

## NEWTONHILL, MUCHALLS and CAMMACHMORE COMMUNITY COUNCIL.

The 351<sup>st</sup> meeting of Newtonhill, Muchalls and Cammachmore Community Council was held in the Skateraw Hall, Newtonhill at 7.30pm on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2022.

PRESENT – Mrs Stephen, Miss Daniels (Chair), Mr Chew, Mr Ewing, Mr Flockhart, Mr Peaker, Mr Connolly, Councillor Pike, 2 members of the public and Alan Ventners (Stonehaven Rugby Club)

1 – In Mr Morgan's absence Miss Daniels welcomed all.

2 – APOLOGIES – Mr Morgan, Mr Jones, Councillors Evison and Mollison.

3 – MINUTE of 350<sup>th</sup> MEETING – Approved.

4 – POLICE REPORT – No Police present and no Police Report. Mr Chew has raised concerns re lack of updates on reported crimes. He has requested that, under the Freedom of Information Act, he be supplied with updates.

### 5 - MATTERS ARISING

(1) (4) Developer Obligations, tennis courts, library – No updates.

(2) (5.4) Drainage at Muchalls – Pipe laying has been completed and the potholes have been patched. However, water is still running down the moor road and there is a big puddle at the end of Stranathro Terrace which does not seem to be drying up.

(3) (5.5) Football Coaches – Firstly identify the bus company and registration of vehicle. There are various criminal laws that could be invoked. It would appear that the driver should be responsible for what is happening on his bus. Stonehaven Police Officers regularly check buses on match days.

(4) (10.6) – Invercarron Resource Centre – Aberdeenshire Communities Committee agreed to the spending of £75,000 to upgrade the Invercarron Resource Centre to provide a fit for purpose Vaccination Centre. Councillor Pike reported this needs to be done within six weeks. Can this realistically be done and for the sum of money allocated? Other temporary solutions might be needed.

(5) (11.2) Power Outage at Newtonhill School – No update.

6 - STONEHAVEN RUGBY CLUB – Alan Ventners attended and gave a resume of the history of the Club and where they are today. They have 400 players (young and older) with 36 coaches providing 16,500 hours coaching. They are based at Redcloak at the moment but also use land at the Mill O' Forest. The lease at Redcloak will end in 2026 and will not be renewed by the owners. The only land suitable in the area is at the Mill O'Forest and the Club are trying to obtain the land via Asset Transfer. They will then apply for planning permission for new club house, fitness suite, storage and rugby pitches. Mr Ventners is visiting all Community Councils in the area to explain their plans. Club members come from a wide area. It was felt there is a lot of support for football pitches but not much for rugby. It was agreed we would support their application for Asset Transfer. Letters to be sent to Diane Henderson, Aberdeenshire Council, with copies to Alan Ventners and Stonehaven Community Council.

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7 – PLANNING – (a) Draft National Planning Framework 4 – Mr Morgan has circulated the draft response by Community Councils to members for comments, (b) Mr Morgan has also circulated proposed Newtonhill, Muchalls and Cammachmore Community Council Locality Plan to members. The section on the library has been updated and the section on the Skateraw Hall has also been updated, (c) A very small library has been set up in the Bettridge Centre and will operate from Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2022, mainly for click and collect - Wednesday 3.30pm to 6pm and Friday 1pm to 3.30pm., (d) Local Development Plan after being considered by the Reporters will now not appear until May, (e) Mr Chew registered concerns re the Barratts Development which he will forward to Councillor Pike.

8 – POTHLES - see item 11

9 - VILLAGE STONES – Kincardine and Mearns Area Committee has awarded match funding for Cammachmore and Muchalls village signage (maximum of £4,418). Barratts have also offered £250 towards the signage project. Mr Connolly has received some designs from Newtonhill Primary School and now a decision on the design has to be made. Robertsons have indicated there may be a problem with the supply of granite. Granite has to be shipped in from India as no granite quarries operating here. Mr Connolly has purchased a granite lintel which hopefully can be recycled. Mr Connolly had 13 images designed by Newtonhill Primary School children. Before a final decision on design can be made Robertsons will have to be consulted on which ones could be transferred to the granite. The dry stone dyker will adjust his schedule to fit in with the project. Consideration will have to be given as to whether there are any services, eg gas, water at the proposed siting.

10 – UPDATE on ROAD WORKS on NEWTONHILL ROAD – Move to Phase 3 due to take place at mid-day on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2022. Work will soon progress to Phase 4 which will include the closing of the south bound slip road going in to Newtonhill.

11 – REPORT on MEETING with Bruce Stewart (Area Manager) and Brian Strachan (Roads Manager) of Aberdeenshire Council – A lengthy meeting via Teams took place on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2022. Mr Morgan, Mr Flockhart and Mrs Stephen attended on behalf of Community Council. (8) POTHLES – Mr Flockhart registered disappointment at the fact Old Mill Road and other potholes in Newtonhill had not been repaired. More disappointing was the fact that this decision appears to have been made months ago with no information being provided to Community Council and then the general public. It also appears nothing is happening regarding the landslip at Murray Road and that barriers blown away during recent storms have not been replaced. Discussion followed on the lack of information being provided and the lack of response to emails, letters, etc.

Going forward – CC will report new road faults via

<https://online.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/apps/roadfaults/> Other emails to the Roads Department will be via [kincardineandmearns.roads@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:kincardineandmearns.roads@aberdeenshire.gov.uk) It would be appreciated if emails could be copied to Bruce Stewart in the hope that this keeps the Area Team updated and be able to monitor responses. Philip McKay, Head of Roads and Infrastructure, has indicated that the department is currently undergoing a restructure and hopefully this will lead to better responses. Two dedicated officers will be appointed to deal with responding to queries.

Mr Flockhart queried when repairs to roads in Newtonhill will actually take place

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### 12 – CORRESPONDENCE

- (1) Community-Led Youth Centre Concept Survey Results – Results of the Community-led Youth Centre Concept Survey in Kincardine & Mearns | Engage Aberdeenshire
- (2) KDP Community Cash – Applications for first event welcome – to be held at KDP AGM on Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 at the Dickson Hall in Laurencekirk, 7pm.
- (3) Scottish Water – Tell us what you think. Passed to Mr Morgan
- (4) Update on proposal to re-open a station at Newtonhill –  
<https://ianmollison.mycouncillor.org.uk/2022/02/16/transport-review-setback-for-new-stations/Storms>
- (5) Important information for Community Councils/Groups – Request to publicise the upcoming Local Elections and the completion of the 2022 Census.

### 13 – AOCB

- (1) Storms Arwen, Malik and Corrie Community Engagement. Community Council has been asked by Aberdeenshire Council to complete a survey on what did or didn't work and what could be done in the future. Mr Morgan collated individual responses. Aberdeenshire Council to host an online meeting on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2022, 7 - 8.30pm  
SSEN are also holding an online meeting on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> March, 3.30 – 5.30pm. MR FLOCKHART has agreed to attend both.  
Mr Flockhart could not get linked in to SSEN but did get into the Aberdeenshire Council meeting. In our area we were fortunate not to be too badly affected but where we were residents rallied round each other. The biggest problems would appear to be lack of power, mobile phone outage leading to residents not getting up to date information. Hopefully, in the future Aberdeenshire Council will have a resilience plan in place to cover all eventualities.
- (2) Update on School Rolls – Portlethen Academy will be over capacity by 2025, Newtonhill Primary will be at 97%. It is proposed to open a new primary school in Chapelton in the 2025/2026 school session (planning conditions state once the 489<sup>th</sup> house is built)
- (3) Community Council Elections 2022 – Mr Morgan Mr Peaker, Mr Cruickshank, Mr Chew are due to stand down but are eligible for re-election; Mr Connolly was co-opted so will have to stand for election; one vacancy for Muchalls; two vacancies for Cammachmore. Date of AGM Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2022.
- (4) SSEN Community Resilience Fund – SSEN has launched a fund to support communities to improve local resilience. Closing date for applications Friday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2022. Suggestions wanted. Would it be advantageous for the Bettridge Centre and Muchalls Village Halls to have a generator? Points to consider – (a) Muchalls will discuss at the next Village Association meeting, (b) Would the Bettridge Centre agree to housing a generator? A qualified electrician would be needed to advise on location of generator, what would be needed to connect to hall supply, isolating supply from the grid and sizing the required power supply. Noise and security would also need to be considered.
- (5) Financial update from Mr Ewing. Bank total - £4960.18 (CC £960.75, Phoenix £1790.43, Stones Project £2209)

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- (6) Restoration of Peace Sign at Muchalls – We have been approached by a railway volunteer who along with a small group of other volunteers have restored several railway signs. They would now like to look at the Peace Sign at Muchalls with a view to restoration. A preliminary visit will be arranged in the not too distant future. One problem that may arise is the fact that the Peace Sign is not painted but is made up of small mosaics.
- (7) COVID Memorial for Aberdeenshire Survey - “This is a survey form remembering Together Aberdeenshire, collective and creative acts of reflection, remembrance, hope and healing with and for our communities”. £100,000 has been allocated to Aberdeenshire.  
<https://engage.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/remembering-together-scotlands-covid=community-memorial>
- (8) Revised Scheme of Establishment – Aberdeenshire Council has completed the light touch review of the Scheme. All Community Councillors are encouraged to read the document but the main changes are – Over Aberdeenshire (a) Introduction of a single election date with elections held every three years will come into effect as from 2024, (b) Revised Complaints Procedures, (c) Clarity on when Community Councils can lodge planning applications, (d) Eligibility of second home owners, (f) AGM Dates – can now be held May or June, (f) Updated Code of Conduct, (g) Dealing with unacceptable behaviour, (h) Timescales and Guidance for Supported Status and Dissolution.
- (9) Urban Gull Strategy – A five-year plan to solve problems with gulls will be implemented at a cost of £250,000. Food sources, nesting sites, waste storage, littering and litter bins all need to be considered. Methods currently being used include egg and nest removal, use of birds of prey. Gulls are a protected species and some species are under threat of disappearing
- (10) Coastal Communities Challenge Fund - Aberdeenshire Council launches new round of funding for coastal communities. – [coastalcommunities@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:coastalcommunities@aberdeenshire.gov.uk) Applications close Monday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2022 and work must be completed by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023.
- (11) Doors Open Day 2022 – September 17/18, 2022. New venues being sought.
- (12) Aberdeenshire Council fly tipping consultation release – The Scottish Government is about to set out a vision for a six-year plan where Scotland’s environment will be unblighted by litter and fly tipping.
- (13) Complaints have been received regarding a dog attacking other dogs in Newtonhill. This should be reported to the Dog Warden and the Police.
- (14) Mud on the road coming from Cookney. Those responsible were contacted and agreed that the road would be cleaned. Although this did not involve work at Chapelton they were made aware of the situation. The Police were also informed.

The 152<sup>nd</sup> meeting will be held in the Skateraw Hall at 7.30pm on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2022.