

Echt & Skene Community Council

Minute of Meeting held 27th November 2025 at Dunecht Hall

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

Apologies: George Glennie, Cllr Ron McKail

Minute of last meeting: Approved

Police Report: Reports received for September & October. There were two public nuisance reports in September – vandalism to property and fly tipping. Road traffic were the only other recorded crimes including one drunk driver, one careless driving, one driver using a mobile, and two drivers found to be without MOT and insurance. No issues were raised in relation to Policing.

Skene Paths Group: No progress.

NE Scotland Convention of Community Councils: A Unified Statement has been drafted by a short life working group and circulated to all CCs. Fiona Bick will attend the next meeting on 13th December to represent ESCC in agreeing a final version of the statement.

Aberdeenshire LDP Call for Ideas: The Council has deferred the deadline for submissions until 16th March to allow time for it to create a register of all the development bids it has received and for the public to view them. Members agreed to hold off finalising the ESCC submission as a result.

MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Community Resilience: Two 2kWh power banks have now been purchased for use in the halls. And a meeting will be held at Echt Hall on 9th December at 2pm, which all ESCC members and interested members of the public are welcome to attend, to explain how to operate the power banks and the resilience response centres.

Hill of Fare Proposed Wind Farm: The reporter was seen visiting the stone circles in November when the leaves had all fallen from the trees leaving clear views of the Hill of Fare. Her report and recommendation to Scottish Ministers is still expected by 20th January 2026.

SSEN Kintore to Tealing 400kV OHL Proposal: ESCC's objection was submitted. It's understood there were more than 10,000 objections submitted in all. Angus Council also objected following a vote at a full Council meeting. However, Aberdeenshire Council did not meet to discuss the application and the Head of Planning submitted a statement of "No objection" under delegated powers despite concerns being raised by a number of councillors. ESCC members expressed their great disappointment that there had been no Councillor meeting and the views of residents had been ignored.

Litter Picking: Waste Services hasn't been seen doing any roadside litter picking yet outside Echt and hasn't contacted Paula. **CLOSED**

Garlogie Speed Limit Reduction: The Infrastructure Services Committee are expected to endorse the reduction to 30mph in January. It was observed that the Council was also taking forward proposals to reduce the limits on Old Skene Road between Kirkton of Skene and Westhill, and on the B979 at Mason Lodge to

30mph, and but ESCC had not been consulted about these proposals. **Action:** Cllr Miller to enquire about the consultation process with the Council

Winter Grit Bins: Seven grit bins are slated for removal in the ESCC area. Whilst ESCC could, in theory, adopt the bins, in practice it has no budget to pay for grit since our Council grant is given to us to cover “administrative costs” only. Any adoptions would therefore have to be funded by the communities in which they’re located:

1. Kirkton of Skene: There appears to be no desire on the part of the community to adopt the grit bin which is outside the shop.
2. Garlogie: The Garlogie Hall Committee discussed possible adoption of the grit bin located in the Garlogie Hall car park close to the entrance, but as they have their own grit bin at the back of the car park near the store they decided against adoption.
3. Echt: Paula has done a count of all the grit bins in the Forbes Phases 1 and 2 developments. There are 7 bins altogether, although the Council only recognises 4 as being theirs and plans to remove all of those. The residents will be left with 3 bins once the Council removes “their” 4. These will need to be moved off the adopted roads and thereafter the residents can decide how to use them, and be responsible for restocking. This is in hand.
4. Gas Pumping Station: This is outside the National Gas Transmission compression station near Garlogie. As such, there is no consequence for our communities if it’s removed.

ESCC members therefore agreed not to apply to apply to adopt any of the Council bins. However, members did agree to purchase a second-hand manual grit spreader from Westhill Men’s Shed for £100, to be stored with the snow blower in Dunecht, which could be filled from the grit piles left by the Council in Barmekin Park, Echt and Kirkton of Skene car park.

Vegetation Obscuring Road Signs: Dunecht Estate has agreed to cut back the vegetation obscuring the countdown signs to the 30 mph zone on the approach to Dunecht. It was noted that the flashing 20mph sign on the B9126 north of Skene School is also obscured by tree branches. **Action:** Cllr Miller to raise matter with Roads

New Planning Applications:

- APP/2025/1766 Erection of Dwellinghouse And Garage - Land At West Fonet Dunecht AB32 7DA No comment
- APP/2025/1792 Demolition of Dwellinghouse and Erection of 4 Dwellinghouses - Bluepark, Lyne Of Skene, Westhill, Aberdeenshire AB32 7EP No comment

Treasurer’s Report:

Income since last meeting:

£2000 received as SSEN Maintenance/Equipment Grant from Aberdeenshire Council for power banks

Expenditure since last meeting:

- £1798 purchase of power banks
- £13.50 hall fees
- £678 for purchase of heritage fruit trees for Barmekin Park Biodiversity scheme (from ring-fenced Echt Park grant monies
- £47 ICO registration fee

Cash in Bank: £6,702.21 (£202 ringfenced for resilience centres; £2062 ring-fenced for Echt Park; £382.52 ring-fenced for flower barrels; £4,055.69 general ESCC funds)

It was agreed to fund the grit spreader as aforementioned, and printer ink for Paula.

Correspondence/Consultations/Upcoming Events:

- Garioch Area Community Council Forum meeting is on 3rd December online.
- A petition has been circulated asking for new powers for Scottish Community Councils similar to English Parish Councils, which have their own budgets and are responsible for some local functions.
- The council has asked us to promote the Echt/Dunecht/Garlogie A2B bus service to try and improve uptake. **Action:** Greg and Paula to put up posters

AOCB:

- Paula reported that volunteers in Echt had planted around 1000 spring bulbs in Barmekin Park play area
- Echt Glass Recycling: Residents have moved the rubber mats, which previously sat under the glass recycling bins behind the Echt Tandoori, to the football club car parking area to facilitate locating bins in the new location.

Future Meeting Dates:

- 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