

NEWTONHILL, MUCHALLS & CAMMACHMORE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

The 350th meeting of Newtonhill, Muchalls and Cammachmore Community Council was held online via Microsoft Teams, at 7.30pm on Wednesday 16th February 2022.

The meeting was limited to one hour.

PRESENT – Mr Morgan (Chair), Miss Daniels, Mrs Stephen, Mr Flockhart, Mr Peaker, Mr Jones, Mr Chew, Mr Ewing, Councillors Evison, Mollison and Pike, Tim Stephen (Service Manager – Operations – Live Life Aberdeenshire), Sarah Chew (Chair, Friends of Newtonhill), Clare Simpson (Vice-Chair, FON), PC Camus, Mel Sullivan, and two members of the public.

Mr Morgan welcomed all to the meeting.

1 – APOLOGIES - Mr Cruickshank

2 - MINUTE 349 – Approved.

3 - POLICE REPORT – Written report for Kincardine and Mearns Area for 1st to 31st January 2022 submitted and forwarded to Community Councillors. Increase in anti-social behaviour calls – 66 with 13 being youth specific; 8 assaults; 7 thefts; a caravan and quad bike have also been stolen; 3 drink driving; one dangerous driving; 3 drug search warrants executed each with positive results. PC Camus urged members of the public to contact the Police if they see anything they consider suspicious. This can all be done anonymously. The sooner information is gathered, the sooner a warrant can be executed. Mr Morgan thanked PC Camus for attending.

4 - TIM STEPHEN, Live Life Aberdeen. – Mr Morgan welcome Mr Stephen who gave an update on several matters - (4.1) Developer Obligations and Newtonhill tennis courts. There is currently £10,000 Developer Obligations money to be spent on sports facilities for Newtonhill. Developer Obligations cannot be spent on repairs. Landscape Services are responsible for maintenance and repairs, rather than Live-Life Aberdeenshire. A new fence could be erected, new posts for tennis and netball and new lines painted for around £10,000. This would bring the courts up to a reasonable playing standard. Change of surfacing could be paid for by Developer Obligations.

Friends of Newtonhill Primary School are hoping Developer Obligations might fund additional sports and recreational improvements to the school playground. Developer Obligation money could be used for this provided it is a shared community facility. At the moment children have to travel to Portlethen or Muchalls for football training.

Miss Daniels requested that Developer Obligations be spent in the Newtonhill, Muchalls and Cammachmore Community Council Area. Muchalls football pitch is well used by Newtonhill, and both the pitch and goalposts are in much need of care and attention.

(8) Library provision in Newtonhill. The current library building was installed as a temporary measure in 1996 and is now well past its sell by date. It is due to be removed and will not be replaced. It is hoped to continue a library service, possibly click and collect or doorstep delivery. In the meantime, discussions are ongoing to see if the library could be sited in the Bettridge Centre.

Concerns were raised re lack of opening times for libraries in general – very little evening opening and not much browsing time suitable for older persons and children. Not all older persons want or have the facilities to order books online and not all children have access to books at home.

5 - MATTERS ARISING

(1)(9) Bin collection – Proposed changes to bin collection were approved by Aberdeenshire Councillors.

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(2)(10.1) Coastal Communities Fund – Aberdeenshire Council is hoping to visit the cliff path at Muchalls once the worst of the winter weather is passed – possibly March. They want to assess whether any stabilising of the path is taking place and then will make a decision on what to do next.

(3)(10.12) Community Council Forum - Minute of previous meeting and agenda received for meeting on February 7th 2022.

(4)((11.4) Drainage work in Muchalls – After storms Malik and Corrie work came to a stop. However, work has restarted this week and is still continuing. Unfortunately, the path towards the dump is in quite a mess as lorries and diggers have been down. Hopefully, might improve a bit once the weather dries out.

(5)(11.13) Football coaches. – MR MORGAN has written to Police Scotland re football buses stopping at bus stops on the A92 for comfort breaks and dropping off cans and bottles.

6 - POTHOLES – Aberdeenshire Council proposed resurfacing Old Mill Road, reapplication of high friction surfacing at Newtonhill Road zebra crossing and at TESCO roundabout, carriageway patching for Portlethen, Newtonhill and Muchalls in the 2021/2022 financial year.

However, Caledonia Water Alliance is carrying out repairs to the water main in Newtonhill Road. Delays in CWA works have had a knock-on effect and it is unlikely any work will be carried out until CWA is offsite.

“On a positive note.” the plan for the next financial year is to prepare a patching contract solely for Newtonhill, thereby allowing repair of more defects than would have been able through the current contract. They can now realign the budget and do more repairs in Portlethen and Muchalls.

Proposed works will be marked out, documents for contract prepared so that the work in Newtonhill can go out to tender at the beginning of the new financial year. Hopefully, work will start in May.

In the meantime, a specialised contractor is ready to carry out high friction work once works on Newtonhill Road are complete.

Regarding the resurfacing of Old Mill Road, an increase in budget in the next financial year could mean extending the resurfacing scheme to include the junction of Elsie Place and Park Place.

Pothole repairs in Muchalls began on Thursday 10th February 2022. Not sure if all potholes will be filled in “depends how far the pennies will stretch”. Three major potholes were repaired but there are still several big ones needing repaired. Hopefully, these will be repaired in the near future.

7 - VILLAGE STONES – MR CONNOLLY is in the process of applying for a grant from Kincardine and Mearns Area Committee. A meeting is to be held with the builder, Robertsons, and Mr Connolly (hopefully end of February) to see samples of granite containing metal dowels fixed to the rear of the sample. Newtonhill Primary School has been approached in the hope that pupils will provide the ‘artwork’ for the wall.

8 – PLANNING - Nothing

9 - ROAD WORK in NEWTONHILL – Update on Newtonhill Road – 9th February 2022 – move to Phase 2. Closure of St Crispin’s Road junction with Newtonhill Road. The bus stops close to the playpark will be out of use during this phase.

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Bus services – A meeting was held in Newtonhill and included representatives from Stagecoach Bluebird, Caledonia Water and Aberdeenshire Council regarding Phase 4. Only emergency vehicles travelling from Aberdeen will have access through the A92 slip road closure. The old bus stop outside TESCO on the A92 slip road south from Newtonhill to Stonehaven will be re-instated for the X7 and 7B services. The 7B from Aberdeen will be diverted to Stonehaven before entering Newtonhill from the northbound carriageway of the A92.

School buses to Portlethen Academy will go into Newtonhill but in the afternoon will have to follow the diversion to Stonehaven.

Could Phase 4 work be carried out during the first two weeks of April to coincide with school holidays?

Work appears to be progressing well.

10 - CORRESPONDENCE

1 – Reminder - update of Aberdeen Airport's airspace change proposal – www.aberdeenairport.com/airspace/

2 – Aberdeenshire Council Roads Department – Winter Roads Maintenance Briefing

3 – Update for Community Councils from Andrew Bowie, MP – Forwarded to Community Councillors

4 – Aberdeenshire Council Digital Engagement Team created to support NE residents, businesses and communities obtain better Broadband. Letter from Jack Rigby introducing the Team. Further information – <https://aberdeenshire.gov.uk/business/support-and-advice/communities/Digital-Connectivity/>

5 - Paul Davidson – Delegated powers increase proposal – Forwarded to Community Councillors

6 – Invercarron Resource Centre -There is a proposal that the Centre will cease to operate as it does and will become a long-term Vaccination Centre/Clinic. The Area Committee turned down the proposal to spend £75,000 needed for the Centre to be used as a Vaccination Centre/Clinic. An alternative or re-think will be needed before the end of the financial year. This may go before the Communities Committee (Aberdeenshire wide). If no Vaccination Centre can be set up in Stonehaven, residents of Stonehaven and surroundings will either have to go to clinics in Aberdeen or Banchory.

7 - Talking Halls Event – Saturday 12th March 2-4pm, Luthermuir Hall; Thursday 17th March 2-4pm, Cookney Hall; Wednesday 23rd March 7-9pm online

8 – 7th to 21st February 2022 – Voting open on how to spend £1.8 million on sporting/recreational facilities in Stonehaven <https://bit.ly/33ZVcFV>

9 – News release from Scottish Water - Gradually returning to normal after storms Malik and Corrie

10 - Stonehaven Rugby Club is seeking support for the building of a new rugby pitch and associated facilities in Stonehaven. This would appear to be quite a controversial matter and we would need more information.

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11 – Temporary restriction of traffic on Newtonhill Road (No 10 to No 39) from 9th February 2022 for 9 ½ weeks

12 – The Highway Code – Changes you need to know –

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/the-highway-code-8-changes-you-need-to-know-from-29-january-2022>

13 – National Litter and Flytipping Strategy Consultation –

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/national-litter-flytipping-consultation/>

14 – Community Planning E-bulletin 24

15 – Invitation to a briefing session about Airspace Changes –

<https://aberdeenairport.consultationonline.co.uk/register-for-workshop/> Deadline for registration 11th March 2022

11 - AOCB

1 – An article has been submitted to the Newsey.

2 – MR MORGAN has written to Emma Storey regarding a power outage at Newtonhill Primary School and several houses in Newtonhill. These are supplied by an overhead cable from Cammachmore. Could these houses and school be supplied by an underground cable? Perhaps Aberdeenshire Council could make this suggestion to SSE.

3 - MR MORGAN wrote to Paul Macari, Head of Planning, re burst water main on Sunday 30th January 2022. Several Newtonhill residents were left with no water from 8am to 7pm. Some houses in Muchalls didn't go back on till 10pm.

4 – The Queen's Platinum Jubilee

(1) Beacons – Saturday 4th June – Cairn o Mount, Scolty Hill. Do we have anywhere suitable? The 1953 Coronation Beacon was on the Moor between Newtonhill and Muchalls Is Cranhill a possibility?

(2) The Queen's Green Canopy – Have we anywhere to plant a tree or trees?

(3) The Big Jubilee Lunch or Tea Party – Sunday 5th June 2022

The Lieutenancies of Kincardineshire, Banffshire and Aberdeenshire are relaunching a drive to create a coastal path from St Cyrus to Cullen (the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Coastal Footpath).

5 – Update on Murray Road landslip – There are several potential solutions. In the meantime, the services of specialised geotechnical engineering consultants are being sought to investigate and prepare a design depending on the preferred option.

6 – Proposed changes to National Planning Framework 4 were discussed at the Community Council Forum. MR MORGAN will forward his comments to Community Councillors before submitting to the Scottish Government.

7 – Potholes continued – Temporary repairs have been carried out to Old Mill Road. Complaints re the surfacing on Elsie Place. Mr Morgan, Mr Flockhart and Mrs Stephen are to form a sub-group to see if anything can be done to speed up road repairs. Mr Flockhart pointed out that there are now more buses travelling round Newtonhill so any damage/potholes will be made worse much more quickly.

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8 – The Phoenix Fund – Signage for the Isabella – Draft walks have been received, checked and returned to the cartographers. There will be 5 different walks each with different coloured discs. Information will be found on the Newtonhill and Beyond website. The plinth and information plaque for the Isabella have now arrived and should soon be in position.

9 - Stonehaven Rugby Club continued – This is a very successful club with approx. 400 children attending. It was agreed to invite a representative from the Rugby Club to our next meeting. Unfortunately, Mr Jones will not make the next meeting so Mr Peaker will liaise with the Club.

!0 – Councillor Pike reiterated the need for members of the public to get involved in stressing the need for library provision in Newtonhill. He also raised a query that if the library were to relocate to the Bettridge Centre, even temporarily, would it be run by staff from the Bettridge Centre or designated library staff.

11 – Barratts are in the process of resurfacing the path to the allotments and the Moor.

12 – A Muchalls resident has asked if Community Council could contact British Telecom re low hanging telephone cables. Mr Morgan does not think this is within our remit.

The date of the next meeting will be Wednesday 16th March 2022 and will be held in the Skateraw Hall.