

NEWTONHILL, MUCHALLS and CAMMACHMORE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Draft minute of the 346th meeting of Newtonhill, Muchalls and Cammachmore Community Council held in Skateraw Hall at 7.30pm on Wednesday 15th September 2021.

This was the first public meeting since lockdown. All attendees were socially distanced, wore masks and hand sanitised on entry.

PRESENT – Ms Daniels, Mrs Stephen, Mr Ewing, Mr Cruickshank, Mr Flockhart, Mr Peaker, Mr Jones, Mr Chew, Ms Ironside, Mr Connolly, PC Marc Camus, Councillors Mollison and Pike and 2 members of the public.

In Mr Morgan's absence Ms Daniels chaired the meeting.

1 – APOLOGIES – Mr Morgan, Councillor Evison

2 – NOTES on HAPPENINGS DURING AUGUST – Accepted.

3 – POLICE REPORT

PC Marc Camus gave an update on the August Police Report. There has been a slight decrease in anti-social behaviour, nine assaults, ten thefts, one dangerous driving, one careless driving, one drink/drugs driving offence. This covers the entire South Kincardine area and not just Newtonhill, Muchalls and Cammachmore.

Mr Chew enquired about the fire which occurred on the Moor before lockdown. 5 fire engines and two police cars attended. It was reported that someone had witnessed the alleged fire raisers leaving the area and the Police were informed. We have had no update in subsequent Police Reports.

PC Camus has made enquiries and has now responded. According to the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service they could not pinpoint where the fire had started nor whether it had been started deliberately. "For a Crime File to be raised there needs to be a complainer and property damage. No-one made a complaint."

Complaint raised about difficulties in visibility when three school double deck buses park nose to tail outside the Church in the morning. Noted by Police who will contact Stagecoach to see what can be done

Query raised re legality of an invalidity scooter being driven on the dual carriageway. If anyone witnesses this, please report to Police who will have a word with the owner.

4 – VILLAGE ENTRY SIGNPOSTS

Danny Connolly gave a resume of the project so far. Firm designs are needed. Proposed "wall" at Newtonhill 3m x 1.5m. At the moment we have no Community Councillors from Cammachmore so don't really know what their thoughts are. Costs for a dry stone dyker and Robertsons come to £2,129 per stone. Mr Connolly agreed to be co-opted on to Community Council and take the lead in dealing with this project. He will make applications for funding and Community Council will back him as the constituted body and deal with the funding similar to the procedure for the Phoenix Project. He will submit an application to Meikle Carewe. Mr Jones informed members there is still money left after the Isabella Project. He is to find out if this could be used for the village stones. Kincardine and Mearns Area Committee also has a budget which he could apply to for match funding. Barratts may be prepared to supply some materials free of charge.

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5 – POTHOLES

So far plenty potholes have been highlighted in fluorescent yellow in Portlethen, Newtonhill and Muchalls. However, there are still some very big ones that have been omitted. The Council had intended that work was to be carried out from mid-October. Unfortunately, there were only two responses to tenders and these were far in excess of Aberdeenshire Council's estimate/budget. The Council will now try to deal with a local contractor having altered the dates for the work to be undertaken. As yet, we have no information regarding when repairs will be carried out.

Mr Flockhart registered his disappointment at updates or rather lack of updates from Aberdeenshire Council on the matter. Prior to COVID Mr Flockhart had checked for updates on pothole repairs and had provided photographs of all potholes in the area. He subsequently raised the matter of pothole repairs at Community Council Forums in March and June. Still no update. Eventually at the end of August he was informed the work had gone out to tender and repairs would start in Stonehaven followed by Portlethen, Newtonhill and Muchalls. Mr Flockhart queried why we should have to chase Aberdeenshire Council for updates. We can only hope that in the future we are kept updated. Councillor Mollison pointed out that in the Roads Department there is a shortage of staff – staff are down-hearted and leaving, there is difficulty in recruiting new staff, staff being seconded to other departments eg bin collection. One piece of good news, however, Old Mill Road will be repaired.

6 – PLANNING

- (1) No local issues.
- (2) Local Development Plan – This is updated every five years. There are two controversial sites in our area. Issue 044, south of the current Barratts Development where a developer is requesting permission for a further 120 houses. In Muchalls, Gladman Developments (agents to the Aberdeen Endowments Trust) is requesting permission to build 50 houses (issue 047). Both of these bids were rejected by Aberdeenshire Council in the Local Development Plan. They have now gone to appeal as part of the normal LDP process. A team of Reporters has been appointed to deal with unresolved issues, as they are known. They may visit the sites, ask for more information, eg where would access from the A92 to OP3 be sited. Aberdeenshire Council has been asked to provide further information on how they decide how many more houses are needed. A number of developers have suggested the number of houses required is twice the number Aberdeenshire Council says. Questions have been asked about Chapelton in regard to a proposed Travellers' site, which may be built after the 1745th house has been built. We need to monitor the situation as the Council's LDP newsletter for September now refers to the potential site as being in Chapelton/Newtonhill. Councillor Mollison noted that once the unresolved issues have been decided upon, the Reporter's decision is final and the Council has no right of appeal. The Reporters are due to complete their review process next February.
- (3) Local Place Plan– Mr Morgan has already circulated a draft to Community Councillors. It takes approx. 2 years to complete and details what people's priorities are, what they would and would not like to see happen in our area.

7 – POSSIBILITIES of WORKING with PORTLETHEN ACADEMY

A new unit is being set up for senior pupils to work with the Community. Could the Newtonhill, Muchalls and Cammachmore Community Council logo be redesigned as part of this? Would a couple of pupils like to join the Community Council or attend a meeting to see how a Community Council works? Perhaps someone could come up with a design for the village stones? Could pupils

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be involved with the Locality Plan? What do younger members of the Community want in the future? It was decided that the next step should be to invite the group leader to attend a Community Council to discuss possibilities.

8 – POSSIBLE DONATION to SKATERAW HALL

As Community Council funds are in a reasonably healthy state, it was decided to give donations of £250 to both Skateraw Hall and Muchalls Village Hall. The Skateraw Hall committee is raising funds to purchase the Skateraw Hall. It was suggested they apply to the Area Committee Budget for funding.

9 – NESTRANS

Following a recent article in the NEWSEY regarding the possibility of a station being re-opened in Newtonhill, there have been several comments on Facebook – some in favour, some against. It is not up to Community Council to make the decision. NESTRANS is to conduct a feasibility study. At the NESTRANS board meeting on the 15th September 2021, it was announced that an Aberdeen to Laurencekirk transport survey will seek views from Community Councils and the public. We will need to access the survey and then publish it to as many people as possible for comments. It was suggested we invite someone from NESTRANS to attend a Community Council meeting.

10 – CORRESPONDENCE

- (1) Survey Historic Environment and Heritage of the Region – https://engage.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/archaeology/suevey_tools/aberdeenshire-historic-environment-survey Survey open till 30th September 2021
- (2) Aberdeenshire LDP Newsletter – September 2021
- (3) Community Council Forum meeting due to be held on 13th September has been cancelled.
- (4) Queen’s Platinum Jubilee – <https://www.queensjubileebeacons.com/>
- (5) Community Council Briefing from Bruce Stewart
- (6) Local Food Strategy Consultation – <https://www.gov.scot/isbn/9781802012392> and <https://consult.gov.sct/agriculture-and-rural-economy/local-food-for-everyone>
- (7) Aberdeenshire Household Recycling Centres- Aberdeenshire Council is looking at improving the customer service experience. Would anyone be interested in being involved in an online workshop to follow the customer experience in using the recycling centre?

11 – AOCB

- (1) Broadband is being upgraded in Portlethen and Newtonhill. No mention of Muchalls.
- (2) Three paths in our area have been repaired. However, there are problems with the bit from Monduff Road to the Pheppie Burn making it difficult to cycle. This has been reported to Aberdeenshire Council.
- (3) There are now several shops open in the portacabins at Chapelton including a gents’ hairdresser, deli, greengrocer and gift shops.
- (4) NEOS Art Exhibition 11th to 19th September 2021 - 2 local artists taking part – Eilidh MacAskill and Rosy Long 8 artists are exhibiting at the Corbie Hall.
- (5) There will be no green waste collection at the Bettridge Centre on 25th September 2021.
- (6) Mr Flockhart attended the Chapelton Liaison meeting in March. House sales have taken off. A school is due to be built once the 489th house is completed. Only one property in

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the retirement village is occupied. The next meeting will be held on the 25th November 2021.

- (7) The bushes at the flyover at TESCO have been cut back and the steps cleaned.
- (8) There is a big to let sign at the ex-Barratts sales office on the A92. Is planning permission needed
- (9) Concerns were raised about flags being flown on the flyover at weekends. This was considered to be a safety hazard much like the school buses and mobility scooter on the dual carriageway. Councillor Mollison has contacted the Local Police and suggested Community Council might do the same.
- (10) Councillor Pike commented how good it was to be meeting face to face again
- (11) Update on landslip on Murray Road – Nothing will be done on site this year, but specialists are considering the problem
- (12) 2 carved bears have appeared guarding a bench at the Bettridge Centre.

Councillor Mollison proposed a vote of thanks to the Chair.