

NEWTONHILL, MUCHALLS and CAMMACHMORE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

The 379th meeting was held in the Skateraw Hall at 7.30pm on Wednesday 22nd January 2025.

Draft Minute

1 – PRESENT – Mr Flockhart (Chair), Mrs Stephen, Miss Daniels, Mr Morgan, Mr Chew, Mr Jones, Mr Cruickshank, Mrs Davidson, Mr Armes, Mr Ewing, Mr Torrance, Councillors Sullivan and Victor and one member of the public.

2 – Mr Flockhart welcomed all present, wishing everyone a Happy New Year.

A minute's silence was then held in memory of Carl Nelson who passed away in December. Carl was one time a member, Chair of Community Council and an Aberdeenshire Councillor.

3 – APOLOGIES – Punya Samarakoon

4 – POLICE REPORT – Written Reports received for November – youth disorder 7; anti-social 16; thefts 2 under investigation; shopliftings 10, 3 detected, 3 under investigation; careless driving 4 detected, one under investigation; drink/drug driving one detected; dangerous driving one under investigation and

December – youth disorder 4; anti-social 11; thefts one detected, 2 under investigation; housebreaking one under investigation; careless driving one detected, 2 under investigation; drink/drug driving one detected, 3 under investigation; dangerous driving one detected.

As usual, we are included in the Stonehaven area.

5 – MINUTE 378 - Accepted

6 – MATTERS ARISING

(1)(5.1) Co-option of Mr Connolly – Mr Connolly has Data Protection forms to fill in.

(2)(5.3) Aberdeen-Laurencekirk Multi-Modal Transport Strategy -Strong local support for station at Newtonhill but various issues need to be considered, eg parking and impact on local bus services, cost of transport, safe travel route from Newtonhill to Portlethen

(3)(17.17) Bus Forum – See under Correspondence.

(4)(17.18) TRAX meeting – Mr Flockhart raised concerns re the Park and Choose at Chapelton. It would appear Aberdeenshire Council has so far not adopted responsibility for the car park. Repairs to shelters were carried out as a goodwill gesture. Responsibility for any problems lies with the Development Company. There are problems with lighting. It is very dark. Solar lighting is expensive,

(5)(17.22) Aberdeenshire Community Resilience – Oakley, Play and Life Skills Centre based at Coneyhatch

(6)(17.23) Bettridge Centre- Received funding for their solar panels – biggest award.

(7)(17.25) Community Council Forum – Provisional date for next meeting 4th March 2025.

(8)(18.1) Newtonhill Christmas Lights – Will supposedly be discussed in March 2025.

(9)(18.2) Overgrown bushes at TESCO – Maintenance Team will allegedly deal with this in the near future.

(10)(18.4) Opening hours of Portlethen Swimming Pool – A new programme has been developed which meets the highest participation demands and brings in the best income. Offers the best programme while being financially efficient. The programme and opening hours will remain under constant review.

(11)(18.5) Closure of Newtonhill Library. Wednesday 8th January 2025, 3.30 to 5pm a meeting was due to be held by Live Life Aberdeenshire on the way forward for Newtonhill Library. Due to the weather this was re-scheduled for Friday 17th January 2025, 4 – 6pm. Newtonhill Library was never scheduled to close. How can more people be encouraged to use the Library? During term time Reactive and the Friday Lunch Club link in with opening times of Library.

(12)(18.9) Information board at Newtonhill playpark – No update. Waiting for response from Aberdeenshire council.

(13)(18.10) Turned kerbs – Mr Flockhart has been contacted by a wheel chair user re lack of turned kerbs in Newtonhill – St Michael's Road at the School, Bettridge Centre. Tim Stephens has been contacted and also reminded about kerb turning at the Courts.

7 – PLANNING – (1) SSEN Transmission Hurlie 400KV substation – planning application has now been submitted for development on land at Fetteresso Forest (not in our area), (2) Storage Shed (Class 5) – Fluid Power Scotland, Newtonhill, (3) Application for road bridge to the south of the Pheppie Burn in Chapelton – objection has been submitted.

8 – LOCAL PLACE PLAN – Our Local Place Plan has been registered – only one of two so far registered. Our Plan has now been validated.

9 – LDP – Infrastructure First Topic Paper - Response – Anyone anything else to add to Mr Morgan's response? (Portlethen Academy already over capacity and the new academy at Chapelton will not open for some time; no health facilities appear to be mentioned for Chapelton) – Mr Jones suggests a question as to whether Mackie Academy should be replaced.

Thanks to Mr Morgan for all his hard work in responding to all the Topic Papers.

10 – ROADS and POTHoles – Faulty lights on A92 have been reported to AMEY but nothing been done so far.

11 – FEATURE WALL – (1) Muchalls ready to go for funding, (2) Cammachmore - Still trying to ascertain who owns the land where feature will be sited. Still looking for granite, (3) Signage at top of Newtonhill Road has still not been removed. Due to be done soon, (4) Mr Armes commented on the potholes at West Cammachmore.

It was noted that all works have to be in place for completion before the expiry dates of grants otherwise, we could be asked to repay any grants in full.

12 – UNDERPASS – This was raised at the Newtonhill Access Committee meeting. Also raised were other projects needing care and attention including Daff Bridge, improvement to pavements, pedestrian crossing at Newtonhill Primary School.

Platinum Jubilee Coastal Path Walk – 11 people including Mr Jones walked from Portlethen School to Downies, Old Portlethen, Findon, Findon Moss and back to Findon. Approx 6 miles and well worth doing. However, some bits in need of care and attention.

Funding needed for the Coastal Walk. Also, volunteers needed to help with upkeep of the paths.

13 – TENNIS COURTS/FOOTBALL PITCH

Tennis Courts – Mr Morgan has had some feedback regarding what residents would like to see done with the tennis courts.

Ask children what they would like, walking football, floodlights, netball posts, need to make courts less slippy, replace fencing, basketball hoops, 2 tennis courts, pickleball.

Large amounts of money should not be spent until the courts are in community ownership. What does this involve? How long would it take? What would it cost? Who would be responsible for insurance and upkeep?

Football pitch – It would appear it is not feasible to alter the football pitch.

In the meantime, Newtonhill Village Association are trying to ascertain who owns the land in question before upgrading can be considered.

14 – FINANCE REPORT – Community Council Grant has been received. Total of £7,000 in the bank but not all of this is actual Community Council money. Mr Chew suggested we discuss possible donations at our next meeting.

15 – FOUL SMELL at VARIOUS PLACES - (1) Marine Terrace, Muchalls - At the moment home owners' insurance company has been investigating and carried out some remedial work but it would appear more is needed. (2) Problems at Newtonhill - No further updates but it was suggested problem may be rising at Chapelton.

16 – CHAPELTON MASTER PLAN – Mr Chew suggests it might be an idea to liaise with NKRCC, esp new school, health facilities. NHS has no money to set up health care facilities. Elsie Development will provide land for facilities when request received from Aberdeenshire Council. If 24 houses are to be built at Burgess Park, where will Farmers' Market be held and where will the Huts go?

17– CORRESPONDENCE

1 – Muir Mhor Offshore Windfarm – A joint venture with Fred Olsen and Vattenfall. Mr Chew points out this will not impact directly on our area.

2 – Tall Ships Race – <https://www.tallshipsaberdeen.com/assets/Tall-Ships-Toolkit.zip> Young people needed to get involved and become trainees. Check out Tall Ships Races Aberdeen website

3 – Christmas wishes from Liam Kerr, Audrey Nicoll, Aberdeenshire Council, KDP

4 – Sheltered accommodation available in Laurencekirk

5 – Aberdeen International Airport Airspace Change Proposal update

6 – Recording of Community Council Forum - <https://youtu.be/V2XKXOzvARM>

7 – Local Authorities and Police Scotland issue joint winter resilience message to north-east communities.

8 – Inspiring Aberdeenshire – Nominations needed by 7th February 2025 - <https://engage-aberdeenshire.gov.uk/inspiring-aberdeenshire-2025>

9 – Rural Communities Poverty Alleviation Fund – Apply by 19th January 2025 and money spent by 31st March 2025.

10 – National Centre for Resilience – Community Councils Fund/max £500/31st January 2025. To help Community Councils develop local resilience plans.

11 – Bus Forum Meeting – Several changes to bus timetables due to financial constraints. Suggestion all bus stops on the A90 are cleaned as and when needed. Concerns re access for those with mobility problems. Buses on St Michael’s Road were withdrawn for several reasons including complaints from residents, parking causing problems. Consideration will be given to problems arising when there is blanket closure due to accidents. Problems with a pupil being dropped off at Cammachmore appear to have been resolved.

There are to be various roadworks in the area over the next few months which will lead to delays

Ember buses are now using the redundant bus shelter on the A92 at Newtonhill. Concerns raised re condition of path from bus shelter to Park and Choose.

12 – AMEY Roadworks update – Nothing in our area.

13 – Kintore to Tealing 400kV Overhead Line Project – Durriss and Crathes Bowling Club – 26th February 2025, 2-7pm; Durriss Kirkton Hall, 27th February 2025, 2-7pm.

14 – Equality Outcome 2025-2029 – <https://engage.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/developing-aberdeenshire-council-equalities-outcomes-2025-2029>

15 – Bus service revision update – Kincardine and Mearns

18 - AOCB

1 – MR Morgan contacted Scottish Water re missing stopcock manhole cover on the pavement. Repair carried out within 2 hours.

2 – Due to financial constraints, there will be no free plants for communities this year.

3 – Places for People – There was a suggestion that an application for funding could be made to improve road safety at Newtonhill Primary School but this has been shelved for the moment. Is this something Community Council can get involved in as Community Councillors have to follow a set of rules and regulations set out by Council?

4 – Muchalls telephone box library is in need of care and attention as the door has blown off.

5 – Hedge at 24 Newtonhill Road – A second letter has been delivered to residents.

6 – Aberdeenshire Council has carried out some work on Muchalls Playpark.

7 – Miss Daniels working on article for the next Newsey.

8 – Possible night out for Community Councillors – A Monday or Tuesday evening at the Stack sometime in February or March

The 380th meeting will be held in the Skateraw Hall at 7.30pm on Wednesday 19th February 2025.