

Echt & Skene Community Council

Minute of Meeting held 24th July 2025 at Milne Hall, Kirkton of Skene

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

Apologies: George Glennie, Cllr Ron McKail, Cllr Fatima Joji

Minute of last meeting: Approved

Police Report: A report was received for June. The only incidents recorded were associated with road traffic – two people were issued with fixed penalty notices for speeding, one person was driving without a licence, and one person was driving without a valid MOT.

Dunecht-Lyne of Skene Path: A report written by a consultant engaged by the Council was received proposing a footpath along the east side of the B977 between Dunecht and Lyne of Skene. This is very similar to a previous proposal from Klaus Wahle (former ESCC member). The consultant appears to have carried out a desktop exercise only with no detailed technical analysis or field survey of the route. In particular, the route proposed would have to slice off part of the garden of one of the houses along the roadside and is therefore infeasible.

MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Community Resilience: No progress.

Hill of Fare Proposed Wind Farm: Preparations are ongoing between HoFWIG and the 6 Community Councils. The PLI is being held at Banchory Town Hall from Tuesday 2nd September to Thursday 11th September 10am-4pm each day. CCs will be speaking at the Community Hearing on Monday 8th September 6.30-9.30pm, and also at the Conditions Hearing on 10th-11th September.

SSEN Kintore to Tealing 400kV OHL Proposal: SSEN will provide a hard copy of their Section 37 submission to ESCC. This will comprise approximately 6 boxes of documents. Echt Hall had originally been proposed as the holding location for these but Paula suggested Westhill Library might be a better location as there are staff there to help. **Action :** Fiona to contact library

Skene Paths Group: Dunecht Estate unable to get a decision from George Pearson at this time regarding spraying of the Rosebay Willowherb and other matters relating to the proposed workplan for the Bothy 57 path and playing field. A new ranger is starting in August. Fiona will have a site meeting with her later in August.

Litter Picking: In response to an email from Fiona to waste services asking how often they will litter pick the B9119 and B977, and to complain about the littering by the Council's own lorry, they advised they will speak to the waste team about closing the back of the refuse lorry in future, and will litter pick the roads outside the 30mph limit. They say they normally litter-pick twice a year and local volunteers are welcome to join them. **Action:** Fiona to advise they contact Paula Houston re volunteers.

Echt Commonwealth Graves: Landscape Services advised that the families holding title to burial plots are responsible for the safety of headstones. The Council contacts the title holders in the event there is an

unsafe stone. Headstones may be laid flat and the Historic Asset Management Team suggested allowing turf to grow over the edges to protect them. **CLOSED**

New Planning Applications:

- APP/2025/1148 Alterations and Dormers Extension to Dwellinghouse - Schoolhill Cottage Echt Westhill Aberdeenshire AB32 6XP. No comment
- APP/2025/0842 Alterations and Extension to Dwellinghouse - Ashlea View, Brae Of Letter Dunecht Westhill AB32 7EQ. No comment
- APP/2025/1175 Alterations (Internal and External) and Extension to Dwellinghouse - Easter Skene House Skene Westhill AB32 6YB. No comment
- APP/2025/1176 Alterations and Extension to Dwellinghouse - Easter Skene House Skene Westhill AB32 6YB. No comment

Treasurer's Report:

Income since last meeting:

- Transfer from ENWRF account £1.36
- Donations from 2 residents received for KoS flower barrel sponsorship £60

Expenditure since last meeting:

- Contribution to HoFWIG Legal bills £500
- Printer cartridge £13.99
- Scotways annual subscription £30
- Garlogie Hall rental £12.90
- KoS compost for flower barrels £47.48

Cash in Bank: £6,220.71 (£2740 ring-fenced for Echt play-park; £382.52 ring-fenced for flower barrels; £3,098.19 general ESCC funds)

Correspondence/Consultations/Upcoming Events:

- Aberdeenshire LDP 2029 Call for Ideas – Policy Team event being held Westhill Market 4th Oct 9am-1pm

AOCB:

- Winter Grit Bins – the Council has announced a cull of grit bins including 4 in Echt, 1 in KoS and 1 in Garlogie. Fiona and Paula have both written asking to retain the bins, even if the Council is not going to re-fill them, particularly as the Echt bins were provided by Kirkwood Homes prior to adoption of Forbes Park as a public road. The Council doesn't wish to retain the bins on the public road network if they are not to be re-filled. It was suggested the bins could be moved to private ground.
- Echt Park – The sling seat in the play area is split. Paula has notified the Council and it has been removed for the time being. Paula received an email from the Council greenspace team offering free spring bulbs. She will order 3 packs.
- Westhill Household & Recycling Centre – has been closed on some days recently due to staff shortages.
- Echt Bus Service – the 206 Stagecoach bus service between Tarland and Westhill is now stopping in Echt Mon-Fri but there is only one service each way per day.
- Garlogie Speed limit – Cllr Craig Millar offered to escalate the matter of reducing the limit from 40mph to 30mph with Roads department.
- Echt Glass Recycling – Fiona to enquire about progress.

Future Meeting Dates:

- 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