

## NEWTONHILL, MUCHALLS and CAMMACHMORE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Draft minute of the 359<sup>th</sup> meeting of Newtonhill, Muchalls and Cammachmore Community Council held in Skateraw Hall at 7.30pm on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2023.

PRESENT – Mr Flockhart (Chair), Mrs Stephen, Miss Daniels, Mr Chew, Mr Jones, Councillors Burnett and Victor, PC Charnley, Emma Storey (Aberdeenshire Council).

Mr Flockhart welcomed all present and thanked all for coming out on such a cold night.

He also hoped he wasn't too late to wish everyone a Happy New Year.

1 – APOLOGIES – Cllr Sullivan, Mr Cruickshank, Mr Connolly, Mr Ewing, Mr Morgan

2 – MINUTE of 358<sup>th</sup> MEETING plus Amendment – Approved.

3 – POLICE REPORT/COFFEE with a COPPER - PC Charnley was in attendance: (1) Coffee with a Copper was cancelled due to COVID, (2) Written Report was received but Community Councillors were not too impressed. In the new format we are included in the Stonehaven Report. Anti-social behaviour (11), Youth disorder (1); Thefts (4); Dangerous driving (1) Careless driving (1). Queries were raised regarding the theft of an expensive caravan. Due to Data Protection, it is very difficult to mention specific crimes. Vehicle theft will be added to reports.

There is never a report on clear up rates of crimes. These would have to be reported every 6 months or a year as it takes some time for crimes to be solved.

There have been 4 properties broken into in Aberdeenshire including one in Newtonhill.

Still problems with safe walking to school and children having to pass between parked cars.

Members of the public can take photographs of offending car number plates and pass to the Police.

Discussion was mostly centred on problems with parking. Parking on zig zags – offender had 3 penalty points and £100 fine

Parking on Park place esp on football days. Police to contact both Newtonhill and Cammachmore football teams.

Problems where Crollshillock joins Park Place and Park Place joins the new Barratt Development (20mph sign needed).

4 – MATTERS ARISING

(1)(4.3) Steps at TESCO – Pencilled in to be done end of January. Amey has now replaced BEAR Scotland, (2) The bushes and side of slip road are Aberdeenshire Council's responsibility as are grit etc at the entrance to Cammachmore. Watch this space,

(2)(4.4) Murray Road – Work should start in the Spring. Some test drilling has been carried out. Width of roadworks were supposed to be reduced and the bollards replaced.

At this point Mr Flockhart reported the resurfacing of Old Mill Road is due to take place March/April. Thanks to all involved

(3)(4.10) Goal posts at Muchalls – New ones are now in place.

(4)(11.2) Dropped kerbs at the Courts – There should be money available for this in next financial year. Council Officer to visit next month to view the situation.

(5)(13.10) Muchalls cliff path – Path as far as the bench is in a good state of repair. The ditches have been well cleaned out. This will be discussed at the Area Committee Meeting on the 24<sup>th</sup> January 2023. There may be grants available but an application would have to be made by a constituted body.

5 – PLANNING – (1) New easy mapping tool to give communities a vote, (2) Planning application for solar panels has been submitted by residents of Marine View, Muchalls. No problem. However, Aberdeenshire Council has fitted solar panels on a house at Pheppie Road and Ritchie Place with no planning permission despite the fact Muchalls is in a Conservation Area. Surely what is good for one is good for the other.

6 – ROADS/POTHoles – The smaller potholes in Muchalls which were temporarily repaired are now starting to beak up. There is also a large pothole at the entrance to Muchalls which has been reported. MR FLOCKHART to follow this up.

7 – VILLAGE STONES – Work is progressing. Suggestion gift token be given to the winner. Can we actually name the person concerned or do we need parental permission? As Mr Connolly and Mr Ewing were not present no decisions were made.

8 – UNDERPASS – It is now several months since we have heard anything. Rachel Kennedy has moved on so this may be holding things up. Emma Storey to make enquiries.

9 – PHOENIX FUND – Still not completed. At the moment there is still £1588 in Community Council bank account which in theory should be returned to Aberdeenshire Council. However, still awaiting walking maps (2200) which may or may not have to be paid for. These will be delivered with the Newsey for which a donation will be paid. There may or may not be an information board.

It was felt that as well as actual maps this should go on internet, Facebook and have a QR reader etc.

See AOCB (12.8)

10 – FINANCE REPORT – Village Stones - £4818, Phoenix Fund - £1588, Community Council - £1156. Community Councillors asked to consider what groups we could possibly help with some funding

#### 11 – CORRESPONDENCE

- (1) Free Home Fire Safety Visits - 0800 0731999
- (2) Community Council Planning Induction Sessions Recordings
- (3) TRAK meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2022 cancelled due to bad weather. New date 12<sup>th</sup> January 2023, 7pm, in the lounge of Stonehaven Community Centre. Mr Flockhart attended the meeting which was very poorly attended. Community Councils are to be contacted to see if more people would attend. Anyone can attend. The lack of facilities at Montrose Railway Station was discussed. They also discussed the issue of crowding around the doors leading to bus stances at Aberdeen which is not fit for purpose. As there has been no response from either Hammerton or Stagecoach the local MSP is to be invited to attend a meeting. Miss Daniels commented on the fact Stonehaven was the most used station in Aberdeenshire with Portlethen the lowest.

Station uses across Britain has doubled as life gets back to normal after COVID.

- (4) Planning and Architecture News – Consultation published on the proposed definition of ‘Gypsies and Travellers’. There is a proposal for a travellers’ site location within Chapelton sometime in the future.

- (5) New driving restrictions in Aberdeen City – Not looking good for Aberdeen City. Miss Daniels pointed out the lack of signage regarding driving restrictions at King Street/Union Street. Lots of drivers being caught and fined.
- (6) Mr Flockhart was contacted by an Aberdeen Community Councillor who is not happy with the proposed Taylor Wimpey Development at Portlethen. If we can't stop development at Newtonhill don't think we could do much about Portlethen
- (7) Aberdeen Rapid Transport – Setting the wheels in motion for Aberdeen rapid transport.
- (8) Newtonhill and Portlethen mains update – The second phase to replace sections of mains water pipe in both Newtonhill and Portlethen has been completed.
- (9) Agenda pack for Kincardine and Mearns Area Committee Meeting for Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2023.
- (10) Stonehaven Leisure Centre Venue User Engagement.
- (11) KDP membership form needs to be updated.
- (12) Aberdeenshire Council has accepted the Local Development Plan 2023.

## 12 – AOCB

- (1) Report from Mr Jones that the application by Mackie Rugby Club to use part of Forest Park was rejected by the Council. This is the second largest Club in Scotland and in four years will have nowhere to go
- (2) Thanks, from Muchalls Village Association for donation – much appreciated.
- (3) Mrs Stephen approached KDP asking if Meikle Carewe would consider making one off donations to Community owned halls. No specific amount was asked for.
- (4) Miss Daniels has completed a draft article for the Newsey. Passed to Community Councillors for comments.
- (5) Some residents in Muchalls have had black lidded bins uplifted but no replacements. Hopefully this will be rectified ASAP.
- (6) Drilling continues in fields near Miss Daniels to see what work would need to be done when upgrading the railway line.
- (7) It would appear since the last report on the Barratt Development only one more house has been sold.
- (8) Coastal Communities Fund – In August a member of Community Council submitted an application for funding for binoculars (similar to those on the Boardwalk in Stonehaven) to be sighted near to the Isabella at the Braehead. Total cost of project £6,500, request for £6317.07.

This was submitted prior to Community Councillors being informed as the application had to be submitted prior to our meeting. When informed Community Councillors assumed (wrongly) that this would be similar to the Phoenix Fund where the Community Council acted as 'bankers' once again. Not so, the application had to be in the Community Council's name.

There was much discussion over several matters including (1) Where does the shortfall in funding come from – Aberdeenshire Council has agreed left over money from the

Phoenix fund can be used only on this specific occasion, (2) Binoculars need to be securely fitted in place – someone has volunteered to do this at cost price, (3) Is planning permission needed, (4) written permission needed from landowner, (5) is there disabled access (this is problematic), (6) once purchased and installed who owns them, (7) who is responsible for maintenance, (8) do they need to be insured. If so, who pays – Zurich to be contacted, (9) are hand rails needed, (10) are safety barriers needed, (11) are safety notices needed, (12) is a risk assessment needed, (13), are they needed and will they be well used. Many of these points would need to be considered in other future applications and perhaps a ‘to do list’ needs to be set out for future reference.

It was suggested that, in future if any grants are to be considered, Diane Henderson at Aberdeenshire Council should be consulted, and she will point one in the right direction.

Hopefully, all information will be in place for the next meeting as the project needs to be completed by the end of March 2023.

Mr Flockhart thanked all for attending, wishing them a safe journey home and the meeting finished approx. 9.30pm.

The 360<sup>th</sup> meeting will be held in the Skateraw Hall at 7.30pm on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2023.