

NEWTONHILL, MUCHALLS and CAMMACHMORE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Draft minute of the 348th meeting of Newtonhill, Muchalls and Cammachmore Community Council held in Skateraw Hall at 7.30pm on Wednesday 17th November 2021.

Once again, we requested that in line with COVID regulations attendees wear a mask, socially distance and sanitise hands on entering. Hopefully everyone made sure to wrap up well as we needed to get as much ventilation as possible

PRESENT – Miss Daniels, Mrs Stephen, Mr Peaker, Mr Chew, Mr Jones, Mr Connolly, Mr Ewing, Councillors Evison, Mollison and Pike, PCs Camus and Townhill and 4 members of the public.

Once again Miss Daniels took the Chair in Mr Morgan's absence.

- 1 APOLOGIES – Mr Morgan, Mr Flockhart, Mr Cruickshank
- 2 MINUTE of 347th MEETING – Approved.
- 3 POLICE REPORT – (a) Police Report for Kincardine and Mearns for 1 to 31 October 2021 has been received and forwarded to Community Councillors. There has been a slight decrease in anti-social behaviour calls with 48 incidents reported, 6 assault reports, 4 thefts, one dangerous driving, 3 careless driving. Police Scotland are encouraging cyclists to ensure bikes are fit for purpose esp lights, (b) As from early 2022 the Age of Criminal Responsibility will rise from 8 to 12. Police Scotland has received reports of criminals targeting victims via messaging and social media applications, (d) We have received a copy of the response PC Camus received re Flags on Bridges
- 4 MATTERS ARISING
 - (1) Councillor Mollison has contacted Aberdeenshire Council and has received a response from Brian Strachan, Roads Services Kincardine and Mearns Area Manager re (a) potholes (see later), (b) missing lamp post at Muchalls (low priority so will only be taken forward for replacement once the Council has resources which will not be for some time and definitely not this calendar year), (c) LED lights in Park Place (the respondent was unsure why these have been missed but will raise the issue with street lighting team asking that they action the replacement of the remaining lights), (d) weeds on pavements in West Cammachmore (the weed spraying for this year is complete; action will be taken in the Spring next year by way of seed spraying and/or some form of mechanical intervention to bring the footpath back to a suitable standard).
 - (2) Missing buses in Newtonhill – Stagecoach Bluebird cannot make large scale changes at the moment due to being in receipt of a COVID grant from the Scottish Government to keep buses running during the pandemic. There are no plans to change the style of the X7 buses at the moment.
 - (3) Tennis courts – Document re tennis courts has been sent to Emma Storey. Could this be funded by Developer Obligations (very unlikely) or match funding from Aberdeenshire Council? The provision of an artificial surface multi-games pitch is being considered for Newtonhill Primary School.
 - (4) Knocked down sign and rubble at TESCO – Mr Morgan has reported online to the Roads Department.
 - (5) Mr Morgan has written to Aberdeen City Council requesting they provide a non-slip surface to the wooden decking at the relocated stops in Union Street when alighting buses in Aberdeen. Aberdeen City Council has started removing some street furniture.
 - (6) Dropped kerbs – Six locations have been identified – all on Old Mill Road – on the corner opposite the phone box, at the kerb just below the line of lock up garages, at the corner of both roads going down to the Courts. The Council's Road Services Department will need to assess this

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in conjunction with Aberdeenshire South Access Panel to assess if this work is considered essential. There are some funds available.

- (7) School buses – As from Monday 8th November 2021 pupils will only be picked up/dropped off at designated stops westbound stop on Newtonhill Road at St Crispin's Road, Park Place, Skateraw Road/Hillhead Road. Buses are now more spaced out with some bearing the sign 'Beware Children Crossing.' This should make things safer for drivers and pupils.
 - (8) Portlethen Medical Centre – were contacted urging the resumption/increasing the availability of in person appointments. They say they are slowly getting back to face to face meetings, but some people prefer telephone consultations so these will also continue.
- 5 VILLAGE ENTRY SIGNS and the PHOENIX PROJECT – VILLAGE SIGNS – Barratts are still on board and there may be some funding. No update from Meikle Carewe Wind Farm Fund. PHOENIX PROJECT – Nearing the end of the financial term for funds to be spent, an extension is to be requested. Still waiting for draft maps for 5 walks from cartographer. Signs will then be put up. There will also be photo and art competitions.
 - 6 POTHOLES – Hunter Construction (Aberdeen) Ltd has been awarded the contract for pothole repairs in Portlethen, Newtonhill and Muchalls. Patching involves cutting out an area greater than the hole and reinstating with at least 2 layers of tar. Work will possibly start in Newtonhill in 3 weeks' time, weather permitting. We have received a list of streets where work is to be carried out. Any complaints re roads can be reported at Kincardineandmearns.roads@aberdeenshire.gov.uk
 - 7 PLANNING – (1) Report on Local Development Plan expected in February, (2) Copy of Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan 2022 Draft Planning Advice – Developer Obligations and Affordable Housing. A lengthy discussion followed re Developer Obligations. It would appear money will go to the Bettridge Centre and possibly all-weather pitch/pitches at Portlethen. Tim Stephen, service manager with Live Life Aberdeenshire is to be invited to a meeting to clarify the situation, as it was felt that the funds should be used in the Newtonhill, Muchalls and Cammachmore Community Council district (3) Installation of 17m Streetpole Including Antennas, Dishes and Cabinets and Ancillary Development on Land to the Rear of the Bettridge Centre Coastal Car Park Newtonhill. Mr Morgan has contacted Mr Parker, Harlequin, raising our concerns including the impact on the health of employees and users of the Bettridge Centre, esp young children. Mr Morgan has received a response from Mr Parker stating there are no problems with safety. Mr Morgan has put a link to the planning application on Facebook. Any objections should reflect any changes to signal. The mast stands on a piece of land not zoned for development in the current or proposed Local Development Plan. The land appears to be owned by the Council, but was previously gifted to the Village. Closing date for submissions is 24th November 2021.
 - 8 POSSIBILITIES of WORKING with PORTLETHEN ACADEMY – Mr Morgan sent an outline of the Community Council logo project and questionnaire project that could feed into our Local Place Plan to Jess Copner, Principal Teacher at Portlethen Academy on 4th October 2021. Still waiting to hear back if these ideas have been adopted as part of the Personal Development course.
 - 9 NESTRANS and A90 UNDERPASS from NEWTONHILL to CAMMACHMORE – Scottish Ministers have approved NESTRANS Regional Strategy 2040. Proposal to decarbonise railways by 2035. This could be by battery, hydrogen or the electrification of lines. Muchalls bridges have been checked for height clearance. Work may need to be carried out on either the bridge or the track. UNDERPASS – two Newtonhill residents interested in being involved in the potential reopening of the underpass

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esp now that Cammies is reopening. Mr Morgan has posted Community Council documents on Facebook and Councillor Pike has also forwarded them to NESTRANS in the hope they will adopt the project and move it forward.

10 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

- (1) Aberdeenshire Council – Winter Road Maintenance Briefing
- (2) Boundary Commission – The Boundary Commission for Scotland is conducting a consultation on proposals for new UK Parliamentary Constituency Boundaries in Scotland. The consultation runs until 8th December 2021. The Commission’s recommendation is 57 constituencies, 2 fewer than at present – www.bcs2023review.com
- (3) Community Council Forum, 16th November 2021 via Zoom – Mr Flockhart and Mr Morgan attended. Brian Strachan, Roads and Landscape Services Manager, attended. Some points raised – Old Mill Road, anti-skid at TESCO crossing needs to be addressed, lack of communication and response from the Roads Department to emails, overhanging trees can be reported on Aberdeenshire Council portal.
- (4) Accounts Commission November 2021 – www.audit-scotland.gov.uk
- (5) Investing in Communities Fund should open in spring next year. Webinars will be held on Tuesday 30th November 2021, 10.30 – 11.30 and Wednesday 8th December 2021, 14.00 to 15.00.
- (6) Statement from Aberdeenshire Council re holding meetings – one metre distance, use face masks, make sure to sanitise hands, disinfect tables and chairs before and after use, make sure there is plenty ventilation.

11 AOCB

- (1) Newsey – An article has been submitted to the Newsey
- (2) Consultation on Flood Risk Management Plans and Local Flood Risk Management Plans. – Mr Morgan has contacted SEPA detailing flooding issues in our area asking that Newtonhill, Muchalls, Cammachmore and Chapelton be considered as a ‘potentially vulnerable area’. This would require SEPA to create a Local Flood Risk Management Plan for the area.
- (3) GoFibre - Several residents have been approached on their doorsteps re fibre broadband. This has been raised with the relevant authorities. Need to investigate more about upgrading to fibre broadband. It would appear work is being carried out at East Cammachmore.
- (4) Nextdoor Newtonhill, Muchalls and Cammachmore - Causing concerns to several residents. Recommended if not interested, then just bin.
- (5) Cliff Path at Muchalls – Aberdeenshire Council have inspected the path. Repairs are still being carried out by the owner of adjacent property. Concerns were raised as the path is not stabilising as had been hoped. At one point the edge of the path is only 2 metres away from adjoining boundary walls. No repairs will be carried out by Aberdeenshire Council before the new financial year.
- (6) December meeting – It was decided as per usual there will be no Community Council meeting in December.
- (7) Finance update – Report from Mr Ewing – Cheque has been signed to cover the costs of web and domain name for Newtonhill and Beyond. Money in bank £1444. Rent needs paid (£14 per meeting) and donation to the Newsey - £100?
- (8) Request for funding from Portlethen Larder – food drive, supermarket voucher, online shop, cash payment into bank account. Should Stonehaven Haven also be considered? Donations of £100 to be given to both the Porty Larder and Stonehaven Haven. Porty Larder are to be advised that if they were to become a registered charity then they could possibly receive more funding.

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- (9) Muchalls phone box – The phone has been removed from the phone box, but Muchalls Village Association has been given special dispensation to adopt the box for use as library/book exchange. This has been very successful during lockdown esp as the mobile library no longer visits Muchalls.
- (10) Green waste collection – Letter of appreciation be sent congratulating the binmen for being so pleasant and helpful.
- (11) BIG Halls Tour – KDP would like to visit all halls to see what help can be given to improve, advertise, meet the needs of communities.
- (12) A member of the public raised the problem of speeding on Newtonhill Road and the crossings at TESCO. According to the Head of Transport there are no grounds for concern as not enough incidents have been reported. Could a speed sign be erected? Letter to be written to Ewan Wallace, Head of Transport, with copy to PC Camus.
- (13) Damage has occurred to one of the pieces of play equipment at the playpark at the Courts. Aberdeenshire Council has fenced it off. If irreparable, it will be removed but they have no duty to replace it. It was reported the Scottish Government are to release funds for the upgrading of playparks.
- (14) A member from Portlethen Rotary Club was in attendance.
- (15) A member of the public enquired where residents can find local information – Facebook, CC website, NVA website, Councillor Mollison's Facebook page to name but a few.
- (16) Newtonhill Library – There are structural problems with the library and no indication when it might reopen. Could the library be housed in the School or the Bettridge Centre?
- (17) Defibrillator – Newtonhill Football Club are to instal a portable defib in the Newtonhill Bowling Club building. This should be registered with the Police. Could they claim match funding from Aberdeenshire Council?

The meeting finished at 9.10pm.

Wishing everyone a very Happy Christmas and all the best for 2022.

Hope to see you all in the Skateraw Hall at 7.30pm on Wednesday 19th January 2022.