

Echt & Skene Community Council

Minute of Meeting held 6th August 2026 at Milne Hall, Kirkton of Skene

Present: Fiona Bick (chair), Chris Minchin (Vice Chair), Ian MacMaster, George Glennie, Paula Houston, Cllr Ron McKail, Cllr Craig Miller, 1 Garlogie resident, Robina Livingston (Kirkton of Skene resident)

Apologies: Nick Pilbeam, Niall MacBeath, Greig Russell

Minute of last meeting: Approved

Police Report: No report received for 2Q 2026 so far. Chris reported that the police are trying to track down the driver of a car seen driving recklessly fast in Dunecht.

Skene Paths Group: Dunecht Estate has given clearance for the group to replace the anti-slip surface on the sleeper bridge into the football field, but not for the proposed drainage works on the Bothy 57 path. Fiona has asked if the group could put in a French drain from the low point beside the corner of the Bothy 57 wall instead, and also for the Estate to send a tractor to cut down the rose bay willowherb again this year. **Action:** Chris to follow up with Stuart Young on these requests as well as the obscured flashing school 20mph sign on the B9126 north of Skene School.

MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Hill of Fare Wind Farm: We are still waiting for a decision by Scottish Ministers.

Community Resilience: Chris provided further documents to the Council in support of the application for funding for snow blowers, including policies for Equalities, Health & Safety and Safeguarding. We are optimistic that the application will be successful. **Action:** Chris is still to return the salt spreader to Westhill Men's Shed for a refund.

SSEN Kintore to Tealing 400kV OHL Proposal: SSEN's report on the impact of the OHL on agricultural operations was received by the DPEA in July and other parties have now had time to submit responses. The responses published so far contain a number of stinging criticisms of SSEN's design process and their assertion that the impacts on agriculture will not be significant. ESCC has opted not to participate in the hearing session on this topic, should the Reporters decide it's required.

Speed Limit Reductions: Roads department is now saying they expect to move to the consultation phase in the autumn with implementation intended by the end of March.

Vegetation Obscuring Road Signs: No action has yet been taken by the Council to address the obscured school signs. **Action:** Chris to address directly with Dunecht Estate since their land is adjacent and the trees belong to them.

Echt Pleasure Park Litter Bins: The Roads department advised that the two bins concerned are the responsibility of Landscape Services and they have passed on the request for covered bins to them.

Planning Applications:

Robina Livingston, resident of Kirkwood, Kirkton of Skene, made representations to members regarding the application from her neighbour to erect a garage between the two houses, which form part of the single Historic Scotland listing for Manse of Skene. This application was lodged in April (APP/2026/0410 & 0412 Alterations, Dormer Extension to Dwellinghouse and Erection of Garage - Kirkstane House, Glebe Land, Kirkton of Skene, Westhill, AB32 6XE) and members had previously decided not to comment on the application at their meeting on 21st April.

After some discussion, members agreed to conduct a site visit immediately after the conclusion of the meeting. The site visit was carried out by just the four community councillors present, and, following further consideration, members concluded that a representation from ESCC at this late stage in the process was not going to influence the outcome and therefore it was decided to abstain from commenting on the application.

Prior Planning Applications:

- APP/2026/0560 Internal and External Alterations - Monecht House Echt Westhill AB32 6UN **Approved**

Treasurer's Report:

Income since last meeting:

- Aberdeenshire Council Admin Grant £1045.39
- Garlogie Community Café contribution towards bedding plants £80

Expenditure since last meeting:

- Gift Token for examiner of accounts £10
- TKUP PLI mileage expenses to Fiona £103.40

Cash in Bank: £6,369.89 (£25.24 ringfenced for resilience centres; £1846 ring-fenced for Echt Park; £4,498.65 general ESCC funds)

Members agreed that the Echt Neighbourhood Watch bank account should be closed as it now has a zero balance and is unlikely to be used again.

Future Meeting Dates:

- 24th September 2026 Lyne of Skene Hall
- 29th October 2026 Garlogie Hall
- 17th December 2026 Echt Hall
- 28th January 2027 Dunecht Hall
- 11th March 2027 Milne Hall
- 22nd April 2027 Lyne of Skene Hall
- 3rd June 2027 Garlogie Hall AGM

AOCB:

- Chris represented ESCC at the official unveiling of the Robbie Shepherd Memorial Cairn in Dunecht on 31st July, which was attended by 175 people.
- A number of road closure notices have been received, including one in respect of the road from Skene School to Kirkton of Skene village. The Council Transport officer advises that buses to Lyne of Skene will operate as normal although they will be routed via the diversion on the A944. It was noted that parents park on the road at school drop-off and pick-up times (the school car park is too small to accommodate the number of cars needing to wait). **Action:** Fiona to write to Roads and ask what provision is being made for school parking during the closure.