

Newtonhill, Muchalls and Cammachmore Community Council

Draft Minute

The 366th meeting of Newtonhill, Muchalls and Cammachmore Community Council was held on Wednesday 20th September 2023 in the Skateraw Hall

PRESENT – Mr Flockhart (Chair), Mrs Stephen, Mr Ewing, Mr Cruickshank, Mr Jones, Mr Morgan, David Walton from Portlethen and District Community Ambulance, Councillor Victor and one member of the public.

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

1 – APOLOGIES – Miss Daniels, Mr Chew.

2 – POLICE REPORT – No Police presence and no Police Report. Some crimes will not now be investigated by Police Scotland.

3 – MINUTE 365 – Accepted.

4 – MATTERS ARISING

(1)(4.4) Any response re Mr Morgan's letters re change to bus services. No response so far. Appears no-one interested (2) Mr Flockhart has contacted the Traffic Commissioner re cessation of bus services as a result of an accident on the A92 and the matter has now been sent to Bus Users Scotland. Mr Flockhart has received a request for further information. Mr Flockhart is hoping to organise a meeting of all concerned to find a solution to what happens when part of a road is closed due to an accident. Despite the fact Stagecoach have set routes they are not obliged to provide transport at all times.

Mr Flockhart would also like to raise the theory that due to teenagers having free transport, they are moving from their own areas to carry out vandalism elsewhere.

At this point Mr Flockhart introduced David Walton from Portlethen and District Community Ambulance. This provides free transport to those who need to access Portlethen Health Centre or dentist in Portlethen and who have no alternative means of transport. They are about to take delivery of a new vehicle in November. Community Council offered a donation of £100 which was gratefully received. Other sources of funding were discussed.

(2)(4.5) SSEN Fund – Awards due in October 2023. It was pointed out to Mr Flockhart that if kits are handed out, we would have to make sure they are returned. Perhaps recipients should be asked to sign for them.

(3)(4.6) Bushes at St Ternan's - see later

Repairs to Bridge at Burn of Elsick – see later

(4)(4.8) Scaffolding – The scaffolding has been demolished and is currently in the shed behind the Church. It does not look like the extra Christmas lights will be put in place this year. They are no longer required to prove public liability insurance but assume CC will still pay for cover for this. Matter appears to have been resolved.

(5)(14.30) Mr Flockhart attended the Community Council Forum where he took on the role of Chair. Well attended with several joining online. A questionnaire had been issued which had been practically unreadable and very difficult to decipher. Apparently, it had been issued due to time constraints although the person signing it off was not happy. Discussion followed with one comment being if you are clever enough to be a Community Councillor you should be able to read and decipher such a document. Unfortunately, not all people are good at reading and writing but are good at practical things.

Comments were made that Council documents are becoming more and more difficult to read and understand. Could we perhaps request that plain English is used?

5 – PLANNING – (1) Erection of Agricultural Building at Cranhill Farm, Cammachmore, (2) Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan 2023 – Draft Supplementary Guidance on Developer Obligations and Affordable Housing – Public Consultations, (3) Mr Morgan has drafted a response to the Soils Evidence Report. Also, Developer Obligations Guidance. Evidence Reports should be completed by November but as there are still approx. 30 reports to come, this seems very unlikely.

6- ROADS and POTHOLES – Mr Flockhart has raised several points with Aberdeenshire Council –

- (a) Zig zag markings at Newtonhill – Plan now in place for the zig zags. If not completed by the end of October, then it will be next year due to the weather.
- (b) Hedge at St Ternan's – Owners were contacted by the Council some time ago. They have now received a reminder.
- (c) Bridge at Burn of Elsick – The bridge was badly damaged by flood waters. Necessary repairs will be carried out but as yet no definite date.
- (d) Cammachmore Filter Lane – grit, soil, weeds on filter lane southbound from A92. This is the responsibility of Aberdeenshire Council but would also involve Amey as the road would need to be closed. Could prove to be a costly job.
- (e) Barratts sign at top of Newtonhill Road – The Planning Enforcement team will investigate aiming to provide a response within 8 weeks. Still waiting for a response. Sign was removed after sales weekend.
- (f) Dyke at the Lomonds – Further investigation of ownership is needed. A new safety barrier will be erected but who knows when. Mr Flockhart has also requested that the street light be repaired.
- (g) Some of the smaller potholes in Muchalls have been filled. Also, some of the smaller ones in Newtonhill.

7 – UNDERPASS – No further information.

8 – BINOCULARS/TELESCOPE - Bill has been paid and delivery expected in a few days. Hopefully, all should be in place by the end of October. Thanks to Mr Jones for his hard work.

Walking maps have been received and delivered with the Newsey. Donation to be made to the Newsey (£200) from remainder of telescope money.

9 - FINANCE REPORT – CC grant has been received. Community Council approx. £1300; Binocular fund approx. £699 and Village stones approx. £2900.

10 – CHAPELTON SCHOOL BUS - This has temporarily been re-instated pending further investigation into the safety issues. Hopefully common sense will prevail. Thanks to Councillor Victor for all her persistence and hard work.

11 – CAMMIES FIESTA – 23rd September 2023, 10am to 4pm. Object is to provide a platform for local businesses and charities. Hopefully, will be well attended by residents, visitors, businesses, etc. A portion of proceeds will be donated to charity.

12 – CORRESPONDENCE

- (1) Community Transport Report
- (2) Next Door Nature Pioneers Programme – scottishwildlifetrust.org.uk/nextdoor-nature
- (3) Upcoming webinars for Community Councils; Carbon Literacy Toolkit Training+Democracy Matters Conversations
- (4) K and M Community Council Teams Meeting – 6th September, 7pm to 9pm.
- (5) 2024 Local Holiday dates - Portlethen – 8th April, 1st July, 16th September; Stonehaven – 1st April, 3rd June, 2nd September, 1st October, Trades fortnight 15th July to 29th July. No complaints.
- (6) Correspondence with Scotrail after TRAX meeting
- (7) Invitation to Scottish Water ACM – 29th August 2023
- (8) Grampian Community Resilience Conference – 2nd October 2023, 9am to 3pm, Beach Ballroom
- (9) Portlethen Post Office is to move to Morrisons, the Green. Date to be confirmed.
- (10) Scotland Matters – News in Brief
- (11) Audrey Nicoll, MSP and Newtonhill Railway Station – At the next meeting when hopefully there will be more Community Councillors present bring up the possibility of attendance at a Community Council meeting
- (12) Community Resilience Conference - 2nd October 2023
- (13) Overnight surfacing on A92 north of Stonehaven begins Sunday 10th September 2023
- (14) Aberdeenshire Coastal Path Project – A small group tasked with developing the coastal path from the River North Esk up to Aberdeen City. Invite them to November meeting.
- (15) SGN - Engage – 26th September 2023, 9.30am to 11.30am via Teams. Shaping the way forward.
- (16) My Place Awards 2024 open for entries – Community led projects and Community Champions.
- (17) LNER Customer and Community Investment Fund Information
- (18) Update on proposed works to base site at Cobbleboards.
- (19) Aberdeenshire Council contacts update.
- (20) DATA Protection fee has been paid.
- (21) Meikle Carewe decision making panel – Mrs Stephen with Mr Morgan as substitute.
- (22) Community Council Induction Training – Thursday 28th September 2023 Gillian Davidson interested in attending.
- (23) Meet the Kincardine and Mearns Area Team.
- (24) Community Resilience documents and links – create an emergency kit for your home.
- (25) Aberdeenshire Council's Digital Engagement newsletter.
- (26) Community Council – Democracy Matters 2.
- (27) Slow Ways – Connect your Community to the Slow Ways National Walking Network
- (28) Update for CCLOs – Community Councils, Scottish Parliament, Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee

13 – AOCB

- (1) What is the cable at side of road from A92 to St Ternan' s Church? Consensus of opinion something to do with Broadband.
- (2) Road closures due to accidents - Daniel Laird is prepared to attend a meeting to discuss future proposals.
- (3) Grit bins and dropped kerbs – Grit bins are scheduled for October. A check is to be made to see if the Maintenance Team has a plan for dropped kerbs.
- (4) Newtonhill Library update – Several groups have registered an interest on having something on the site of the portacabin when this is deemed surplus to requirements
- (5) Path across the Moor has been tidied up along the grass verges.
- (6) Creating an emergency kit for your home
- (7) Concerns were raised re possible fire hazard caused by bushes, trees, etc at the junction of Park Place and Windyedge. Also, complaints re high hedge. Mr Jones to follow these up with Gemma Morrison of Aberdeenshire Council.
- (8) Dangerous dogs – A dog walker was attacked by two dogs in Newtonhill. It is reported they have also attacked others. The matter has been reported to the Police but they don't appear to be taking any action. It was suggested that perhaps it is the Dog Warden who should deal with this. Mr Morgan to contact Police Inspector to see if the matter can be progressed esp as the School is not far away. Does a safety audit need to be done at the School?
- (9) Article in the Newsey re Newtonhill 50+ Walking Group does not include contact details.
- (10) Due to a misunderstanding, there is no article by Newtonhill, Muchalls and Cammachmore Community Council in this edition of the Newsey.

The meeting finished at 8.50pm with Mr Flockhart wishing everyone a safe journey home.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 18th October 2023.