

# Echt & Skene Community Council

## Minute of Meeting held 19<sup>th</sup> February 2026 at Milne Hall, Kirkton of Skene

**Present:** Fiona Bick (chair), Greig Russell, Niall McBeath, Chris Minchin, Ian MacMaster, George Glennie, 2 Dunecht residents, 2 Echt residents

**Apologies:** Nick Pilbeam (Secretary), Paula Houston, Cllr Ron McKail, Cllr Craig Miller

**Minute of last meeting:** Approved

**Police Report:** No reports received for 2026 so far. Police were observed doing speed checks in Garlogie on 16<sup>th</sup> February.

**Skene Paths Group:** Work party request for litter picking on the football field has been agreed by Dunecht Estate. Volunteers are needed to litter pick when the weather is more favourable.

**NE Scotland Convention of Community Councils:** Representatives of the NESCCC are due to attend a Holyrood summit on 24<sup>th</sup> February on the call for a moratorium on renewable developments until an energy strategy is in place.

**WECC Joint Statement on Aberdeenshire Council Funding Share:** WECC issued an updated statement on 19<sup>th</sup> February for Community Councils to approve, which is more concise. **Action:** Fiona recommended ESCC respond to be added as a signatory and asked for confirmation of support for this position from members by 24<sup>th</sup> February.

**Aberdeenshire LDP Call for Ideas:** Members briefly discussed the bid sites near settlements within ESCC's boundaries. There are 2 at Echt, 2 at Lyne of Skene, 1 at Dunecht, 1 at Kirkton of Skene and 4 adjacent to Westhill. Members generally did not feel residents would support large, greenfield housing developments and didn't want to see the boundaries of Westhill creeping any further west or north (development should be directed to the south side of Westhill instead). However, it was noted that the Dunecht Parent Council was keen to maintain pupil numbers sufficient for three classes. Chris will carry out a detailed survey of opinion in Dunecht regarding future development. **Action:** Fiona to add some minor revisions to the Call for Ideas paper and submit by 16<sup>th</sup> March.

### MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

**Community Resilience: Action:** Chris to return the salt spreader to Westhill Men's Shed for a refund and identify a second snow blower for purchase before next winter.

**SEEN Kintore to Tealing 400kV OHL Proposal:** The Kintore to Tealing OHL has been referred to the DPEA for a Public Local Inquiry. It was agreed that ESCC should participate in the PLI. **Action:** Fiona to respond to DPEA by 3<sup>rd</sup> March

**Speed Limit Reductions:** Cllr Miller sent a query to Ann Overton about the consultation process for the proposed reductions to 30mph on the Old Skene Road between Kirkton of Skene and Westhill, and on the B9126 at Mason Lodge. Apparently, the requests for a reduction in speed came from Westhill & Elrick CC. Fiona has asked WECC for an explanation regarding Old Skene Road. There will be formal consultations on all proposals (including Garlogie) before any changes are implemented, and ESCC will be able to input to these.

**Vegetation Obscuring Road Signs:** Vegetation around the speed limit signs by Dunecht has been cut back by Dunecht Estate, but not near Skene School. Bus service 218 between Aberdeen and Alford, which normally serves Kirkton of Skene and Lyne of Skene, has recently been diverted onto the A944 because double decker buses were being damaged by overhanging branches on the B9126. This means that residents from Kirkton of Skene have to walk down to a temporary bus stop on the A944 and Lyne of Skene has no service at all. Roads department are apparently engaging with Dunecht Estate to arrange trimming of the trees.

### New Planning Applications:

- APP/2025/0208 Formation of private way – 75m east of Inverord Cottage. No comment

### **Treasurer's Report:**

Income since last meeting: nil

Expenditure since last meeting:

- £15 hall fees

Cash in Bank: £6,247.45 (£25.24 ringfenced for resilience centres; £1846 ring-fenced for Echt Park; £382.52 ring-fenced for flower barrels; £3,993.69 general ESCC funds)

It was agreed to fund the purchase of two flower barrels for Lyne of Skene at a cost of £60.

Members noted there is still money for plants for flower barrels left over from the fundraising carried out last year. Depending on the cost of plants this year we may ask for smaller donations of perhaps £5 per barrel this year. Echt Horticultural Society members will advise about likely costs at the next meeting.

### **Correspondence/Consultations/Upcoming Events:**

- Flood Risk Management Consultation SEPA - deadline 22nd April 2026
- Local Governance Review Webinar 25th February 6pm
- GACCF 4<sup>th</sup> March online meeting

### **AOCB:**

- With the snow and then rain, many of our local roads have significant potholes with some particularly bad ones on the B9125 outside Garlogie. Whilst recognising the Council will take time to fix them, members felt it would help to avoid damage to cars if they could be marked with traffic cones in the meantime.

### **Future Meeting Dates:**

- 9<sup>th</sup> April 2026 Garlogie Hall
- 21<sup>st</sup> May 2026 Lyne of Skene Hall
- 25<sup>th</sup> June 2026 Dunecht Hall