

Newtonhill, Muchalls and Cammachmore Community Council

The 378th meeting of Newtonhill, Muchalls and Cammachmore Community Council was held in the Skateraw Hall at 7.30pm on Wednesday 27th November 2024

DRAFT MINUTE 378

1 – PRESENT – Mir Flockhart (Chair), Mrs Davidson, Mrs Stephen, Mr Morgan, Mr Chew, Mr Jones, Mr Torrance, Punya Samarakoon, Mr Armes, Cllr Victor and two members of the public.

Mr Flockhart welcomed Roland Armes who is the new Community Councillor for Cammachmore.

2 – APOLOGIES – Miss Daniels, Mr Connolly, Mr Ewing, Councillors Sullivan and Aitchison.

3 – POLICE REPORT – (1) Written Report submitted. Youth disorder 7; anti-social behaviour 23; thefts 1 detected, 2 under investigation; shoplifting 1 detected, 3 under investigation; house breakings 2 detected, 1 under investigation; careless driving 1 detected; drink/drug driving 1 detected;.

(2) A man has been reported to the Procurator Fiscal following a number of house breakings in Newtonhill. The incidents happened in the early hours of Thursday 31st October 2024.

PC Charnley is unable to attend the Community Council Forum on 4th December 2024.

4 – AMENDMENTS - MINUTE of INAUGURAL MEETING – Apologies Councillor Sullivan, not Victor

MINUTE 377 – Tennis Courts – Mr Morgan suggests – Mr Morgan has contacted Aberdeenshire Council with a list of problems including fence/fence posts, two tennis nets and supporting posts, netball stands.

Minutes accepted.

5 – MATTERS ARISING

(1)(2) Co-option of Mr Connolly. – Mr Connolly was co-opted on in absentia to deal with feature walls – proposed Mr Jones, seconded Mr Morgan.

(2)(4.5) Article for the Newsey – Miss Daniels is working on the article. Mr Armes thinks he was too late to give a personal update for this edition. Hopefully, it will appear in the next addition.

(3)(15.2) Aberdeen-Laurencekirk Multi-Modal Transport Corridor Study – Did anyone attend? No. Mr Torrance submitted comments that all means of transport need to be considered.

(4)(16.1) Letter of thanks re green waste sent to Aberdeenshire Council.

6 – PLANNING – Planning permission granted for house at Marine Terrace, Muchalls.

Aberdeenshire Council refused Stewart Milne planning permission for the building of 174 houses at Hillside. This decision has been overturned on appeal. Permission belongs to the land – not the applicant.

7 – LOCAL PLACE PLAN – Mr Morgan has forwarded draft Local Place Plan to Ward 17 Councillors and adjacent Community Councils. Also published on Facebook with a request for comments. No comments have been received re draft Local Place Plan. Response to a Freedom of Information to Aberdeenshire Council - Mackie Academy (86%), Portlethen Academy (97%) and Newtonhill Primary School (71%) are still not at capacity.

Mr Morgan has sent NMCCC Local Place Plan to Aberdeenshire Council for registration as part of Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan 2029.

Mr Flockhart took the opportunity to thank Mr Morgan for all his extensive work in putting the LPP in place.

Aberdeenshire Council need to review the LPP and validate it against the criteria. It will then be registered on their website. The Policy Team will then consider it as part of the LDP process. Feedback should be within 4-6 weeks.

8 – LDP – (a) Flood Risk and Water Management – Aberdeenshire Council have had to remove the Floods Report overlay from their external map as it could breach GDPR. They have corrected when one can see SEPA's flooding data on the web.

9 – ROADS and POTHoles – (1) Any updates on the road to the Bettridge Centre? (2) Problems on A92 at Cammachmore AMEY is responsible for maintenance, repair and inspection (fabric only). Is it dangerous? Aberdeenshire Council is responsible for cleaning work but would need to liaise with AMEY.

Mr Chew reported flooding on the southbound carriageway at the Muchalls Bend, possibly caused by blocked drains. It would be advisable for this to be dealt with before winter sets in

10 - FEATURE WALLS – Muchalls and Cammachmore both now have planning permission.

Regarding funding, it was agreed at a previous meeting that funding applications would be joint applications for Muchalls and Cammachmore.

Mr Connolly has applied for and been granted £1500 for Cammachmore alone. Similarly, he has applied to Aberdeenshire Council for funding for Cammachmore alone but so far has received none.

Admittedly, Muchalls decided to wait for planning permission before going for grants as they felt it was unfair on other applicants as there was no guarantee permission would be granted. Muchalls and Cammachmore both have £1426 in the Community Council accounts,

Muchalls has spent a total of £291.71 (planning fee and specific maps as google maps are not acceptable). That leaves £1134 .29. Muchalls now has 4 quotes – one verbal £5,000, 3 written £5,000 and £3,500, £3750.

Cammachmore – Total cost? Expenses so far?

Grant of £1500 from Meikle Carewe.

11 - UNDERPASS – Newtonhill to Cammachmore Pedestrian Link – Feasibility Report has been circulated to all Community Councillors. No updates.

12 – TENNIS COURTS – It would appear only tennis posts and nets need replaced (holes appear to be in tact). Debris needs to be cleared from netball post holes. The MUGA court needs repainting. Mr Morgan has contacted Aberdeenshire Council to see if they have a problem with the Community replacing the equipment. No reply so far. Mr Morgan will look for formal quotations but thinks £1500 should cover it.

A member of the public suggested running repairs are not enough and the whole area needs to be upgraded. What would it cost and where would funding come from? Unlikely Council will come up with funding. Developer Obligations cannot be used for repairs.

Mr Torrance suggested it might be an idea for Newtonhill, Muchalls and Cammachmore Community Council to purchase the tennis courts via an Asset Transfer Agreement. Might be more problematic than it sounds as insurance, upkeep, etc would need to be considered.

13 – FINANCE REPORT- Is Community Council grant through yet? Data Protection has been renewed. No updates as Mr Ewing was not present.

14 – FOUL SMELL at various places in Newtonhill including the Bettridge Centre, football pitch, TESCO. (1) Smell at Bettridge Centre – A trap will be put on one of the sewers to hopefully stop the smell at the Bettridge. However, there are still problems within the Hall which could prove more difficult to overcome. Suggestion to flush the toilets in the lounge last thing at night in the hope this helps. If it doesn't then there is a bigger problem, (2) the drains on the bridge smell, (3) the drains up beside the roundabout at TESCO, (4) Anderson Drive, (5) Blockages of the drains at the football changing rooms

Four responses were received in response to Community Council question on Facebook re smell – (1) Cairnhill Road but this appears to have been rectified, (2) drain half way down Anderson Drive, (3) the bridge beside the Church, (4) Newtonhill Road just down from feature stone.

There are also problems in Muchalls with raw sewage running through a garden when it rains.

In Marine Terrace there are at least 3 septic tanks feeding into the same pipe and then flowing under the railway line and over the cliff. There will soon be another septic tank as planning permission was granted for a new house.

At the moment there are problems with the drainage system and raw sewage is running through a resident's garden. I understand SEPA, Network Rail, Scottish Water and Aberdeenshire Council are involved but there seems to be a problem getting them all together to work out a solution.

Latest update the pipe leading from the three septic tanks has been partially cleared but more remedial work is needed. Hopefully, work done will mean sewage will not run through resident's garden at the moment.

15 – COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT - No suggestions on how to encourage more people to attend Community Council meetings. However, consensus of opinion was that setting out seats in a semi-circle was preferable.

16 – CHAPELTON MASTER PLAN - Suggestions so far - roads, esp. Newtonhill to Cookney; water management and flood risk related issue; schools; health care ie GPs, pharmacy, dentists, public transport; cycle and walking routes; need for bungalows. Closing date for comments 27th November 2024 too soon. Mr Morgan has asked for extension to 24th December 2024.

Mr Morgan, Mr Chew, Mr Torrance have been working on a response from Community Council which has now been completed and forwarded to Community Councillors for comments.

It has also been forwarded to Richard Phillips

Mr Flockhart is to ask about proposed new school at the next Chapelton Liaison Meeting

17 - CORRESPONDENCE

1 – Communications Grant for Community Resilience Groups - Mr Flockhart suggested that perhaps 6? Walkie talkie radios might be helpful. Sounds a good idea but radios are expensive.

- 2 – A2B dial-a-bus – Changes to timetable – Further information phone 01467 535333
- 3 – Scottish Water – Tell us what you think.
- 4 – Aberdeenshire Council gearing up to tackle the winter season ahead.
- 5 – Dementia Survey – South Aberdeenshire - <https://engage.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/makingconnections>
- 6 – Aberdeen International Airport’s Airspace Change Proposal – now on the Civil Aviation Authority’s online portal.
- 7 – Electricity Infrastructure Consenting in Scotland – Consultation – <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/electricity-infrastructure-consenting-in-scotland> Consultation ends 29th November

A really bad solution to the wrong problem. Put domestic sized nuclear power close to where the demand is.

- 8 – Aberdeenshire Council Budget Engagement 2025/2026 - <https://engage.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/Aberdeenshire-council-budget-engagement-2025-26>
- 9 – Pension Credit Campaign – Notices have been put up in Muchalls
- 10 – Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership is looking for Stakeholder Members from the Aberdeenshire Communities to attend regular meetings as part of the Integration Joint Board

JB-Stakeholder-Member-ABS42947-I-Aberdeenshire-Council-I-myjobscotland
- 11 – Notification re issues in and around Belhelvie Cemeteries – Saturday 23 November, 12.30pm, Forsyth Hall, Belhelvie.
- 12 – NESTRANS – Community Sustainable Travel. Grant – www.nestrans.org.uk/funding. Closing date Friday 29th November 2024.
- 13– Update on Aberdeenshire Restaurant Week
- 14 – Chapelton Autumn/Winter Newsletter
- 15 – SSEN – Revised Community Toolkit – networksCVTeam@sse.com
- 16 – Road closures Bridge of Muchalls – Monday 18th November 2024 for 2 days and 25th November for 5 days
- 17– Hybrid Bus Forum Thursday 28th November 2024, 7.30pm to 9pm. Doors open 7.15pm (Council Chambers, Viewmount). Mr Morgan to submit a question asking for a bus service round St Michael’s Road (avoiding the school run). Mr Morgan will attend online.
- 18 – TRAK meeting online 5th December 2024, 7pm online. Blair Keen, Aberdeenshire Council, will attend.
- 19 – Anti-Social behaviour – Mr Flockhart has once again received an email from a resident regarding graffiti. He wants CC to contact those responsible for cleaning (which he himself has

already done) and inform residents of what is going on regarding vandalism. Would need to know who is responsible for cleaning what.

- 20 – Aberdeen Bus Late Night Service – Friday night/Saturday morning and Saturday night/Sunday morning - bus services operated by First Aberdeen free of charge from Saturday 15th November 2024 to Sunday 5th January 2025 between Aberdeen City Centre and various destinations, including Westhill, Stonehaven, Inverurie, Ellon, Banchory.
- 21 – Meikle Carewe Wind Farm Fund – Newtonhill, Muchalls and Cammachmore Community - Cammachmore Feature Wall, £1,500 and Friday Luncheon Club, £1,615.16
- 22 – Aberdeenshire Council – Four Community Resilience Groups have applied for the communications grant and all have been successful.
- 23 – Help Newtonhill Bettridge Centre win funding for solar panels – <https://www.itpbfund.scot/vote/#vote-now>.
- 24 – Police Scotland – Crime Alert and After Dark.
- 25 – GoFibre Community Event – 3rd December 2024, 6-8pm, Mearns Community Campus.
- 26 – Public Consultation to name Amey’s North East Scotland gritter fleet.
- 27 – Community Council Induction Training Recordings
- 28 – Road closure for 11 days No20 to 26 Skateraw Road for sewer repairs
- 29 – Agenda for CC Forum meeting being held on Wednesday 4th December 2024, 7-8.30pm via Teams.
- 30 – Aberdeenshire Council encouraging the use of online APP to tackle noise disturbances.
- 31 – SSEN – online event to discuss Nature Based Solutions for flood protection and oil containment.

18 – AOCB

- 1 – Newtonhill Christmas Lights – Cllr Sullivan’s Member Promoted Issue came before the Area Committee and has now been referred to the next Committee.

The problem is Aberdeenshire Council do not consider Newtonhill Road an area of main footfall in the late afternoon/evening so connections for Christmas lights were not be allowed.

Further update – Cllr Sullivan’s member promoted issue will not be heard till January – very helpful for this year. It would appear faulty sockets have been repaired.

- 2 – Overgrown bushes at TESCO – Bushes have still not been trimmed back despite a notification saying it has been done. This is part of the safe walking route to Newtonhill School for children from Chapelton. Response from Aberdeenshire Council – The Local Roads Team were due to issue a Roads Scotland Act letter to TESCO in September but due to lack of staff, letter was not sent at that time. Letter has now been sent.
- 3 – Mr Flockhart has contacted Local Councillors re new school at Chapelton. In abeyance at the moment.

- 4 – Change to the opening hours at Portlethen Pool. Can Local Councillors help? Early morning lengths sessions, Saturday afternoon fun session and whole of Sunday have been stopped. Is this due to cost especially as Stonehaven Leisure Centre has been revamped. Apparently, pool was well used by older residents esp first thing in the morning.

Latest update, Wednesday and Friday early morning sessions to be re-instated. Re-opening on Sundays being considered. Letter to be sent to Aberdeenshire Council raising our concerns.

- 5 – Closure of Newtonhill Library – Newtonhill is one of 13 libraries in Aberdeenshire to close by the end of the year due to reducing usage. There has been no discussion with Councillors or the general public. Letter to be sent to Aberdeenshire Council raising our concerns and thanking Local Councillors for their efforts.
- 6 – Gritting – Suggestion residents could be responsible for gritting bits Council doesn't do. Most of the residents in Muchalls are elderly so this would prove difficult. In this day and age, worries about insurance and being sued if things go wrong.
- 8 – Platinum Jubilee Coastal Path. The Trust has now been formed and awaiting approval from the Charity Regulators. Work is progressing slowly. The North Group has been exploring the potential of the route north of Muchalls
- 9 – Information Board at Newtonhill playpark – Mr Jones to chase this up and see if the board can be acquired in the hope that a resident may be able to erect it.
- 10 – Turning kerbs in Newtonhill – will supposedly be done in the next financial year.
- 11- Jo Duck to be contacted re update on meeting about Aberdeen-Laurencekirk Multi-Modal Transport Corridor Study.

The 379th meeting will be held in the Skateraw Hall at 7.30pm on Wednesday 15th January 2025

The meeting closed with Mr Flockhart thanking all for attending, safe journey home and have a very Happy Christmas.