

Echt & Skene Community Council
Minutes of AGM held 12th June 2025 at 7.30 pm
at Echt Hall

Present: Fiona Bick (chair), Ian MacMaster, Nick Pilbeam, Greig Russell, Paula Houston, Cllr Fatima Joji, 2 Dunecht residents, 1 Echt resident, 1 Garlogie resident, 1 Kirkton of Skene resident

Apologies: George Glennie, Niall MacBeath, Cllr Iris Walker, Cllr Craig Miller, Cllr Ron McKail

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

Chairman's Report:

The first single election date for all Aberdeenshire Community Councils took place in September last year. Across Aberdeenshire, the election was successful in attracting more people to serve as community councillors, and we welcomed Greg Russell as an additional member to ESCC.

This past year has seen the continuation of community concerns about major planning proposals for a windfarm on Hill of Fare and the Kintore to Tealing overhead line.

Following objections submitted by Aberdeenshire Council, a public local inquiry is in progress to examine the planning application for the windfarm. The oral hearing sessions for this will take place in the first two weeks in September. ESCC is one of six Community Councils closest to the proposed development which are taking an active part in the process. Of the representations published on the Scottish government website, there are 87 letters of objection from our residents and 2 letters of support.

With respect to SSEN's proposed new overhead line, planning applications have been submitted to Aberdeenshire and Angus Councils for the electricity substations in Fetteresso Forest and at Tealing. These have attracted thousands of objections, but the applications haven't yet been determined. The Section 37 application for the overhead line is yet to be submitted to the Scottish Government.

The Skene Paths Group was formed a year ago following the completion of the Community Action Plan for Kirkton of Skene. The group has had limited success in its discussions with Dunecht Estate about the creation of new paths around the village and is currently trying to agree a workplan for the village football field with them.

Volunteers have again taken part in a number of litter-picking events in Lyne of Skene and Echt this past year using the Community Council's litter picking equipment. This is available for any resident to borrow. Litter from fast food outlets in Westhill comprises the majority of the litter that's been collected. It's a sad fact that too many people are happy to discard their rubbish through their car windows rather than disposing of it responsibly.

Budget cuts by Aberdeenshire Council continue to affect us. There have been further reductions in the bus services to Echt. And the Council was unable to supply CCs with summer bedding plants in 2025. Fortunately, we have managed to raise sufficient sponsorship from local residents and businesses to fund the displays in Echt and Kirkton of

Skene as normal, and we are very grateful to all of our kind sponsors, as well as to the Echt Horticultural Association for coordinating the plant purchases for the flower barrels.

Thank you also to all of our members for their time and efforts during the past year.

Treasurer's Report:

Echt & Skene Community Council Accounts Year ending 31st March 2024

Reserves Statement	As at 31/3/2025			As at 31/3/2024
	Restricted	Unrestricted	Total	Total
Cash in Bank	3340.00	3668.72	7008.72	6128.82
Cash in Hand		0.00	0.00	0.00
			7008.72	6128.82

Income & Expenditure	Year ending 31/3/2024	Year ending 31/3/2023
Income		
Aberdeenshire Council Grant	1025.00	933.16
Garioch Area Committee Grant		685.00
Resident Donations	600.00	
Total Income	1625.00	1618.16
Expenditure		
Administration Costs	(240.15)	(340.15)
Annual Subscriptions	(65.00)	(55.00)
Community Projects (see Note 1)	(440.00)	(3256.79)
Total Expenditure	(745.10)	(3651.94)
Overall Surplus/Deficit	879.90	(2033.78)
Note 1 Community Projects		
Echt Pleasure Park	120.00	
Barrel planters for Echt, LoS and KoS	320.00	
Total Projects Spend	440.00	

Paula Houston explained that the accounts had been independently examined by Steve Aitken, an Echt resident.

Approval of Accounts:

Proposed by Fiona Bick and seconded by Ian McMaster. The accounts were unanimously approved.

Amendments to Constitution:

An amendment to the constitution had been issued in advance of the meeting as follows:

The existing Clause 2.2 that reads as follows:

“2.2 To promote the well-being of the community resident within the Community Council boundaries (“the Community Council Area”) and comply with equal opportunities legislation that makes it unlawful to discriminate against persons or groups on the grounds of race, gender, gender recognition, disability, age, sexual orientation and religion or belief.”

shall be deleted and replaced with a new Clause 2.2 reading:

“2.2 To promote the well-being of the community resident within the Community Council boundaries (“the Community Council Area”) and comply with equalities legislation that makes it unlawful to discriminate directly or indirectly against persons or groups with protected characteristics.”

The amendment to the constitution was approved unanimously.

A.O.C.B

George Glennie wished to resign from his post as Secretary due to health and IT issues. Nick Pilbeam agreed to take on the role.

The meeting then closed.