

Echt & Skene Community Council

Minute of Meeting held 4th September 2025 at Lyne of Skene Hall

Present: Fiona Bick (chair), Nick Pilbeam (Secretary), George Glennie, Greig Russell, Niall McBeath, Paula Houston, Cllr Craig Miller, Cllr Ron McKail, Cllr Fatima Joji, 2 Dunecht residents, 1 Garlogie resident, Alison Cumming (Garioch Area Officer)

Apologies: Ian MacMaster

Minute of last meeting: Approved

Police Report: No report had been received since the last meeting. No issues were raised in relation to Policing.

Skene Paths Group: Fiona had a meeting with the new Dunecht Estate ranger, Sandra Crighton, at the Kirkton of Skene football field to discuss the community's ideas for improvement. Sandra had arranged for the acre of rosebay willowherb to be cut down by the Estate on the day of the meeting, and the new forestry manager has been asked to cut down three dead/dying trees as time allows. A revised volunteer workplan is to be submitted for review by DE.

Fiona had also raised with Aberdeenshire Council the fallen oak tree which is blocking the core path along the Kirkton House drive. Landscape Services has agreed to remove it.

MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Community Resilience: Nick/Neil are going to apply to Aberdeenshire Council for funding for two 2kWh power banks costing £1100 each. The balance of cost would be borne by ESCC. Nick is still aiming to set up a meeting prior to the onset of winter.

Hill of Fare Proposed Wind Farm: 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. Fiona will represent ESCC. Residents are invited to attend to show the strength of feeling against the proposal.

SSEN Kintore to Tealing 400kV OHL Proposal: Westhill Library agreed to host a hard copy of the Section 37 application to be provided by SSEN once the application has been submitted.

Litter Picking: Paula Houston hasn't had any contact from Waste Services yet with respect to proposed dates for roadside litter picking by the Council outside Echt.

Garlogie Speed Limit Reduction: Roads replied to MSP Alexander Burnet on 4th August indicating that the proposed reduction would be put on the Infrastructure Services Committee agenda in November or January.

Winter Grit Bins: The removal of the grit bins is currently on hold.

New Planning Applications:

- APP/2025/1339 Erection of Domestic Garage - Newton Fields, Dunecht AB32 7DA. No comment
- APP/2025/1267 Erection of Dwellinghouse - Land at West Fornet, Dunecht AB32 7DA. No comment

Treasurer's Report:

Income since last meeting:

- £1,038 Admin Grant from Aberdeenshire Council

Expenditure since last meeting:

- Nil

Cash in Bank: £7,258.71 (£2740 ring-fenced for Echt play-park; £382.52 ring-fenced for flower barrels; £4,136.19 general ESCC funds)

The Council has asked for CC treasurers to separate admin costs from other expenditure in this year's accounts.

Correspondence/Consultations/Upcoming Events:

- Save Our Mearns Public Meeting re Kintore-Tealing OHL at Farm to Table, Westerton Farm Saturday 6th September 10am to 12 noon
- Aberdeenshire LDP 2029 Call for Ideas - Policy Team event Westhill Market 4th Oct 9am-1pm
- NE Convention of Community Councils 11th October Stonehaven Town Hall 11.30am – Nick Pilbeam to represent ESCC at this

AOCB:

- Echt Glass Recycling – the Council advises there is no budget to progress the locating of bins at the football club car park.
- Marr Log Bank – Midmar Men's Shed has offered to deliver logs to needy residents in our area.
- GACCF – Planning gave a presentation on the LDP "Call for Ideas". They are inviting all stakeholders including CCs to let them know what developments they'd like to see and where, or if we have proposals to revise current LDP policies we can also submit these. The deadline for comments is 31st December.
- Dunecht Road Markings – Roads say they have no plans to add any more road markings beyond the bus stops and junction markings already put down. Councillors are challenging this decision as residents want to see the centre line of the road marked as well.
- Barmekin Park Biodiversity Planting - will take place in the autumn carried out by volunteers. Paula missed the deadline to put in an order for spring bulbs

Future Meeting Dates:

- 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