

Echt & Skene Community Council

Minute of Meeting held 30th November 2023 at Lyne of Skene Hall

Present: Fiona Bick (chair), Chris Minchin, Nick Pilbeam, Niall McBeath, Ian MacMaster, Paula Houston, Cllr Iris Walker, Cllr Craig Miller, Alison Cumming (Aberdeenshire Council)
4 Lyne of Skene residents, 2 Dunecht residents, 6 Echt residents.

Apologies: George Glennie (Secretary), Cllr Ron McKail

Minute of last meeting: Approved

Police Report: Police Report for November received showing three road traffic accidents. Three drivers were warned regarding their speed in Echt during a speed check on 5th November.

SSEN Kintore to Tealing 400kV OHL Proposal: SSEN announced a change of the OHL route option through the ESCC area on 30th November with letters/emails received by a number of residents. They have switched the route to run west of Dunecht Estate rather than east of the Estate, so the proposed OHL now passes W of Lyne of Skene, close W of Dunecht and close E of Echt. This has caused considerable anger, upset and alarm amongst residents under the revised route corridor. ESCC responded to the initial SSEN consultation objecting to the new OHL and suggesting 3 alternative options could be considered (offshore, upgrade of existing 275kV line and undergrounding), but SSEN has not adopted any of these. It has simply decided to move elements of the OHL scheme to slightly different locations including moving the proposed new Fiddes 400kV sub-station to be adjacent to the existing Fetteresso 275kV sub-station. SSEN is holding an online meeting for Community Councils to explain the reasons for the location changes on 5th December, which Fiona will attend. **ACTION:** Fiona will provide a summary of the main points to members and via the ESCC website. **ACTION:** ESCC to arrange a meeting after Christmas with Andrew Bowie MP and Alexander Burnett MSP to allow residents to express their views on the project and request intervention by their elected representatives.

MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Speeding Issues in Dunecht, Echt, Garlogie, Lyne of Skene and Mason Lodge: Last speed surveys in area settlements still being sought by Fiona.

Community Action Plans: A draft of the Kirkton of Skene CAP has been circulated to the Steering Group by Jackie Niven (CAP officer).

An advert to try and recruit new Echt CAP Steering Group members has been posted on the Echt noticeboard.

Echt Playpark Improvements: The new woodland path has been finished and the bench has been moved. 3000 spring bulbs have been received and some have already been planted by volunteers with the rest to follow. Gruffalo sculpture is still work in progress.

Proposed Dunecht Footpath: The £15,000 of grant funding from Garioch Area couldn't be used within the financial year and so the grant has been withdrawn in order that the funds can be deployed elsewhere. The council paths officer is still available to help move the project forward.

Hill of Fare Proposed Wind Farm: Planning application has been submitted for 16 turbines as per the revised scheme presented by RES at the second round of public exhibitions in June 2023. Fiona has received a USB stick from RES with the application documents. Hard copies are available in Banchory and Alford libraries for public viewing. ESCC members had previously voted to submit an objection to the application based on the results of the residents' opinion survey gathered at and after the public exhibitions. The deadline for public and CC representations is 12th January 2024. **ACTION:** Fiona to draft the ESCC objection for review by members.

Echt Glass Recycling point: The survey questionnaire was circulated door to door, via the residents mailing list (152 email addresses), and at some local group meeting. The results of responses received were as follows:

Echt Glass Recycling Survey Results						
		No glass recycling point	Echt School Car Park	Roadside car park near football club	Echt Hall front car park	Other suggestions
Count Individuals (59 total)	1	5	3	35	16	Former petrol station
	2	7	28	10	6	Forbes Park Phase 3
	3		12	1	6	Next to water treatment plant
	No		4	2	2	Disused bus shelter
Count Households (44 total)	1	5	2	25	12	Smaller bins in several locations
	2	5	23	8	5	
	3		10	1	5	
	No		4	1	2	
Count Individuals (59 total)	1&2	12	31	45	22	
Count Households (44 total)	1&2	10	25	33	17	
Percentage Individuals (59 total)	1	8%	5%	59%	27%	
Percentage Households (44 total)	1	11%	5%	57%	27%	

There is clear majority in favour of the bins being placed near the football club, with the front of the Echt Hall being second most popular. **ACTION:** Fiona will send the results to Ann Overton

New Planning Applications:

- APP/2023/1112 Erection of Detached Garage - Leddach House Skene Westhill AB32 6RN. No comment.
- APP/2023/2100 Alterations and Extension to Dwellinghouse and Installation of Flue - 10 Corskie Park Dunecht Westhill Aberdeenshire AB32 7AE. No comment.

Prior Planning Applications:

- APP/2023/1918 Erection of 2 Dwellinghouses - Land To The North Of Little Acre Lyne Of Skene Westhill AB32 7EP. **PENDING**
- APP/2023/1958 Erection Of 3 Dwellinghouses - Land To North Of Lyne Of Skene Westhill. **PENDING**

Treasurer's Report:

£35 paid to Information Commissioners Office since last meeting.

Cash in Bank: £8,755.71 (£5,200 ring-fenced for Echt play-park equipment installation; £3,555.71 general ESCC funds)

Correspondence/Consultations/Upcoming Events:

- Garioch Area Community Council Forum 7pm 6th December - online meeting
- Democracy Matters Consultation - Alison Cumming wanted to emphasise that the Scottish Government proposals could have a significant impact on community councils and urged members to review the consultation and respond. The deadline is late February. It was agreed to reconsider this at the next meeting.

AOCB:

- Echt residents suggested that a road sign warning of the concealed exit south of the Old Manse would be beneficial given the blind bend.

Future Meeting Dates

- 11th January Garlogie Hall
- 22nd February Dunecht Hall
- 4th April Echt Hall
- 16th May Milne Hall, Kirkton of Skene
- 27th June AGM Lyne of Skene Hall