

NEWTONHILL, MUCHALLS and CAMMACHMORE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTE

The 370<sup>th</sup> meeting of Newtonhill, Muchalls and Cammachmore Community Council was held in Muchalls Village Hall at 7.45pm on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2024

PRESENT – Mr Flockhart (Chair), Miss Daniels, Mrs Stephen, Mr Ewing, Mr Connolly, Mr Chew, Mr Morgan, Mr Jones, Mr Torrance, PC Charnley, Cllrs Sullivan and Victor.

Mr Flockhart welcomed all to the meeting.

Congratulations to Alison and Mike on their recent marriage.

Confirmation Torcuill Torrance was co-opted on at the last meeting. (January 17<sup>th</sup> 2024)

Thanks to Mrs Stephen for coffee and cakes.

1 – APOLOGIES – Punya Samarakoon, Mr Cruickshank, Andy Ward, Mrs Davidson.

2 - POLICE REPORT – PC Charnley attended the meeting. A written report was also received – youth disorder 1; anti-social 7; theft 1UI; shoplifting 1D, 1UI; careless driving 1D. Attempted house breaking may be added to the list

Discussion then followed re accidents on the road between Muchalls bend and Cammachmore. This is one of the worst stretches for flooding.

Parking on pavements is not a matter for the Police. It is dealt with by Aberdeenshire Council. Feel free to submit photos and report.

Dangerous dogs is now being dealt with by the Dog Warden. No further information available. New laws governing the keeping of XL Bully dogs come into force this month.

Mr Chew asked about receiving updates of clear up rates of incidents. This involves Freedom of Information. He did at one point ask for info but didn't get far. PC Charnley suggested he try emailing again.

Theft of domestic oil heating fuel from Findon and theft of outboard engine from a lock-up at Newtonhill Bay.

3 - ELSICK BRIDGE – As Mr Torrance had to leave early, Elswick Bridge was taken first

Firstly, Mr Torrance thanked Aberdeenshire Council for so quickly repairing the broken bicycle covers at the Bettridge Centre

At the public meeting the Newtonhill Access Committee was set up. There are 16 members and are hoping to become a sub-committee of NVA. A secret vote on this will be needed. If agreed then any funds raised will be ringfenced for bridge repairs. Their mission is to restore access lost to the community and open up others.

A footbridge could quite easily be put in place for approx. £35,000. This would then be a heritable asset which hopefully would be adopted by the Council thus absolving the Committee of liability and any insurance.

Fund raising events are to be organised. If the plans to replace the bridge fall through any monies raised will revert to the Common Good Fund – this would need to be run past donors.

Replacing vehicular bridge would be in the region of £80,000 but this does not include any extra costs eg planning, surveys.

A query arose as to what would happen to any funds raised if NVA were to fold. Mr Torrance to find out and report back.

Mr Torrance also reported on the

UNDERPASS – A topographic survey has been carried out. All land owners have agreed work can be carried out.

4 - MINUTE 369 – Approved.

5 - MATTERS ARISING

(1)(4.1) SSEN Fund – Mr Flockhart working on a document to be signed when packs are handed out.

(2)(4.2) Hedge at St Ternan's – The hedge will be removed and replaced with a fence – not sure when.

(3)(4.5) Dangerous Dogs – see under Police Report

(4) (4.6) Parking near Barratts Development – Problem appears to have been resolved since no parking on pavements became law.

(5)(4.9) Bin uplifts – uplifts very erratic in Muchalls. Recently 3 out of 4 collections have been missed in the older part of the Village. Apparently, the small collection lorries keep breaking down. Councillor Victor to take this up with Council.

(6)(11.2) MET Office Prospectus – Mr Jones has further details and will take part in an online training session in March.

(7) (14.3) Library building – Work had been instructed in error.

(8)(14.4) Community Council Insurance - -Renewal documents have been received and forwarded to Community Councillors. Will cover 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024 to March 2025. Premium will be included. The email will include a link to access online account to access invoice documents and allow payment. We need to add on Newtonhill Christmas Lights, the Isabella, binoculars, stone work at Newtonhill, anything else? Will be discussed at the March meeting once everyone has had time to read.

(9)(11.21) Platinum Jubilee Path – We have been asked once again for support although Mr Jones has already done this. He has also given them some older details of the history of the immediate area.

They are now applying for grants for between Inverbervie and Catterline. They have contacted all Community Councils for support and would welcome letters of support which could be kept on file. Mr Jones to draft a letter and pass to Mr Flockhart for comments.

(10)(14.2) Village Markers – Mr Connolly willing to take this forward for Muchalls (perhaps Cammachmore too) but would like some help. Firstly, design would be needed. Residents would like Muchalls children to design but how do we do this? Appeal should be made in the Muchalls Village Association newsletter with perhaps some suggestions of what is needed, eg Peace Sign, Castle, Old Man of Muchalls. A lot depends on what can actually be transferred to the granite. Design, planning permission, costing, applying for grants.

6 – PLANNING - (1) Response from SEPA regarding the impact of the development at Chapelton on the Pheppie Burn, (2) LDP update from Piers Blaxter, (3) Local Place Plan is needed by the end of the year. Hopefully, article in the Newsey will bring some response.

7 - ROADS and POTHOLES – (1) No word of wall at the Lomonds. Latest update safety barrier has been re-instated and a new lamp post is in position, (2) AMEY will work with Aberdeenshire Council re road cleansing but it is the Council's responsibility., (3) Mr Flockhart reported some pavements in front of drive ways in Newtonhill have been marked and dug up (approx. 50) in preparation for re-tarring. Never mind the potholes!. However, if there is any tar left some potholes will be filled. Mr Flockhart has contacted Ross Anderson, regarding two large potholes on St Michael's Road but they are not a priority.

He also reported street lights at the zebra crossing being out – surely this should be a priority.

8 – UNDERPASS – See under Elswick Bridge

9 - BINOCULARS – Aberdeenshire Council may instal the binoculars. May or may not have to pay but finances are available. Update from Mr Jones – installation has been held up due to clearing up storm damage in Stonehaven. Workers have been to see binoculars so hopefully not far from completion.

10 - COMMUNITY COUNCILS – SINGLE ELECTION DATE – All Community Councillors to stand down in September 2024. Members will then be elected for three years. AGMs will be held in June where Office Bearers will be elected.

There is to be a video where members will explain their roles and what they get out of being a Community Councillor to be shown on social media.

A lengthy discussion followed regarding changes – call for nominations starts 19<sup>th</sup> August closing 8<sup>th</sup> September. ballot if required 19<sup>th</sup> September, inaugural meeting by 11<sup>th</sup> October.

Relevant papers have been circulated to Community Councillors.

Perhaps article in Newsey needed.

11 - FINANCE REPORT – No change from last month. Total in bank £9,545, - £1,644 Community Council funds.

12- CORRESPONDENCE

- (1) Have your say on Aberdeenshire's Transport Strategy
- (2) Coastal Communities Fund now open – 9am Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2024.
- (3) NVA using Facebook looking for people to deliver Newseys in Chapelton. Surely someone from Chapelton can collect and arrange delivery.
- (4) Stonehaven Leisure Centre Venue User Engagement Group meeting - 30<sup>th</sup> January 2024.
- (5) Inspiring Aberdeenshire 2024 nominations now LIVE.
- (6) Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership budget engagement project – <https://engage.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/budget-engagement-health-and-social-care-partnership>
- (7) Kit Roscoe - quote wanted re Newtonhill resident arrested in Dubai – Passed to Mr Flockhart. Resident now home.
- (8) Charley Blackford – Defibrillator funding.

- (9) Douglas Gunn BSc Honours Project – Scottish Rainforest  
[https://sruc.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/public\\_survey](https://sruc.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/public_survey) He would like us to mention a survey he is doing in connection with his degree. Details have been posted on Newtonhill, Muchalls and Cammachmore Community Council Facebook page.
- (10) Road closure 1<sup>st</sup> March 2024 for one day from A90 flyover to U62K junction at Rothnick Croft for Openreach work
- (11) Minute of TrAK meeting held on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2024. Mr Flockhart attended and not impressed. Representative from Scotrail did not realise Montrose Station closed at 9pm.
- (12) NHS Healthcare Improvement Scotland – ‘Being a partner in my care’  
[www.healthcareimprovementinscotland.org](http://www.healthcareimprovementinscotland.org)
- (13) Scottish Community Councils Conference – Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2024, 10.30am to 12.30pm.
- (14) Would we like a free portrait of the King? No.

### 13 - AOCB

- (1) Article for the Newsey submitted
- (2) Newtonhill Festive Lights – Two faulty sockets reported last year still not repaired and unlikely to be as they are not on a street considered to be a main footfall. Newtonhill Road is also not considered to be an area of main footfall so cannot get sockets on a further four lamp posts. Also, may prevent any future repairs being done. As a result, any displays will be restricted. Can anything be done to get the designation of Newtonhill Road changed?  
At this point Mr Connolly mentioned the Newtonhill sign needs some sort of lighting – either uplighter or downlighter. Neighbouring households would have to be consulted. Landscape Services want plan of flower beds. They will take signs down when they have time.
- (3) Free seed potatoes – Mr Flockhart has contact for possible free seed potatoes. Best time for hand out would probably be April meeting. Mr Jones registered an interest on behalf of those with allotments. He felt April might be a bit late. Mr Flockhart will get back to his contact.
- (4) - Anyone interested in accessing First Aid Training? No.
- (5) Mr Jones reported there has been a lot of erosion on the path leading from the Braehead, Newtonhill. It is now probably unsafe to use. Unfortunately, once paths etc start to erode either nothing can be done or it is a very expensive project.
- (6) Miss Daniels reported there has been no update on results of rail surveys undertaken some time ago on the railway line between Muchalls and Newtonhill.
- (7) SSEN Transmission Kintore to Tealing – There are to be a series of public consultations. Every household in our Area has been informed. Councillor Victor reported lines in England were being put underground so why not in Scotland? Presumably just a matter of cost
- (8) Mr Jones reported information board for Newtonhill which was ordered approx. 18 months ago is to be erected in the park near to where the pedestrian crossing is. It will be a vertical board displaying the walking map.

The 371<sup>st</sup> meeting will be held in the Skateraw Hall at 7.30pm on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2024.