

# Echt & Skene Community Council

## Minute of Meeting held 20<sup>th</sup> April 2023 at Lyne of Skene Hall

**Attendees:** Fiona Bick, Nick Pilbeam, Chris Minchin, George Glennie, , Cllr Craig Miller, Cllr Iris Walker

**Apologies:** Niall MacBeath, Ian MacMaster, Paula Houston, Cllr Ron McKail

**Minute of last meeting:** Cllr Walker noted she had sent apologies prior to the meeting. Corrected minute to be issued.

**Police Report:** Police Report received for March-April. There were no crimes reported during the period.

### MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

**A2B Bus Service:** The scheduled bus service to Echt will cease in June due to the Council no longer subsidising it. Council Transport department will take this into account in its April review of the reduced A2B service for Echt.

**Speeding Issues in Dunecht, Echt, Garlogie, Lyne of Skene and Mason Lodge:** Meeting was held in Dunecht with Brian Strachan of Roads Department and the Police in response to residents' petition. Roads haven't agreed to make any changes as yet.

**Community Action Plans:** Kirkton of Skene CAP Steering Group has distributed survey questionnaires to 204 households and will be holding a validation event at the Milne Hall on 27<sup>th</sup> May. Echt CAP Steering Group has had two resignations from the group and needs to recruit new members, including a Chair, before the CAP process can move forward here.

**Echt B977 Street Names:** Residents objected to the proposed new street names because they don't want to change their postcodes, but Royal Mail is insisting that properties on different roads can't have the same postcode and that almost all the affected properties would therefore have to have new postcodes. This is despite the fact that existing postcode AB32 6UN already includes houses using multiple street names, and none, without problems i.e. Orchard Grove and Main Road East. Aberdeenshire Council asked residents to suggest new names for the four roads in Echt when Forbes Park Phase 1 was to be built but there was no suggestion at that time that existing properties would have to be assigned new postcodes. ESCC shares residents' views that the postcode changes are largely unnecessary but given the position taken by Royal Mail and Aberdeenshire Council will not pursue this matter further. CLOSED

**Flooding at Greystones:** Scottish Water work seems to have paused to reroute the water supply pipes away from the culvert.

**Echt Playpark Improvements:** Echt playpark works now completed by the Council. Suggestions from residents for use of grant funds received to be prioritised by Paula.

**Community Resilience Plans:** Electrician that provided the quotes is too busy to draw up plans/diagrams of the changeover switch wiring changes to satisfy Council approval requirements. The proposal will therefore not be pursued any further. A resilience meeting will be held later in the year. CLOSED

**Burnside Footpath:** No update.

**Proposed Dunecht Footpath:** Chris is hoping to get funding from Garioch Area Strategic Budget and Paths4All to carry out first stage feasibility in the next few months.

**Hill of Fare Proposed Wind Farm:** Andrew Bowie MP delivered a questionnaire to Wards 13, 15 and 16 residents (including Banchory but not Westhill) seeking their views on the wind farm. The planning application is not expected until later in the summer now, but RES has not contacted ESCC to discuss the Viewpoints for the EIA yet (which they were recommended to do by the ECU in the Scoping Opinion).

**New Planning Applications:**

- APP/2023/0176 Erection of fence – 14 Durno Park, Kirkton of Skene– No comment

**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.

**Treasurer's Report:**

Expenditure since last meeting - £10 for hall fees

Cash in Bank: £8,122.71 (£5,400 ring-fenced for Echt play-park equipment installation; £2,722.71 general ESCC funds)

Cash in hand: £39.89

Paula is seeking someone who can do the independent examination of the accounts. Cllr Miller suggested that former Cllr Alistair McKelvie might help.

**Correspondence/Consultations/Upcoming Events:**

- SEN Consultation on Proposed new Kintore to Tealing 400kV OHL 2nd May 2-7pm at Milne Hall, Kirkton of Skene

**Future Meeting Dates**

- 1<sup>st</sup> June AGM Dunecht Hall