

# Echt & Skene Community Council

## Minute of Meeting held 11<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at Garlogie Hall

**Present:** Fiona Bick (chair), Chris Minchin, George Glennie (Secretary), Nick Pilbeam, Niall McBeath, Ian MacMaster, Paula Houston, Cllr Craig Miller  
3 Dunecht residents, 10 Echt residents, 2 Garlogie residents

**Apologies:** Cllr Iris Walker, Cllr Ron McKail

**Minute of last meeting:** Approved

**Police Report:** No police report received since November.

### MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

**Speeding Issues in Dunecht, Echt, Garlogie, Lyne of Skene and Mason Lodge:** Speed surveys were last carried out in Garlogie (July 2019), Echt (March 2021), Dunecht (2022).

The results for Garlogie were 66,000 vehicles over 8 days with average speed 35mph, 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed 39.5 mph. As these are both below the 40mph speed limit, the Council didn't consider any intervention necessary. **Action:** Fiona to request Roads carry out a new survey in 2024

The results for Echt (B9119) were 9027 vehicles over 7 days with average speed 36mph and 85<sup>th</sup> percentile 42mph. Only 20.55% of vehicles speeds were within the 30mph speed limit. Even so, neither the Council nor the Police apparently consider any intervention to be necessary. **Action:** Fiona to ask Roads/Police why these figures are not considered a cause for concern/intervention

**Community Action Plans:** The draft of the Kirkton of Skene CAP is still being finalised with Jackie Niven (CAP officer).

An advert to try and recruit new Echt CAP Steering Group members has been posted on the Echt noticeboard. So far no volunteers have come forward.

**Echt Playpark Improvements:** The majority of the 3000 spring bulbs have been planted by volunteers. Only the Gruffalo sculpture is outstanding.

**Proposed Dunecht Footpath:** It appears unlikely that this project will be moving forward. **CLOSED**

**Hill of Fare Proposed Wind Farm:** The deadline for public and CC representations on the application for 16 wind turbines and a battery energy storage system has been put back to 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2024 as a result of an error in the original press advert. The ESCC objection is still being drafted and will focus on landscape and visual impacts and public access impacts. **Action:** Fiona to complete the draft for review by ESCC members

**SSEN Kintore to Tealing 400kV OHL Proposal:** A public meeting has been arranged to allow residents to raise their concerns and objections with Andrew Bowie MP on 18<sup>th</sup> January at 7.30pm in Dunecht Hall.

**Echt Glass Recycling point:** The results of the opinion survey regarding potential locations has been sent to the Garioch Area Manager, Ann Overton. A response is pending.

### New Planning Applications:

- APP/2023/2286 Erection Of Replacement Dwellinghouse - Bogentory Cottage Dunecht Westhill AB32 7EN.  
No comment

- APP/2023/1992 Change of Use, Alterations and Extension to Existing Agricultural Building (Grain Dryer) to Form Carpentry/Fabrication Workshop (Class 5) and Installation of Kiln -Site Of Old Grain Dryer Tillymannoch Dunecht AB32 7DL . 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:**

Expenditure since last meeting: £2340 paid to Keithhall Nurseries for the Echt Pleasure Park works.

Cash in Bank: £6,415.71 (£2860 ring-fenced for Echt play-park); £3,555.71 general ESCC funds)

Treasurer asked for approval to claim the cost of a black printer cartridge – expenditure approved by members

#### **Correspondence/Consultations/Upcoming Events:**

- Democracy Matters Consultation - The deadline for consultation responses is 28th February. It was agreed to discuss this at the next meeting. **Action:** Members to review the consultation material

#### **AOCB:**

- CC Insurance – Council has advised they can no longer coordinate the public liability insurance for CCs due to competition concerns, but they will reimburse the premiums as an add-on to the block grants to CCs. Policy expires on 1<sup>st</sup> April. ESCC will need to contact Zurich direct for a quote. **Action:** Paula will contact Zurich for a renewal quote.
- Mason Lodge to Kirkton of Skene Proposed Footpath – Niall met with Gordon Prentice (leader of the WECC Footpath Group) to discuss a proposal to upgrade the informal footpath along the verge of the A944 between Mason Lodge and the entrance to Kirkton of Skene Care Home to create a circular path between Westhill and KoS.
- Garlogie Woods Dog Fouling – a Garlogie resident complained about the amount of dog fouling in Garlogie woods and asked if anything could be done to reduce this. It was suggested that dog poo bins might help. **Action:** Discuss with Garioch Area Manager
- B977 Echt Roadsigns/Drains/Vegetation: Concerns were raised again about the drain design, overhanging vegetation and concealed entrances at the Old Manse bend. **Action:** Raise issues with Council Roads department

#### **Future Meeting Dates**

- 22<sup>nd</sup> February Dunecht Hall
- 4<sup>th</sup> April Echt Hall
- 16<sup>th</sup> May Milne Hall, Kirkton of Skene
- 27<sup>th</sup> June AGM Lyne of Skene Hall