

Newtonhill, Muchalls and Cammachmore Community Council

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

Draft Minute

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

Mr Flockhart welcomed all for turning out on not a very nice night.

1 - APOLOGIES – Mrs Davidson, Mr Connolly.

2 - POLICE REPORT –Written Report for January 2025 – youth disorder 2; anti-social 17; thefts 1 under investigation; shopliftings 5 under investigation; housebreaking 1 under investigation; drink/drug driving 3 under investigation;

The North East Division Crime Reduction Team would like to visit as many local community groups as possible to provide advice regarding the latest frauds and scams.

As from 24th February 2025, Inspector James Nicholson will be taking over from Rhona Di Meola who is moving on.

Inspector Nicholson is to be invited to attend a CC meeting once he has settled in.

3 – MINUTE 379 - Approved

4 – MATTERS ARISING

(1)(6.9) Overgrown bushes at TESCO – Aberdeenshire Council has contacted TESCO who are now waiting for the work to be carried. If not done within next two weeks, Mr Flockhart will contact TESCO directly.

(2)(6.12) Information board – Mr Jones has received a reply from Aberdeenshire Council. Yes, the noticeboard is at Inverurie but there is no funding to shift it to Newtonhill and install it. Perhaps we will have more luck in the next financial year.

(3)(6.13) Turned kerbs – Maybe in the next financial year.

(4)(17.4) Muchalls phone box – Suggestion is we clad in wood. Looking for estimates and then funding.

(5)(17.5) Overgrown hedge on Newtonhill Road – Aberdeenshire Council has sent the occupiers another letter

5 – PLANNING – (1) Update re the Hurlie Substation planning application, (2) Planning application for Chapelton – Wester Cairnhill (Western Block) West of Chapelton and south of the Cookney Road. Commercial units and supermarket, access road to proposed primary school but school is not part of the plan. Cookney Road will be upgraded. Water drainage will be into the Pheppie Burn.

After a lengthy discussion, it was agreed Mr Morgan will prepare a response and forward to Community Councillors for their comments.

6 – LOCAL PLACE PLAN – Nothing further to report.

7 – LDP – (1) Each year Aberdeenshire Council has to prepare and publish a Development Plan Scheme for preparing the local Development Plan. Development Plan Scheme 2025/Engage Aberdeenshire - Comments before 24th March 2025, (2) Mr Morgan has prepared responses to Site Selection Topic Paper and Infrastructure First Topic Paper.

Evidence Report goes to Full Council on 24th April 2025, after which it goes to the Scottish Government for approval.

8 – ROADS and POTHLES – (1) Some remedial work has been carried out to Village Lands Road, (2) 3 lights out on northbound carriageway beside the bus stop at Muchalls. Has been reported but no money to fix. This has now become a hazard for bus drivers and passengers, (3) Email from Mr Connolly re signage at top of Newtonhill Road. No jobs on Aberdeenshire Council list – should have been dealt with by installer. Low priority and no timescale. (email checked after meeting).

9 – FEATURE WALLS – Mr Connolly was not present. Still waiting for update from Cammachmore. Have no idea where we get funding. All suggestions welcome.

10 - FINANCIAL REPORT – Total in bank £6,974. Approx £1,500 belongs to Community Council. Mr Chew suggested we make donations to several groups – Newtonhill Primary School £500 (would like to know what it will be spent on); the NEWSEY £100; Muchalls 'library' £200; Newtonhill plants for community £100.

11 – TENNIS COURTS – NVA awaiting a copy of lease agreement from Aberdeenshire Council. Apparently, it cannot be found.

12 – CHAPELTON MASTER PLAN – Nothing further to report.

13 – PLATINUM JUBILEE PATH – Update has been received.

Mr Jones and Mr Torrance have submitted a document on Cranhill Path Improvement Capital Project detailing what needs to be done on the path north of Newtonhill round Cranhill towards Cobbleboards Farm. The path is muddy and the gorse needs trimmed back. Permission from landowners would be needed for work to be carried out. Is it then their responsibility for upkeep? Members were in favour of path improvements in principle but felt more discussion needs to take place with Platinum Jubilee Path Trustees.

14 – CORRESPONDENCE

1 – Free Local Place Plan training for Community Councils

2 – Renewable and Energy Consents – Aberdeenshire Council and Angus Council in conjunction with Planning Aid Scotland are to organise training in regard to renewable and energy developments. No dates yet.

3 – Scottish Conservative Energy Debate 22nd January 2025.

4 – Community Council Elections Survey – Several members have completed.

5 – Minute of Chapelton Liaison Meeting – Opening of new school has been delayed. Elsick Development has done everything requested of them. Now up to Aberdeenshire Council.

NHS and Aberdeenshire Council no funding for health provisions.

Wester Cairnhill – see under Planning.

Improvements need to be made to the Cookney Road.

Concerns raised re emergency access. Problems with construction traffic.

Straightening of the Pheppie Burn has supposedly slowed down the flow of water in the Burn. The water running down the Pheppie Burn at Muchalls is full of sand and silt when it rains heavily. This has happened twice in the last couple of months but has never been seen before. SEPA to be contacted.

6 – SSEN Final Report on Consultation - Beauly – Blackhillock-New Deer – Peterhead

7 – Aberdeenshire town centre health checks release 4/2/2025 –

<https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/news/2025//feb/aberdeenshire-town-centre-health-check-published>

8 – Tenant Participation and Engagement – email

tenant.participation@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

9 – KDP members questionnaire – Mr Flockhart has completed.

10 – Notification of Consultation Events SSEN Transmission Kintore to Tealing – Assume everyone got notifications of meetings.

11 – Aberdeenshire Carer Events – Mintlaw and Stonehaven – Stonehaven, 25th February 2025, 10am till noon, Town Hall

12 – My Place Awards celebrating placemaking efforts in Scotland – Deadline for entries 30 April 2025.

13 – NHS 24 – free printed resources to help people navigate services.

14 – National Speed Management Review – Monday 24th February 2025, 1.30 to 2.30pm (Mr Flockhart) Thursday 27th, 6-7pm. Online Eventbrite or roadsafety@transport.gov.uk Respond by 5th March 2025.

15 – COMMUNITY COUNCIL FORUMS will be held June (in person) and December (online). Topics for discussion needed. Assumed due to lack of finance.

At this point a lengthy discussion took place regarding cut backs to Social Care Services.

16 – Adult Support and Protection Day – 20th February 2025

15 – AOCB

1 – Article in the Leader – There is no funding available from Scottish Government for new stations at Cove and Newtonhill

2 – Invitation to MP or MSP to a future meeting – As we are non-political decided to give this a miss.

3 – The Scottish Government are proposing speed limits for motor vehicles be reduced from 60mph to 50mph on all but dual carriageways. Goods vehicles over 7.5 tonnes 40mph to 50mph on single carriageways and on dual carriageways 50mph to 60mph. Attendees were not impressed.

4 – Just for interest – Muchalls Village Hall needs to replace Hall windows. Query as to whether they will have to be wood. If so, will cost three times as much.

5 – Newtonhill Library will not close. However, it needs to be better advertised. What would people like to see happening at the Library? Would it help if volunteers could be recruited to help run the Library?

6 – Solar panels are up and running at the Bettridge Centre. 2/3 of electricity being used is coming from the solar panels.

7 – Once again, many thanks to Mr Morgan for his work on our Local Place Plan. Stonehaven is the only other CC in Aberdeenshire to have submitted a Local Place Plan.

8 – Meal Out – Wednesday 5th March, 7 for 7.30pm, the Stack.

The 381st meeting will be held in the Skateraw Hall on 19th March 2025, 7.30pm.