

Echt & Skene Community Council

Minute of Meeting held 8th August 2024 at Garlogie Hall

Present: Fiona Bick (chair), Chris Minchin (vice-chair), Ian MacMaster, Nick Pilbeam, 4 Echt residents, 2 Dunecht residents

Apologies: Cllr Ron McKail, Cllr Fatima Joji, Cllr Craig Miller, Cllr Iris Walker, Paula Houston, Niall McBeath

Minute of last meeting: Approved.

Police Report: June and July reports were received with 3 road traffic accidents and 5 other road traffic issues being the only crimes. The police advised in answer to queries raised at the previous meeting:

- There are Guidelines issued by the Lord Advocate which include thresholds for each speed limit and when a verbal warning, Conditional Offer or Report should be considered. No two situations are the same and the Police have the power of discretion to warn instead of enforcing.
- Pavement parking is enforced by the local authority and not Police. This can be reported on Aberdeenshire Council's website. Police can and will become involved should parking be considered to be either causing an obstruction or be dangerous.
- A Report of Vandalism at Easter Skene House was reported on 07/05/2024. A Crime Report was raised and filed with no lines of enquiry or suspects identified.

Community Council Elections 2024: Nominations for election open on 19th August and close on 8th September. All of the existing ESCC members intend to stand for re-election but there are currently 4 unfilled vacancies.

MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Speeding Issues in Dunecht, Echt, Garlogie, Lyne of Skene and Mason Lodge: Garlogie will be assessed for 20mph as part of the rollout of 20 mph limits across Aberdeenshire. All new 20mph limit areas will be advertised and signposted as such, but new traffic calming road features would only be "considered" depending on subsequent traffic and driver behaviour.

Hill of Fare Proposed Wind Farm: No update.

SSEN Kintore to Tealing 400kV OHL Proposal: SSEN has booked Echt Hall for 2nd October for another public exhibition of their latest project update. A second report on consultations can be expected soon. An Echt resident informed that it's best practice to form a Community Involvement Group for large developments but SSEN have decided not to do this.

Deeside Against Pylons has compiled data on the anticipated adverse economic impacts of the proposed SSEN Kintore-Tealing OHL project on households and farming, but are looking for assistance from Community Councils to estimate the impacts on other businesses. **Action:** John Rahtz will forward a questionnaire prepared by a group in Kent to Fiona for circulation amongst other CC's along the route.

Echt Glass Recycling point: Following discussion between the Council and Dunecht Estate, the crossroads former garage site is not under consideration any longer. The Council is focused only on the football club car park but this is subject to further community engagement and a budget for improvements to the car park surface being included in next year's overall Council spending plans.

B977 South of Echt Crossroads Drains: No update.

Echt Park Remediation: No progress.

Kirkton of Skene Footpaths: The Skene Paths Group is still to hold its next meeting.

Echt Prescription Service: Porters Pharmacy in Westhill is planning a flyer drop in Echt during w/c 12th August to advertise their service and increase take-up.

New Planning Applications:

- APP/2024/1133 Alterations and change of use of building to form replacement dwellinghouse (retrospective); alterations and extension to replacement dwellinghouse and demolition of existing dwellinghouse - Moss Side House, Dunecht AB32 7EQ. No comment
- APP/2024/1092 Alterations, change of use of steadings to form 3 dwellinghouses, erection of 2 dwellinghouses and 3 garages - Mains of Skene, Lyne of Skene, AB32 7BQ. Members voted 3-1 against writing in support of this application.
- APP/2024/1059 Alterations and extension to dwellinghouse and erection of double garage - Mains of Skene, Lyne of Skene AB32 7BQ. No comment.
- APP/2024/1324 Installation of 33kV OHL & double poles - Cullerlie Estate, AB32 6XA. No comment.

Treasurer's Report:

Income since last meeting: Council grant of £1,025

Expenditure since last meeting: Scotways subscription £30, Hall rental £10

Cash in Bank: £6,773.82.82 (£2740 ring-fenced for Echt play-park; £4,033.82 general ESCC funds)

Correspondence/Consultations/Upcoming Events:

- Aberdeenshire Passenger Transport Strategy Survey – 1 September deadline
- Changes to Echt A2B Bus Service – reduction in number of journeys to Westhill on Mondays and Fridays. Slight change to timing of Banchory journeys on Thursdays.
- Survey request from a student regarding community resilience – Nick will respond to this.

AOCB:

- Broomhill Farm, Lyne of Skene - the unauthorised Waste Recycling activity appears to have now ceased at this site following the involvement of Planning Enforcement in response to a complaint from ESCC last year. The minor road leading to the site was extensively damaged last winter by the tipper lorries and other heavy traffic accessing the site, and the road was closed by the Council for 3 weeks in June for major repairs.
- We have been made aware of plans for a memorial cairn to be erected in Dunecht for Robbie Shepherd, MBE
- Nick Pilbeam will organise a meeting to refresh members about the CC resilience cabinets and plans.
- A member of the public suggested that a plaque be erected to acknowledge Lady Cowdray's 1922 donation of the Echt park to the community. Members didn't feel this would be an appropriate use of CC funds.

Future Meeting Dates

- 26th September Inaugural Meeting Dunecht Hall