

Echt & Skene Community Council

Minutes of AGM held 1st June 2023 at 7.30 pm at Dunecht Hall

Present: Fiona Bick (chair), Nick Pilbeam (vice-Chair), George Glennie (Secretary), Ian MacMaster, Niall McBeath, Paula Houston, Cllr Fatima Joji, 2 Dunecht residents, 5 Echt residents.

Apologies: Cllr Craig Miller, Cllr Ron McKail.

Minute of last A.G.M. Minute approved - no matters arising.

Chairman's Report:

During the past year the Community Council has found it difficult to make progress on a number of matters.

Speeding vehicles remain a matter of concern amongst residents in all of our settlements. The Police have been helpful during the past year in continuing to carry out speed checks and have also deployed Pop-Up Bob several times to deter speeders. In Dunecht, traffic levels have more than doubled in the last 4 years and almost 100% of vehicles ignore the 20 mph limit past the primary school on the A944. A petition was submitted to the Council on behalf of Dunecht residents asking for changes to the road markings, signage and road design to bring speeds down. But the Council Roads department has not so far taken any action to address the issues. Whilst budget constraints no doubt have an influence on the Council's response, it doesn't feel as if the community is being listened to.

However, we were pleased that the Council was able to secure Scottish Government funding to pay for the installation of the Echt playground equipment, which had been sitting in storage since being purchased with developer contributions two years' ago. The new equipment is now in place and being enjoyed by the village children. The grant and donations which were secured by the Community Council for this work will now be deployed on other projects within the Echt Pleasure Park, with the agreement of the funders. This is being coordinated by Paula Houston.

The new Local Development Plan was finally adopted at the end of last year. This resulted in Kirkwood Homes bringing forward another significant new housing development in Echt on the only new allocated site in our Community Council area. The Community Council's objection resulted in some minor changes to the layout and the application has been approved.

In addition, we were informed in August 2022 of a major wind farm proposal for the iconic Hill of Fare. This proposal will be determined by Scottish Ministers and not by Aberdeenshire Council. Echt & Skene and 3 other Community Councils are directly affected and have been sharing information and common approaches to eliciting the views of our constituents so that we can represent them fairly. The formal application is expected to be submitted later in 2023.

More recently, SSEN has begun consulting over yet another major development associated with Scottish Government net zero targets, in the form of a proposed new 400KV overhead electricity line from Kintore to Tealing. All of SSEN's shortlisted routes pass through our area

and I would encourage all residents to respond to the consultation before it closes on 23rd June.

We've had no new additions to the Community Council this year and very sadly, Klaus Wahle, who had been a member of the Community Council since 2013, passed away in August 2022, so we currently have three vacant positions. If any candidate wanted to put themselves forward, we can co-opt them on at any time prior to the next election in 2024.

Treasurer's Report:

Echt & Skene Community Council Accounts Year ending 31st March 2023

Reserves Statement	As at 31/3/2023			As at 31/3/2022
	Restricted	Unrestricted	Total	Total
Cash in Bank	5400.00	2722.71	8122.71	7812.92
Cash in Hand		39.89	39.89	39.89
			8162.60	7852.81

Income & Expenditure	Year ending 31/3/2023	Year ending 31/3/2022
Income		
Aberdeenshire Council Grant	1311.74	933.03
Garioch Area Committee Grant		200.00
Miss Caroline Jane Spence Fund		5000.00
Westhill and Skene Lions Club		400.00
Total Income	1311.74	6533.03
Expenditure		
Administration Costs	-160.00	-117.99
Annual Subscriptions	-55.00	-55.00
Community Projects (see Note 1)	-786.95	-395.17
Total Expenditure	-1001.95	-568.16
Overall Surplus/Deficit	309.79	5964.87
Note 1 Community Projects		
Storm Arwen	378.00	
Echt Noticeboard	300.00	
Echt Orchard Queens Green Canopy	108.95	
Total Projects Spend	786.95	

Acceptance of Accounts:

Proposed by Ian MacMaster and seconded by George Glennie. The accounts were unanimously approved.

It was agreed to buy a gift to the value of £30 for the independent Examiner of the accounts (Alastair McKelvie).

Election of Office Bearers/Co-Option of Members:

The Office Bearers for the following year were agreed as follows:

Chair	Fiona Bick
Vice-Chair	Chris Minchin
Secretary	George Glennie
Independent Treasurer	Paula Houston

A.O.C.B

No other business was raised and the meeting closed.