

Echt & Skene Community Council

Minute of Meeting held 12th June 2025 at Echt Hall

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

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

Minute of last meeting: Approved

Police Report: A report was received for May. The only incidents recorded were associated with road traffic –one was a speeding offence on the B9119 near Echt, the other offences were driving without insurance, without MOT and having a non-conforming number plate.

In response to an email from Ron McKail regarding lorries in Echt, the Police Inspector advised residents to report incidents via the online police reporting portal, providing registration numbers of the offending vehicles.

MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Community Resilience: No progress.

Hill of Fare Proposed Wind Farm: The six CC chairs met on 6th May and 20th May to discuss next steps regarding their participation in the PLI. We have agreed the topics on which we will each speak at the Community Hearing and will share scripts to avoid repetition. ESCC will be covering the topics of public access, abnormal load routing and ornithology. Of the representations published by the ECU, 87 ESCC residents objected and only 2 supported the proposed development. HoFWIG is holding three public meetings w/c 16th June.

SSEN Kintore to Tealing 400kV OHL Proposal: submission of the Section 37 application for the OHL is delayed again to “Summer 2025”. SSEN has had to resubmit a number of documents for the Hurlie substation planning application, so there is a further opportunity for public comments to be submitted.

Barmekin Park Playpark Improvements: Paula now has a quote for the provision of a new picnic bench in the main Echt Park (£1610). The costs for the bench and planting (to be completed in the autumn) will exceed the grant monies held for Echt by circa £65. **CLOSED**

Echt Park Remediation: Following a site visit Fiona wrote to the Echt FC acknowledging that the path is not materially impaired, but pointing out that their contractor had used the gravel left-over from the Gruffalo wood path-making which belonged to ESCC and which would have been used to repair the muddy patch on the all-weather path on the N side of the pitch. Paula said the gravel had been used to improve a muddy area at the park NE entrance. It was agreed to let the matter rest. **CLOSED**

Kirkton of Skene Footpaths: A response is still awaited from Dunecht Estate to the workplan for the playing field and Bothy 57 path. A quote for the path work has been received. The Skene Paths Group will meet again on 25th June.

Summer Bedding Plants: Echt Horticultural Society were able to buy all the plants for Echt and KoS from Foxlane Garden Centre. These have now been planted up. There was a miscommunication/

misunderstanding regarding the sourcing of plants for Lyne of Skene, but the LoS Hall Committee will now pay for these. Thanks to EHS, Kenny Freeman and Dorothy Holmes for their work on the flower displays.

CLOSED

Litter Picking: In response to an email from Ron McKail, Waste Services provided a copy of the risk assessment they use for roadside litter picking by their own workers. They would have traffic controls in place for litter picking along main roads and suggested that volunteers should not attempt to pick litter along 60mph stretches. A resident reported following a Council waste lorry along the B9119 recently which had its back door open resulting in waste blowing out. **Action:** Fiona to write to waste services to ask how often they will litter pick the B9119 and B977, and to complain about the littering by the Council's own lorry.

New Planning Applications:

- APP/2025/0695 Erection of Domestic Garage (amended design to APP/2022/0803) - 2 Northbank Steading, Skene AB32 6YP. No comment
- APP/2025/0891 Installation of replacement windows - 4-8 Bridgend Cottages, Dunecht AB32 7EJ. No comment.
- APP/2025/0576 Formation of Memorial Ground with Commemorative Cairn, Walls, Interpretation Panel, Bollards and Associated Infrastructure - Land Adjacent To A944 At Dunecht. Members agreed to submit a letter of support for this application.

Treasurer's Report:

Income since last meeting: £60 received for flower barrel sponsorship

Expenditure since last meeting: £450 summer bedding plants

Cash in Bank: £6,763.72 (£2740 ring-fenced for Echt play-park; £370 ring-fenced for flower barrels; £3,653.72 general ESCC funds)

Members approved expenditure of £500 as a contribution to the Hill of Fare Windfarm Information Group to assist with their Public Inquiry costs.

Correspondence/Consultations/Upcoming Events:

AOCB:

- Garioch Area Community Council Forum Meeting 4th June - The Forum heard a presentation from the Project Officer for the new Museum of Aberdeenshire, which is proposed for Peterhead and may open in 2027. It will be located in Arbuthnot House, and owned by the Council. Capital grants have been awarded of £4 million by the National Lottery Heritage fund and £18 million by the UK Gov Levelling Up fund. The Council is prevented by legislation from charging entry fees so it hopes to fund the ongoing operating costs from hosting events, and sales in the café and gift shop. There will be rotating exhibitions and the Project Officer is keen to link up with local heritage groups. **Action:** Fiona to forward contact details for Garlogie Beam Engine Trust, Skene Heritage Group and the Cullerlie Traditional Singing Weekend to the Project Officer.
- Echt Football Club – a complaint was made about incidences of spectators at football matches in Echt being seen urinating in the Park. **Action:** Fiona to write to EFC
- Commonwealth Graves – Paula noticed damage to some flat-lying and overgrown gravestones in the South Kirkton graveyard. There are also some leaning gravestones in Echt Church graveyard. **Action:** Fiona to raise with Landscape Services

- Garlogie Speed limit – Alexander Burnett is going to write to the Council again to ask when they will look at a change to 30mph.
- Dunecht Road Markings – it was noted that the Council has finally started replacing the road markings in Dunecht which were lost when the road was re-surfaced.

Future Meeting Dates:

- 24th July 2025 Milne Hall, Kirkton of Skene
- 4th September 2025 Lyne of Skene Hall
- 16th October 2025 Garlogie Hall
- 27th November 2025 Dunecht Hall
- 8th January 2026 Echt Hall
- 19th February 2026 Milne Hall, Kirkton of Skene
- 2nd April 2026 Lyne of Skene Hall
- 14th May 2026 Garlogie Hall
- 25th June 2026 Dunecht Hall