

Echt & Skene Community Council

Minute of Meeting held 30th January 2025 at Lyne of Skene Hall

Present: Fiona Bick (chair), George Glennie, Niall McBeath, Nick Pilbeam, Greig Russell, Paula Houston, 3 Echt residents, 2 Dunecht residents, 2 Lyne of Skene residents, Cllr Ron McKail

Apologies: Ian MacMaster, Cllr Craig Miller

Minute of last meeting: Approved

Police Report: Report was received for December. The only incidents recorded were associated with road traffic – 4 collisions and 3 other. Two fixed penalty notices were issued for speeding in Dunecht and Echt.

MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Community Resilience: The refresh of the large display map is still ongoing (**Action:** Grieg). Niall Macbeath is still working on the specification of the portable power bank/solar panel options. (**Action:** Niall/Nick)

Nick has purchased tea lights for Milne Hall, and 3 wind-up torches (1 for Echt).

Hill of Fare Proposed Wind Farm: No update on the ECU case. HoFWIG are promoting a petition to George Pearson urging him to put a stop to the application.

SSEN Kintore to Tealing 400kV OHL Proposal: SSEN is holding a stakeholder webinar on 4th February following the publication of the latest Report on Consultations and will then be holding information events on the final project selections from 24th Feb to 13 March.

B977 South of Echt Crossroads Drains: The work is now recorded on the Council website as being a “Higher Priority Reactive Repair” but has not been committed for repair yet.

Echt Park: No progress with the mud on the path. **Action:** Fiona still to contact the Echt FC committee. Paula had a meeting arranged with Sandy Scott from Landscaping to discuss improvements to Echt’s open spaces but the meeting was cancelled due to weather and hasn’t been rescheduled yet.

Kirkton of Skene Footpaths: Fiona and Alastair Cozens have a meeting scheduled with Yvonne Lyburn of DE to discuss the way forward.

Community Log Bank: Fiona attended an online Log Bank Steering Group meeting. The storage hub is now in operation at Alford Men’s Shed, although it appears no logs have been distributed from there yet. We have two volunteers from Echt willing to collect and deliver logs. ESCC members can refer deserving clients. **Action:** Paula to follow up about deliveries to a lady that she supports.

Summer Bedding Plants: The Council has not offered to supply any plug plants so it was agreed to seek sponsors for the flower barrels in Echt and Kirkton of Skene with £20 per planter being agreed as a reasonable sum with which to buy bedding plants ESCC will collect the money. (Lyne of Skene will take care of their own funding arrangement.)

Action: Paula and Fiona to post notices asking for sponsors and directing them to email contact@echtandskenecc.co.uk for ESCC’s bank details to make payment.

New Planning Applications:

- APP/2025/0039 Change of Use, Alterations and Extension to Existing Agricultural Building (Grain Dryer) to Form Carpentry/Fabrication Workshop (Class 5) and Installation of Kiln (Amended Layout to APP/2023/1992) -Site Of Old Grain Dryer Dunecht Westhill Aberdeenshire AB32 7DL. No comment.

- APP/2024/2133 Re-render and Repairs to Part of Dwellinghouse - East Lodge Kirkton House Skene Westhill Aberdeenshire AB32 6XT. No comment.

Treasurer's Report:

No income since last meeting.

Expenditure since last meeting: Hall Rental £15, Lyne of Skene flower barrels £60

Cash in Bank: £6,635.92 (£2740 ring-fenced for Echt play-park; £3,895.92 general ESCC funds)

Correspondence/Consultations/Upcoming Events:

- SSEN East Coast 400kV OHL Upgrade Project Community Benefit Fund - 31st January 2025. It was agreed that Fiona would submit an application for the pathwork at the A944 entrance to Pitcairn Lodge
- Transport Scotland National Speed Management Review Consultation - 5th March 2025. The Scottish Government is consulting about increases to the HGV speed limits from 40mph to 50mph on single carriageways and from 50mph to 60mph on dual carriageways, but also wants to reduce the limit for cars on single carriageways from 60mph to 50mph.
- R100 Evaluation Survey - 3rd March 2025. Those without decent broadband yet might want to comment on this.
- Aberdeenshire Council CC Elections 2024 Survey - 28th February 2025. CC members should submit their suggestions to make this run more smoothly in future.
- Dundee Student Dissertation Research Project on Kintore-Tealing OHL social impacts - John Ratz and Paula will advertise this survey in Echt and on Social Media.

AOCB:

- No other items raised.
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Future Meeting Dates:

- 20th March 2025 Dunecht Hall
- 1st May 2025 Garlogie Hall
- 12th June 2025 AGM Echt Hall
- 24th July 2025 Milne Hall, Kirkton of Skene
- 4th September 2025 Lyne of Skene Hall