

NEWTONHILL, MUCHALLS and CAMMACHMORE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

The 358th meeting of Newtonhill, Muchalls and Cammachmore Community Council was held in the Skateraw Hall at 7.30pm on Wednesday 16th November 2022.

PRESENT – Mr Flockhart (Chair), Miss Daniels, Mrs Stephen, Mr Ewing, Mr Jones, Councillors Sullivan and Victor and 3 members of the public.

Mr Flockhart welcomed all present and thanked everyone for coming out on such an awful night.

1 – APOLOGIES - Councillor Burnett

2 – MINUTE of 357th MEETING – Accepted.

3 – POLICE REPORT –Written report for Kincardine and Mearns Area received – Anti-social behaviour - SerpSeptember36 and 11 youth annoyance, October 33 calls and 14 youth annoyance; assault - September 6 (all detected), October 8 (5 detected); 4 thefts in September, October 3; drink/drug driving - September 1, October none; dangerous driving - September 3, October 1; careless driving - September 5, October 4.

Would be nice to get details of how many crimes are actually solved.

Have spoken to Police at Coffee with a Copper. They are considering quarterly Police presence at Community Council meetings. This way it is hoped they may be able to provide more updates. We have also asked if Reports could be a bit more specific for each area but this may prove difficult due to Data Protection.

So far only a couple of residents have attended both Newtonhill and Muchalls Coffee with a Copper.

Problem dog in Newtonhill - - Not much can be done unless the owner is known.

4 – MATTERS ARISING

(1)(4.1) - Data Protection – Mr Ewing is now our main contact

(2)(4.2) - Phoenix Fund – Still waiting for walking maps. Application for funding for binoculars has been accepted and approved. Awaiting decision and funding.

(3)(4.7) - Steps at TESCO – Amey took over responsibility from BEAR in August. Mr Flockhart has now contacted Amey. Mr Flockhart has sent further emails and has eventually spoken to someone to register a complaint.

(4)(4.8) - Murray Road – There was a site visit on 20th August 2022. The road at the moment is still safe. It is being regularly monitored. However, residents and Community Council need to be updated regularly. Aberdeenshire Council is organising a site visit to allow experts to drill bore holes to see what is under the tar. The drains will also be checked and flushed out. The resulting report should then be sent to residents and Community Council.

Bollards will be filled with sand/water and will replace the existing barrier. This has still not been done. . However, the gullies have been cleaned.

A resident also reported flooding from rain water from Tern Court footpath running down to Murray Road.

(5)(4.9) - Lollypop Person – Councillor Victor reported that the Road Safety Department will send someone to monitor the situation. Someone from Road Safety has had a look. No lollypop person. Suggestion is walk up from Bettridge Centre, cross Park Place and then use the zebra crossing. It won't add much extra distance!

(6)(5) – LDP – The Scottish Government has advised Aberdeenshire Council they require more time to consider whether the Plan should be further modified before it is approved. Hopefully early next year

(7)(10.2) - KAMCAB AGM – Anyone attend? No.

(8)(10.9) - SSEN Warm Spaces – Information from KDP and Aberdeenshire Council has been given regarding Warm Spaces. These may include friendship groups, community cafes, provision of food. Access needs to be free, friendly, comfortable and stay as long as you like. Aberdeenshire Council is suggesting people use libraries, museums, sports facilities. The only facilities available in our area are Skateraw Hall, Muchalls Village Hall and the Bettridge Centre. Would halls have to open every day for a specific time; once a week? Would food/warm drinks be provided? I imagine heating in Skateraw Hall like Muchalls Village Hall would have to be on for at least an hour before people were welcomed in. How do you guarantee anyone will turn up? If food /drinks are being provided who cooks it and where? Will people be paid for this? Would helpers need to be insured? Unfortunately, most halls are struggling to keep their heads above water. Would anyone go out if it was cold and wet or would they make the best of it and stay at home? Would any funding be available to cover basic costs?

(10)(11.1) - The goalposts in Muchalls playpark should be replaced by the end of the year

(12)(11.2) - Library – Developer Contributions for sport/recreation do not cover library provision. At the moment, reduced library provision with set hours (Wednesday 3.30pm to 6pm and Friday 1.30pm to 3pm) still running in the small hall at the Bettridge Centre. When the Bettridge Centre is extended there may be room for a library but a lot depends on funding.

(13)(11.3) - Siemens – They returned with bigger equipment and left a trail of red mud behind.

(14)(11.6) - Just Transition – Closing date is November 14th 2022. Mr Flockhart has contacted the Council regarding this fund. They sent an email to the relevant department and Mr Flockhart is now awaiting a response.

EV chargers would probably need planning permission depending on location and size of chargers. Community Council would be liable for maintenance and associated costs. Community Council could not afford the maintenance and associated costs. Best contact would be Robert McGregor.

(15)(11.9) - Missing buses – Appears to be due to lack of drivers.

(16)(11.12) - Meikle Carewe decision making panel met on 26th October 2022. No awards in our Area.

(17)(11.8) - Cost of Living – see under SSEN

(18)(11.20) Local Place Plan – Miss Daniels still working on this. Mr Morgan informed that the National Planning Framework 4 is now before Parliament. There are approx. 30 policies linked to this which will possibly impact on our Place Plan.

(19)(11.21) – The Newsey – last date for articles is this week.

5 – PLANNING – Planning application submitted to extend the life of Meikle Carewe Windfarm by 7 years.

6 - CHAPELTON BUS – Stagecoach is prepared to consider running a bus to Newtonhill Primary School but parents would have to act as escorts.

Plans for a new primary school at Chapelton are progressing with the Council anticipating the opening in 2026 rather than completion of the 489th house.

A public consultation will take place next year. The plan is to develop the school in two phases with the first to build a single stream school with capacity for 217 pupils but with facilities such as PE, kitchen and dining hall for 434 pupils. This would ensure any future expansion of the school in a second phase would be relatively simple by providing a total of 14 classrooms to create a two-stream school.

7 – ROADS/POTHoles – Mr Flockhart has reported lack of white lines St Michael’s Road adjoining St Crispin’s Road. Old Mill Road will be resurfaced this financial year. Resurfacing supposedly taking place in March 2023. No contracts awarded yet. The road maintenance budget has been agreed. It does not look as if footpaths will be repaired – lack of money?

Mr Jones reported a big pothole at Cammachmore. Mr Flockhart advised on how to report to Aberdeenshire Council. Mr Jones will forward details to Mr Flockhart.

8 – VILLAGE STONES – Hopefully, after a lot of work by Mr Connolly, the design, based on a design by a pupil from Newtonhill Primary School, has been confirmed. A contract will now be signed with Glenrock and with a bit of luck the feature will be in place by Christmas

Mark McDonald has provided a copy of his insurance. cover

Mr Connolly is liaising with the contractors. No request for payment yet.

10 – UNDERPASS – Waiting for comments from Transport.

11 – FINANCE REPORT – Approx £9442 in the bank (Stones £6348, Phoenix £1588, CC £1505). After discussion it was decided to donate £100 to both Skateraw hall and Muchalls Village Hall. £100 will also be given to the Newsey with a further donation once Local Place Plan survey is printed. Other donations may be considered in the New Year.

It would be helpful if fund holders could give the treasurer regular written reports.

12 – CORRESPONDENCE

- (1) Grassroots Action Network – Wednesday 9th November 2022, 6.30pm to 8.30pm, St Bridgets Hall, Stonehaven. Mr Flockhart attended. Lots of charities were represented including CAB, Barnardo’s, Childline
- (2) NHS Scotland Initiative – SHARE – www.registerforshare.org
- (3) Minute of Kincardine and Mearns Area Bus Forum
- (4) Cost of Living Forum update.
- (5) Aberdeenshire Loves Local Gift Card

- (6) Aberdeenshire Licensing Board – <https://engage.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/review-of-the-aberdeenshire-licensing-board-s-licensing-policy-statement> Comments by 8th January 2023
- (7) SSEN Distribution Stakeholders Surgeries – Thursday 24th November 2022, North of Scotland online event, Microsoft Teams. For further information stakeholder@engagement@sse.com
- (8) Boundary Commission for Scotland Consultation on Revised Proposals of UK Parliament Constituencies. Our Area to remain the same. Consultation runs until 5th December 2022. – www.bcs2023review.com
- (9) PICKLEBALL STONEHAVEN - is a fun physical activity combining elements of racket skills from tennis, squash, badminton and table tennis - Every Tuesday 1-2pm, Leisure Centre., Stonehaven.
- (10) Introducing the Environmental Rights Centre for Scotland.
- (11) Community Council Forum Actions and Agenda for 17th November 2022.

13- AOCB

- (1) Portlethen Recycling Centre – For a trial period of 6 months no booking will be needed for Wednesdays or Saturdays but Portlethen does not open on a Wednesday. Stonehaven and Laurencekirk will be similar. This starts from 3rd December 2022.
- (2) BARRATTS DEVELOPMENT – No sign of the link road yet. In June, 45 houses accessed via Park Place along with all the other blocks of private and social houses had been sold. Sales of houses accessed by Park Place have increased by 4. Sales appear to have slowed down despite promotional offers and a drop in price. There are a further 17 houses under construction. The link road will need to be opened prior to the occupancy of the houses being built beside the link road within the compound.
- (3) Road closure – Bettridge Road from Cranhill Brae to Whiteland Road for 12 days starting 28th November 2022. Borderlink Broadband Ltd are clearing a blockage in the duct.
- (4) TRAK (Transport Across Kincardine) AGM, Stonehaven Community Centre, 6th December 2022, 7pm.
- (5) Flood warnings Thursday into Friday (17th and 18th) – later extended.
- (6) Councillor Sullivan will chase up the barriers at Murray Road.
- (7) Councillor Sullivan will enquire again re dropped kerbs for the Courts. She will copy Mr Flockhart in.
- (8) People persist in parking over the dropped kerb at Old Mill Road close to the chemist shop.
- (9) Also, people parking outside the chemist shop are causing problems for traffic going up and down Skateraw Road.
- (10) Query re funding for repairs to a cliff path at Muchalls. Exact location to be ascertained.

Mr Flockhart thanked everyone for attending and wished all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Safe journey home

The meeting finished at 8.25pm

The next meeting will be held in the Skateraw Hall at 7.30pm on WEDNESDAY 18th JANUARY 2023.