

Newtonhill, Muchalls and Cammachmore Community Council

DRAFT MINUTE

The 375th Meeting of Newtonhill, Muchalls and Cammachmore Community Council was held in the Skateraw Hall at 7.30pm on Wednesday 21st August 2024.

PRESENT – Mr Flockhart (Chair), Miss Daniels, Mrs Stephen, Mr Morgan, Mr Chew, Mr Ewing, Mr Cruickshank, Mr Torrance, Mrs Davidson, Punya Samarakoon, Councillors Sullivan and Victor, 3 members of the public and Jo Duck and Paul Finch (sustainable travel)

Mr Flockhart welcomed all and hoped we were all fighting fit for a new season.

1 – APOLOGIES – Mr Jones

2 – POICE REPORT – Written reports submitted. Stonehaven – 9 youth disorder; anti-social 15; thefts 2 under investigation; shoplifting 1 under investigation; vehicle theft 2 under investigation; house breaking 2 under investigation; drink/drug driving 3 detected; dangerous driving 1 under investigation;

July – Youth disorder 4; anti-social 9; thefts 1 detected, 1 under investigation; shoplifting 1 under investigation; vehicle theft 2 detected, 1 under investigation; careless driving 2 detected,; drink/drug driving 2 detected, 1 under investigation;

Following a number of recent incidents of vandalism Mr Flockhart made a request for Inspector Rhona Di Meola to attend our meeting. She passed this on to PC Charnley who did not attend either. Members expressed disappointment that considering the recent level of crime occurring in Newtonhill including arson, vandalism, flower beds being ripped up, stones and wooden blocks thrown at moving cars and recent attempted house breakings in Newtonhill Road the Police did not take this opportunity to engage with the Community Council members, Local Councillors and residents. Given the level of concern in our community this invitation to Inspector Di Meola will be repeated for our next meeting.

3 – MINUTE 374 - Accepted.

4 – SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL – Mr Flockhart introduced Jo Duck (AECOM) and Peter Finch (NESTRANS) who were to talk to us on Aberdeen to Laurencekirk Multi-Modal Corridor Study. There will be a study into options to improve opportunities for sustainable travel (walking, cycling, wheeling and use of public transport) from Laurencekirk to Aberdeen.

A public and stakeholder consultation will be held in September.

There will be a report into a rapid bus in November

Active travel network will consider all means of transport from Stonehaven north to Marywell (quiet routes through communities using existing tracks but with improvements).

A92 buffer zone - open space, safety barriers, further away from the actual road. There is an existing path part of the way but would need to be upgraded.

Possibility of opening a railway station at Newtonhill. Tight site possibly at Old Mill Road. Parking? Bettridge Centre? Playpark at the Courts? Safety issues with access to station and platforms. Would it be well used? Free bus transport for under 22s and over 60s. More people working from home.

Chapelton growing in size but if using train would they go to Newtonhill or Portlethen? No through trains going south.

The bus service is poor at the moment but would it get worse if trains were in operation? Would it make more sense to improve the cycle path from Newtonhill to Portlethen?

Lots to think about.

Mr Torrance offered his help and his details will be passed to Jo Duck.

Mr Flockhart thanked Jo and Peter for attending.

This was a last-minute addition to the agenda.

5 – MATTERS ARISING

(1)(5.1) SSEN – Some funds held in reserve for replacements.

(2)(5.2) Dropped kerbs – Still waiting.

(3)(5.4) Portlethen Medical Centre – Mr Flockhart will make enquiries on Monday.

(5)(5.7) Community Council Get-together – Still no firm dates or venue.

(6)(14.14) Japanese Knotweed – Councillor Victor reported some of this has been treated. There are other areas in Cammachmore but the Council need exact locations. They will then assess whose land it is growing on. If it is Council property the Council will treat. If not, then it is up to the owners to deal with the problem.

(7)(15.2) Closure of gaps between carriageways at Cammachmore – It does not appear that any alterations to roads will be made until further houses have been built at which point further discussions will take place. It would appear that the construction of the AWPR has decreased the volume of traffic using the A92.

6 – PLANNING –

(1) Planning application for dwelling house at land to east of Skateraw Store has been withdrawn.

(2) Aberdeenshire LDP Evidence Topic Papers – Energy, Sustainable Transport and Local Living. The plan to remodel the flyover has been put on hold and will be reviewed every 5 years or 500 houses completions, whichever comes first. New school to open 2026/2027 academic year. Mr Morgan raised concerns re flood risks in our area especially as the Pheppie Burn has been straightened and widened. Stonehaven and Portlethen are classed as possible flood risk areas but our area is not. Our area has already incurred problems with flooding esp on the A92.

7 – LOCAL PLACE PLAN - Mr Morgan working hard on this and it should be complete towards end of September at which point it will be forwarded to Community Councillors, Local Councillors for comments. It will then be submitted towards the end of the year.

8 – ROADS and POTHOLES – (1) Surface dressing – still waiting, (2) Road to the Bettridge centre and car park – not acknowledged as a Council Road although Roads do maintain the lighting – not sure why. 2013 Property Services undertook some pothole repairs. Investigation going on as to who owns the road. 3) Work on zig-zags – still waiting, (4) Mr Morgan has requested white line painting

at St Crispin's Road, (5) Once again complaints re potholes at Newtonhill, Muchalls and Cammachmore.

9 – UNDERPASS – Mr Torrance reported Audrey Nicoll, MSP, is to visit the site on Friday 23rd August 2024. There is a design study but this is not out for consultation yet. Mr Torrance is hoping this will be pushed forward.

10 – NEWTONHILL TENNIS COURTS – The tennis courts are in a sad state. Council has no money for refurbishment. Residents have been asked what they would like done and response was get them back to their original state. Mr Morgan to contact the Council again.

11 - ELSICK BRIDGE – The old bridge which was demolished after floods will be replaced using pre-cast spans. This will create a crossing point focusing on pedestrians and non-vehicular transport. However, some vehicular access will be allowed to the householder dependent on access for fuel and deliveries from medium sized vehicles. Work started on Monday 19th August 2024 but no completion date has been given. Mr Torrance reported there will be an official opening of the bridge with hopefully BBQ or something. Tim Stephens, Aberdeenshire Council, to be invited.

Thanks to all concerned is securing the replacement of the bridge esp. Mr Flockhart for all his hard work and persistence. Letter of thanks from Mr and Mrs Barclay.

12 - CHAPELTON DEVELOPMENT – Another 300 houses in the pipeline. This will put added pressure on services esp health care

Mr Chew reported the map for the Scarecrow Festival gave a good indication of future development. |

13 - FEATURE WALLS – Progressing slowly. Not sure how Cammachmore is coming along.

Muchalls needs exact locations, maps etc, scale drawing of proposed feature.

14 - FINANCE REPORT - £5,209 in the bank – Muchalls and Cammachmore each have £1,450 towards stone features.

Mr Ewing to see to getting end of year accounts signed off.

15 – ELECTIONS

Monday 19th August – Call for nominations

Sunday 8th September - Close of nominations

18th September - Current Community Councillors stand down

19 September - Ballot if needed

20 September - Count if needed

Proposed inaugural meeting Wednesday 9th October 7pm prior to normal meeting which will take place at 7.30pm. Please note this will be a week early

Need to change booking with Skateraw Hall

Promotional information received. More information at – Community Councils – Single Elections 2024

16 - CORRESPONDENCE

- (1) Aberdeenshire Council's schools' streets trial. Arduthie School, Queen's Road, Stonehaven has been added. Safer school streets project whereby streets in the area will be subject to road closures at peak times to provide safer travel to school. Parking further away from school will also be encouraged.
- (2) KDP Annual Report 2023-2024
- (3) News Release – A new direction – Council Plan and Place plans agreed
- (4) Meikle Carewe Wind Farm Fund now open
- (5) Open Space and Play Sufficiency Report
- (6) Ian Findlay Path Fund has reopened for a third year
- (7) History and Photographic Exhibition of Newtonhill.
- (8) Community Resilience – First Aid Training
- (9) Bus service revisions as from 19th August 2024
- (10) Coastal Communities Challenge Fund - <https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/ukbusiness/business-support/funding/cccf-grant-awards>
- (11) 2024 SURF Awards – Deadline 4th September 2024
- (12) New TESCO in Stonehaven, near the end of the AWPR. Will include filling station, EV charging, coffee shop, etc.
- (13) Amey – North East Network Snapshot
- (14) Chapelton News Summer 2024
- (15) Portlethen Community Ambulance – Motion in Scottish Parliament. Congratulations to all involved in procuring and running their new “wee blue ambulance”.
- (16) Helen Nicholson (a mature student at Glasgow Caledonian University) would like some help regarding Community Preparedness within Scottish Local Authorities. Mr Morgan has responded.
- (17) Aberdeenshire Rural Communities Challenge Fund 2024-2025. – Sunday 11th August 2024
- (18) Michael Taylor – Suicide Prevention Community Engagement Officer – Michael.taylor@samh.org.uk
- (19) Aberdeen International Airport's Airspace Change Proposal – Stage 3 Public Consultation
- (20) Minute of Chapelton Liaison Meeting – Hopefully new Cairnhill School will open academic year 2026/2027. No requirement for GP facilities yet.
- (21) Review of Passenger Transport Strategy – Survey – 29 July – 1 September 2024 – engage.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/Aberdeenshire-council-passenger-transport-strategy
- (22) Aberdeenshire Decides – A network of people across Aberdeenshire is to be set up to have their say on various issues.
- (23) Date for next Community Council Forum 4th September 2024. Mr Flockhart has asked for Aberdeenshire Decides to be included.
- (24) Platinum Jubilee Coastal Path update.
- (25) Community Resilience – Aimi Blueman, Community Resilience Project Officer, checking to see if we need anything.
- (26) Closure of A92 from 19th to 23rd August 2024 and effect on buses from Muchalls, Newtonhill and Portlethen. Newtonhill residents will be able to board buses at TESCO.
- (27) Surfacing improvements to 1.2 miles of the A92 north of Stonehaven begin Sunday 18th August to Friday 23rd August 2024.
- (28) Work is to start on the flyover at Portlethen to replace street lights. Work will last 2 weeks and starts on Monday 26th August 2024.
- (29) Aberdeenshire Council has launched a survey on equality outcomes – <https://engage.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/development-aberdeenshire-council-equalities-outcomes-2025-2029>

17 - AOCB

- (1) Council officials have reported several vehicles (SORNed, no MOT etc) have recently been dropped off in Muchalls.
- (2) Mr Flockhart reported it will be Muchalls' 50th Gala next year.
- (3) Cammies Fiesta – 21st September 2024, 10am to 4pm.

The meeting finished at 9.20pm with Mr Flockhart thanking everyone for attending and a safe journey home.

The 376th meeting will be held in Skateraw Hall at 7.30pm on Wednesday 18th September 2024