

NEWTONHILL, MUCHALLS and CAMMACHMORE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

The 353rd meeting of Newtonhill, Muchalls and Cammachmore Community Council was held in the Skateraw Hall at 7.30pm on Wednesday 18th May 2022.

PRESENT – Mr Morgan (Chair), Mrs Stephen, Miss Daniels, Mr Cruickshank, Mr Ewing, Mr Peaker, Mr Flockhart, Mr Jones, Mr Chew, Councillors Burnett, Sullivan, Victor, PC Marc Camus and four members of the Public

Welcome – Mr Morgan welcomed all present including three new Aberdeenshire Councillors.

1 – APOLOGIES – Councillor Aitchison and Morag Macarthur

2 – MINUTE 352 – Accepted.

3 – POLICE REPORT – No written report has been received. PC Camus attended. There has been a decrease in anti-social behaviour, 7 assaults, 9 thefts, £3,000 of copper wire was stolen in Banchory, 2 drink driving, 4 dangerous driving, one careless driving. 120 cherry trees were planted in Mineral Well Park. For the second time several trees have been vandalised. There was no update on dog attacks in Newtonhill. PC Camus asked for details and recommended this should be reported to the Dog Warden. As there was a football match in progress PC Camus was advised to check on parking on Newtonhill Road. Mr Morgan wished PC Camus well as this was his last meeting as he is retiring.

4 – MATTERS ARISING

(1)(4.1) Tennis Courts at Newtonhill – See later

(2)(4.7) Peace Sign at Muchalls – Several suggestions have been made by the volunteers involved. They are hoping to be able to carry out work in July.

(3)(11.3) Aberdeenshire South Access Panel Membership – Mr Flockhart attended. There were only three members but this number is gradually rising. Unfortunately, they have no statutory powers. They are concerned with issues such as access for those with disabilities, dropped kerbs. Mr Flockhart will once again raise the issue of dropped kerbs in Newtonhill which Community Council raised with Aberdeenshire Council some time ago.

(4)(12.1) Cliff Path at Muchalls – Hopefully the work being carried out to the adjacent property will be completed in the next couple of months. Aberdeenshire Council will then work with the path land owner to see what happens next.

(5)(12.4) Article for the Newsey regarding survey - Muchalls received 126 Newseys. There are 148 houses. We would need to print off surveys for some of Muchalls. Are Newseys delivered to residents in Cammachmore?

(6)(12.7) Overgrowing trees at St Anne's Wynd – Mr Flockhart has reported this to Aberdeenshire Council, also the state of the footpaths in West Cammachmore. We look forward to remedial work being carried out.

5 – PLANNING – (1) Locality Plan – The Newsey is happy to publish a four-page survey. The cost will be £70. Now the survey needs to be created – what do people actually want, views on tourism, environment, health, etc. The survey will appear online. Can KDP lend a hand? (2) Local Development Plan is now expected in June. Put results on Facebook; (3) Local Place Plan needs to be created and registered. This will include views on future development, should the library site be kept for use as a library, spending of Developer Obligations, Conservation Status in Muchalls, (4) Changes in Future Local Development Plans from Piers Blaxter – forwarded to Community

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Councillors. There will be a TEAMS meeting for Community Councillors on Thursday 26th May 2022 to discuss proposed changes. There is not much information available at the moment.

6 – POTHoles – Mr Morgan has sent a formal complaint to Aberdeenshire Council regarding the lack of progress to resurface Old Mill Road, to lay anti-skid surface at two pedestrian crossings in Newtonhill and to patch the potholes in the area. Mr Flockhart has forwarded a photograph of repairs carried out in St Ternan's Road. Temporary repairs will be carried out to the pothole at the entrance to Cairnhill Road until the house building development is complete. Repairs to Old Mill Road and anti-skid surfacing will be carried out 'soon'. The Roads Department is engaging staff to deal directly with the public, Community Councils and Local Councillors. We should have a response by the 1st June 2022 at the latest. There have been some minor repairs carried out but there might be a timetable of repairs in place by 14th June 2022.

7 – PROPOSAL to BUILD a NEW SCHOOL at CHAPELTON - Hopefully the Head Teacher of Newtonhill Primary and someone from Aberdeenshire Council who knows what is happening will be able to attend a meeting in the Autumn.

8 – BARRATTS DEVELOPMENT – Mr Chew has received a reply to his letter to Mr Macari. There are two access points to link Park Place and Cairnhill Way. Only problem is there is no road joining them. Mr Macari states that none of the planning conditions have been broken. Is it worth the effort of checking all conditions? Mr Chew has replied to Mr Macari stating that Community Council request the link road be opened ASAP with a definite date being given. It looks like the 101 houses could be constructed by September. At the moment there are 80 houses completed or occupied.

What should the Developer Obligations be spent on? Include this in the survey. Funding may be available for upgrading Newtonhill Primary school playground. Could Developer Obligations fund the upgrading of the tennis courts? Does not usually fund repairs. Could they be used for disabled access to the Skateraw Hall? At this point it was intimated Home Bargains who have just opened in Portlethen has made a donation of £2,000 to Portlethen Primary School.

9 - AGM – Nomination forms now available. Does anyone want one? Nominations close 25th May 2022.

Mr Connolly does not wish to stand as a Community Councillor but is prepared to stay as an Associate Member until work on the Village Stones is completed. Mr Connolly's nomination as an Associate Member was approved by the meeting.

Thanks to Mr Peaker for regular attendance at meetings and his dealings with knotweed as he too is standing down. He has enjoyed his time as a Community Councillor. However, he is prepared to be co-opted on to help with work on the A92 underpass

Mr Morgan too has indicated he is standing down.

10 - VILLAGE STONES – No update available.

11 – UNDERPASS - Infrastructure Services allocated £12,000 for a feasibility study and initial design work for a path using the existing underpass. Martin Hall, Aberdeenshire Council Strategy Manager, has indicated it will be late summer before this will be dealt with. Council would like to liaise with Community Council. Cammies are prepared to lend what help they can. Would Chapelton Development support the venture? MR FLOCKHART will bring this up at the next Liaison Meeting.

12 – TENNIS COURTS – Not in the best of condition but are still being used regularly. Live Life Aberdeenshire are holding a meeting in May to discuss the future of tennis courts in general. The

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Council is responsible for general maintenance but there is no money available for upgrades
Newtonhill tennis courts actually belong to the Village. Could money from the Top Up Budget help fund repairs? Also, Newtonhill Common Good Fund?

13 – NEWTONHILL LIBRARY – Unfortunately, at the moment there is not much space in the Bettridge Centre for library facilities. Could the library tie in with future development at the Bettridge Centre? The Council prefers the use of an existing building. Previously people including children could browse around, look at books, make a choice, interact with others. The actual library building used to have computer facilities including wi-fi. A member of the public has offered two computers to the library. At the moment the library is lacking in evening opening hours. Previously, the library opened 8/9 hours a week over 3 days.

14 - CORRESPONDENCE

- (1) The Scottish Health Register Needs You – www.registerforshare.org
- (2) Email from Councillor Pike re workSTYLE – Future ways of working – The way forward. Plans for Aberdeenshire Council getting back to the new normal. This will be carried out in phases. Phase 1 will include Viewmount (Monday 6th June 2022). Will employees return to the office full time, work full time from home, part time in office part time at home? A lot needs to be considered – collaborative places, individual work stations, smaller meeting places, quiet spaces.
- (3) Storm Resilience Community Engagement – Report on meeting of 14th March 2022 forwarded to Community Councillors. Do we want to get involved in a Resilience Plan? Any groups interested contact Diane Henderson (Diane.henderson@aberdeenshire.gov.uk)
- (4) Email of thanks from Colin Pike for the support he has received during his five years as Councillor. Although he is no longer a Councillor. he would like to help in any way he can.

15 – AOCB

- (1) Did anyone attend Skateraw Hall AGM? The date was changed to May 9th 2022. The committee are working on a list of what needs done and where funding can be accessed. One of the main priorities is disabled access.
- (2) Aberdeenshire Council has granted £10,000 for new gravel footpath at Elsick Park, Newtonhill.
- (3) Finance Report - £9,150 in the bank, £820 of which is actually Community Council funds. The rest is funding for the Phoenix Project and Village Stones.
- (4) Phoenix Fund – Draft mapping has been completed (the cartographer is on holiday until 1st June). There are 6 routes, each colour coded – the discs have been ordered. There will be information about all walks. 2,500 pamphlets have been ordered. 1,700 are needed for Newtonhill. Details of routes will also be online. Some permission is still needed for the installation of posts. Mr Jones will mention the walks at the Queen's Jubilee Walk Way Meeting with the Lord Lieutenant tomorrow night.
A plaque is to be installed at the Isabella with details of the event. Hopefully everything will be completed by July.
- (5) A resident has complained about rats at the 'old road' between Muchalls and Newtonhill.
- (6) Complaints have been received regarding white markers on the pavements which are taking a long time to disappear.

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- (7) Possible opening of a railway station in Newtonhill. Aberdeenshire Councillors were updated on how this has been dealt with by Community Council.
- (8) Mr Flockhart reported some teachers in Aberdeenshire had been exchanging messages which are degrading to disabled children. As far as we know, parents involved have not been contacted. This behaviour is totally inappropriate and unacceptable

The next meeting (the AGM) will be held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 15th June 2022 in the Skateraw Hall. This will be immediately followed by the 354th meeting.