

NEWTONHILL, MUCHALLS and CAMMACHMORE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Draft minute of the 372nd meeting on Newtonhill, Muchalls and Cammachmore Community Council held in the Skateraw Hall at 7.30pm on Wednesday 17th April 2024.

PRESENT – Mr Flockhart (Chair), Miss Daniels, Mrs Stephen, Mr Cruickshank, Mr Ewing, Mr Connolly, Punya Samarakoon, Mr Morgan, Mr Torrance, Cllrs Sullivan and Victor and 2 members of the public.

1 – APOLOGIES – Mr Chew, Mr Jones, Mrs Davidson

2 – POLICE REPORT – Written Report received. Newtonhill, Muchalls and Cammachmore Community Council are included in the Stonehaven Area. UI = Under investigation; D = Detected. Youth disorder 1; anti-social 13; 1 theft under investigation; shoplifting one under investigation; 3 house breakings under investigation; drink/drug driving 1 detected; dangerous driving 1 detected; careless driving 1 under investigation.

There was a fire in a container at the back of the Bettridge Centre containing football equipment. It was reported to Police but no mention in Police Report or response from Police (Latest update – A group of youths have been traced and charged with fire raising).

3 – MINUTE 371 – Accepted.

4 – MATTERS ARISING

(1)(4.1) SSEN – So far, no purchases have been made. Waiting for feedback on who may be vulnerable. Request in Muchalls newsletter for any vulnerable person to let us know.

(2)(4.5) Newtonhill Festive Lights - Once again permission for light sockets has been refused. Councillor Sullivan could now raise a Member Promoted Issue. Cllr Sullivan will update us when she has more information.

(3)(14.6) Reminder Portlethen Community Ambulance Open Day, 20th April, 2024. Anyone wanting attend please contact gilldrain@hotmail.co.uk

(4)(14.8) Pylons meeting - No-one attended.

(5)(15.1) Any updates on dropped kerbs – Mr Flockhart has contacted Tim Stephens again but he is on holiday until 15th April 2024. Cllr Sullivan will make enquiries.

(6)(15.2) Cut down bushes at East Cammachmore – No further update.

(7)(15.3) Fence at Newtonhill tennis courts – Cllr Sullivan has passed this on.

(8)(Portlethen Medical Centre – Mr Flockhart has a meeting organised for Monday at the Health centre. A new doctor has been appointed. Also, a new online booking service is to be installed. Not everyone will be happy with this.

5 – PLANNING – Aberdeenshire LDP Evidence Report Topic Papers. More Evidence Reports are coming. Mr Morgan feels Aberdeenshire Council are doing a reasonable job. We should have enough information to compile a reasonable Local Place Plan.

6 – ROADS and POTHoles – (1) Large pothole on A92 near Mill of Muchalls has been reported to AMEY. Has been repaired, (2) Mr Flockhart has once again reported the mess at the sides of the central reservation turning into both Cammachmore junctions. According to Amey this is Aberdeenshire Council's responsibility, (3) Water running off fields onto A92 both north and south is

getting worse. There is always a lot of water lying on the road opposite Nethermains Farm when it rains. Mr Flockhart will report this.

7 – UNDERPASS – Mr Flockhart has contacted Amey to see if they can help in anyway. So far, no response. Mr Torrance reported the design is being reviewed and there will be a public consultation in due course.

8 – ELSICK BRIDGE – Elswick Bridge Replacement Group are busy working on their website. They are to become a sub-group of Newtonhill Village Association. The residents involved would accept a 3 ½ T bridge, which would provide active travel.

9 – FEATURE WALLS – Mr Connolly reported permission was not granted to join in to a lighting spur or join in to a lamp standard to provide lighting for Newtonhill Feature Stone. Solar lighting was suggested but would it work during the winter months. Mr Connolly to make further enquiries.

Discussion then followed regarding feature stones at Cammachmore and Newtonhill.

Muchalls now has someone prepared to liaise with Danny. A request for a design for Muchalls has been made in the most recent newsletter.

Danny and Punya are to meet to discuss where to site a feature for Cammachmore. Residents will also be consulted. Children at Newtonhill Primary School will be asked for designs. Mr Connolly has contacted Glenrock re possible costs for Cammachmore.

It would make sense to put in both planning applications and applications for funding in at the same time.

10 – COMMUNITY COUNCIL INSURANCE – Waiting for Zurich to confirm they have received payment.

11 – FINANCE REPORT – Total in bank £9318; £1451 each for stones for Muchalls and Cammachmore; Community Council £919; £5000 SSEN.

12 – CORRESPONDENCE

- (1) Anyone attend meeting re pylons at Drumoak Church Hall on 28th March 2024? No.
- (2) Public Consultation on Potential Vulnerable Areas – Mr Morgan has responded. Queries arose as to whether this would affect insurance in the Area.
- (3) SEPA Disrupting Criminal Dumper
- (4) BSc Honours Project – Thanks from Douglas Gunn
- (5) SSEN Digital Toolkit
- (6) Aberdeen International Airport Airspace Change Proposal – Stage 3 Gateway Update
- (7) Aberdeenshire Health and Safety Report – Mr Torrance would like the A92 underpass re-opened (have been working on this for years); pedestrian crossing at Newtonhill School; pavement to link Park and Choose to Cairnhill on the south side; active travel linking Aberdeen to Stonehaven.
Mr Flockhart has received a request for a mirror at the junction to the Bettridge Centre. Also, more zebra crossings at TESCO. He has asked for photos and more information.
- (8) Relative cost of overhead and underground power cables - underground cabling is reportedly 4.5-5.7 more expensive than overhead cables.
- (9) Telephones going digital - Switch over to 100% digital could be delayed by two years over fears for the elderly who rely on care alert systems.
- (10) Community Resilience Framework – Mr Morgan has responded on our behalf. on our behalf.
- (11) AMEY April to June Roadworks – Nothing in our area.

- (12) Prohibition of waiting – Park Place. Monday 15th April for 5 days for installation of 2 stop valves on water mains.
- (13) Aberdeenshire Council - Customer Services - The Stonehaven Office is to be closed. Any queries in person will have to be made at the Leisure Centre. Closed at the moment so a visit will have to be made to the library). Business will now be conducted by telephone or online (great for folk who don't have computers or are not computer literate). Payments can also be made at the Post Office – great considering lack of Post Offices in the Area.
- (14) SCDC Participation Request Proposals Conference – 15th May 2024, 9.30am – 3.30pm via Teams
- (15) Clarification regarding Single Elections for Community Councils
- (16) Conservation Area Status for Muchalls – I would say yes to retaining Conservation Status – annoying as it can be at times. It would appear the Area getting smaller. Will raise this at Muchalls Village Association at the end of May.

13 – AOCB

- (1) Miss Daniels is working on an article for the Newsey.
- (2) Some time ago there were bare wires at the solar panel display at Park and Choose. These have been repaired. However, further damage has been done. Mr Flockhart will report to Aberdeenshire Council.
- (3) Miss Daniels queried about the cable which hangs on the bushes – and has done for some time- on road leading from the Church to Muchalls. Apparently, this is an Openreach self-burying cable. May well be but taking a long time bury through the gorse bushes.
- (4) Mr Morgan reported on projected school rolls Newtonhill is no longer over capacity. However, it is a different story with Portlethen Academy. Capacity is 970. By 2024 projected roll is 1033 and by 2028 128%. Mr Morgan has written to Learning Estates and is awaiting a response.
- (5) Sun dial at the Bettridge Centre – When the Bettridge Centre completed a sundial was donated by Gray's School of Art to them. A representative from the NOOSC attended the meeting and informed members they would like it removed as it is in a bad state of repair and the ground it sits on could be upgraded for children to play on. Mr Torrance felt it would be a shame to remove it and perhaps it could be saved. It would appear the Bettridge Centre Management Committee are happy for it to be removed. Mr Torrance is to make further enquiries. NOOSC have made enquiries re cost of repair, removing to another site, etc. In the meantime, it was felt that if the sundial is in such a bad state, it should be fenced off on the grounds of safety.

The 373rd meeting will be held in the Skateraw Hall at 7.30pm on Wednesday 15th May 2024.