 Dwellinghouses, Associated Infrastructure, Access, Landscaping, Drainage, SUDS and Open Space - Land North Of Forbes Park, Echt – An objection will be submitted reflecting concerns about the site levels, surface run-off, drain maintenance, loss of visitor parking and overlooking/lack of screening.

Prior Planning Applications:

- APP/2022/2257 Erection of 25 Dwellinghouses, Associated Infrastructure, Access, Landscaping, Drainage, SUDS and Open Space - Land North Of Forbes Park, Echt – PENDING. A slightly revised development layout has been submitted by Kirkwood Homes but it does not fully address the issues raised by ESCC in its objection. Residents of properties adjacent to the proposed works access route are concerned about dust noise and lack of privacy from works traffic
- APP/2022/1062 Erection of 50 Dwellinghouses, Landscaping, Open Space and Associated Infrastructure Including Demolition of Farmhouse and Steading- Land To The North Of Burnland Park And South Of Straik Road Elrick Westhill AB32 6AE - PENDING.

Treasurer's Report:

No receipts or expenditure since last meeting.

Cash in Bank: £8,192.71 (£5,400 ring-fenced for Echt play-park equipment installation; £2,792.71 general ESCC funds)

Cash in hand: £39.89

Correspondence/Consultations/Upcoming Events:

- Local Development Plan– Scottish Government finally accepted the Reporter's recommendations so the new 2023 LDP was formally adopted by the Council on 13th January.

Future Meeting Dates

- 2nd March Milne Hall, Kirkton of Skene
- 20th April Garlogie Hall
- 1st June AGM Dunecht Hall