

# North Kincardine Rural Community Council

Secretary: Robert Keeler Howieshill Stonehaven Kincardineshire AB39 3SN  
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## Minute of the meeting held on Monday 17 March 2008 at Maryculter Community Hall.

### PRESENT

<u>Maryculter</u>	<u>Cookney / Netherley</u>	<u>Banchory-Devenick</u>	<u>Aberdeenshire Councillors</u>
Bill Fraser Avril Tulloch Hazel Witte (Treasurer) Sylvia Pike	Robert Keeler (Secretary) Rob Winmill (Vice Chairman)	Mike Birch (Chairman)	Ian Mollison Paul Melling Carl Nelson

5 Members of the Public

**Police Report** – Constable Kevin Marron - Community beat Officer – gave a report of incidents over the last month. Traffic Officers had patrolled the B9077 and B979 regularly as well as many minor roads in the area. The constant high visibility patrols are used as a deterrent. Many instances of bad driving on the B9077 have been reported and where there is suitable corroborative evidence drivers were spoken to and either educated or charged. Speed cameras were deployed on the B979. No break-ins had occurred in our area, but several suspicious cars and males had been reported, in particular two ‘unkempt’ males, who wanted to enter a property to speak about a named male. They had been refused entry and left in a ‘N’ registered Vauxhall car. Two incidents involving pedestrians walking on the South Deeside Road, one carrying a rucksack which was struck by a passing vehicle. When walking on roads without footpaths always face oncoming traffic and wear bright clothing preferably ‘high visibility’

### **Mr Mark Skilling – Local Roads Manager – Aberdeenshire Council**

The Chairman welcomed Mark Skilling to the meeting and explained that Bill Fraser would be asking a number of prepared questions on behalf of the Community Council after which time there would be an opportunity for other questions to be asked either by the Community Councillors or members of the public.

NKRCC. There are large bumps in road from Auchlunies to Banchory-Devenick crossroads and also approaching from A90 causing grounding at moderate speeds.

MS. He had driven the route this evening and did not see a problem, but offered to have an inspector drive the route with a councillor.

NKRCC. Traffic still too fast through B-D crossroads – last check some at over 70mph – suggest chevrons painted to give impression of narrow road.

MS. Electronic sign should be reset to come on earlier. Additional sign to be erected on western approach to crossroads. School signage is taking priority at present. Has put a report before Area Committee recommending new anti-skid surface at B-D crossroads.

Mike asked about visibility problems with overhanging hedges etc. MS said that the Council have authority to cut these back if landowner will not.

NKRCC. Netherley Road line markings worn badly, especially on edges.

MS. There is money in budget for this to be done when weather improves. Edge strengthening by Burnside kennels and additional anti-skid surface should have commenced last week. Road will remain open with convoy system in place.

NKRCC. What is the situation with Lairhillock School bridge, also why was the junction by the school realigned, as tractors are now having to go over curb to negotiate this.

MS. Explained the ongoing saga of the bridge costings. The final tenders had come in about three times budget. It would appear existing bridge will be used and the surrounding area tidied up. He would look at the junction before further comment.

NKRCC. Verges from B-D crossroads to Drumthwacket Farm are badly rutted and could cause damage to vehicles.

MS. Inspector had looked at this area and it appeared ok.

NKRCC Many roads have serious potholes.

MS. Repairs are in the pipeline. Temporary repairs are better than nothing but admitted they could be carried out sooner to prevent further deterioration. He explained that potholes up to 3” deep are ‘to specification’ i.e acceptable. A and B roads are inspected monthly (plus C5,C30 and C13)

NKRCC. With the new development at Hillside, there will be more traffic – are any measures planned to control traffic using Banchory Devenick as a rat run. Also will there be access to the A90 via Badentoy.

MS. No – there are no plans for any restrictions to traffic from the new housing development and there are no plans for access to A90 via Badentoy. The roads to west of new housing development were designed to be able take any additional traffic resulting from future commercial development.

NKRCC. Why are so many roads being closed for even minor work. Health and Safety seems not to take into account the health and safety of vehicle drivers and residents on diversion routes. The Maryculter East road is still closed, and work seems to be exceedingly slow.

MS. Scottish Government issued guidance for Councils to protect their workers from traffic. The department tries its utmost not to close roads but use a convoy system. With regard to Maryculter road he agrees this closure has been too long, but the Council do not inspect sewage work. He will suggest opening the road evenings and weekends. He suggested members of the public write to the contractors to speed things up.

Questions opened to the meeting. Mike asked whose responsibility water running from fields was, as it could cause accidents if it froze.

Also what restrictions were made to HGVs on rural roads.

MS. The Council tried to ensure water did not run from or to private property. Where possible ditches were dug or cleared. Apart from the general 40mph restriction on unlimited rural roads the only other restriction is weight on weak bridges – both are difficult to enforce.

Bob was concerned that if the markings at B-D crossroads were changed cars could edge out too far into the carriageway. MS responded that it was not intended to change the alignment of the current road markings just to renew them.

Rob queried the difference between ‘resurfacing’ and ‘surface dressing’.

MS. Surface dressing is a layer of tar plus spray of chippings, resurfacing cuts out top 2 or 3 inches – more permanent.

Keith asked about the ditches on the road to B-D school from Leggat Terrace, and there are no passing places.

MS. Asked which were school bus routes – virtually all rural roads are.

MoP. Commented that the black and white reflective posts on the B979 have been decimated.

MS. We will look into replacements

MoP. What chance footpaths on local roads. MS - None

MoP. Quoting from last audit – problems with roads increasing – are we losing the plot?

MS. Aberdeenshire roads, despite criticism are the best on the mainland. However there is a limited budget for roads maintenance and even where funds are available the Council do have problems in getting contractors to do the work..

Mike thanked Mr Skilling for attending the meeting and agreed to provide a list of actions resulting from meeting both on Mark and the NKRCC.

## **APOLOGIES** – Philip Smart

MINUTES of the meeting of 18 February 2008 were approved subject to an apology to PC Lawie for the incorrect spelling of her name.

### **1. MATTERS ARISING**

**New Lairhillock School** – Lighting is still a problem, although we received a letter to say the timing had been adjusted. Robert attended the official opening of the school and reported that the children had put on an excellent show. Rob proposed that if the new bridge should not now be built then the road markings should be improved, and possibly a barrier erected to the east. Cllr Melling read a report on the situation and agreed that markings should be improved. Mike asked Rob to liaise. Avril will write congratulating School on excellent Inspector's report.

**School Buses** – Nothing to report.

**Web site** – Domain name transferred. Information now up to date. It was agreed that we would only retain Minutes on the site for two years.

**Roads** – See section above on issues raised with Mark Skilling.

**Western Peripheral Route** – Not on Scottish Government list of Major projects. Public Inquiry still expected early Autumn.

### **2. PLANNING**

**New planning applications** –

- APP/2007/4922 Listed Building Consent for Alterations and Extension to Dwellinghouse and Erection of Detached Garage/Summer Room/Store at Mansefield House Ardoe Aberdeen
- APP/2008/0443 Full Planning Permission for Change of Use of Land to Domestic Garden, Erection of Detached Garage and Formation of Vehicular Access at Old Schoolhouse Bridge Of Muchalls Newtonhill
- APP/2008/0473 Full Planning Permission for Alterations and Extension to Dwellinghouse at Upper Brandmyres Farmhouse Banchory-Devenick Aberdeen
- APP/2008/0484 Full Planning Permission for Conversion of Steading to form Dwellinghouse at Meadowfield Muchalls Stonehaven
- APP/2008/0485 Full Planning Permission for Erection of Replacement Dwellinghouse at Meadowfield Muchalls Stonehaven
- APP/2008/0617 Full Planning Permission for Alterations and Extension to Dwellinghouse (Family Room and Garden Room) at 2 Wedderburns Rise Maryculter
- APP/2008/0699 Agricultural Notification for Erection of Agricultural Building at Land South West of Allochie Cottage Netherley Stonehaven
- APP/2008/0726 Full Planning Permission for Erection of Dwellinghouse (Replacement) at Snuffmill Cottage Banchory-Devenick Aberdeen

We had now been notified that Frank Budd's application for a house and Lodge below the Lairhillock had finally been approved in all respects.

The Altries Kirk site had been recommended for refusal.

Rob felt we should be thinking of a list of points re developments in the area.

Cllr Mollison thought that we should be thinking about future developments.

**Meikle Carewe** – Nothing to report.

**Banchory-Devenick Cemetery** – Nothing to report

**Blairs** – Will go to full Council in April. Rob attended the Infrastructure Services Committee meeting but was not impressed with the Planning Service, but Cllr Ford was very aware of all the facts. Clarification to previous reports the developer will make a contribution to the Main Blairs College building, but will NOT restore it to use. That will still be the task of the hotel operator. Cllr Melling said he had spoken to Ms Gore regarding the junction at Corby Park.

**Portlethen Corridor Study** – Proposal is to increase the 5,000 houses in the Portlethen area to 10,000 over the next 20 years.

**SPP3** – Rob to prepare a response and submit for Mike's approval.

### **3. FINANCE**

**Funds - £3101.49** – (including £600 200 Club prize money)

#### **200 Club – March Prize Draw**

**£50** 318 I Parkinson **£15** 62 I Tulloch **£10** 322 R Thorne **£5** 308 W Broomfield

It was agreed to write to W Munro supporting Corbie Hall's application for funds for disability access.

### **4. CORRESPONDENCE**

Feb 14 K & M Forum 28 February

Feb 14 RAF – Offer of presentation on low flying exercises.

Feb 18 Aberdeenshire Council - K & M Area Bus Forum

Feb 19 Scottish Water – Board meeting

Feb 22 SEPA – Thermal Treatment Criteria

Feb 28 Aberdeenshire Council – Sustainable Halls Initiative

Mar 4 Aberdeenshire Council – Settlement profiles

Mar 5 ICO – Data Protection Act exemption

Mar 7 ASCC – evidence re Community policing.

Mar 11 Forestry Commission. - Consultation

Newsletters – The Community Councillor – ScotWays

### **5. AOCB**

**South Deeside View** – Is now out for delivery. Fund raising Plant Sale and Coffee morning May 17th.

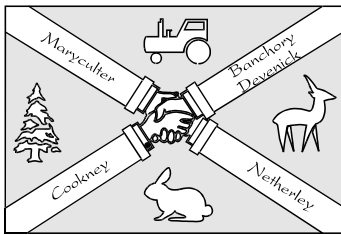
Cllr Nelson – asked if we would be interested in a talk on affordable housing which he could arrange. He also suggested that the three local Community Councils meet to get to know each other and discuss topics of mutual interest. It was agreed that this would be worthwhile and Cllr. Nelson would facilitate such a meeting

### **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**21 April 2008 at 7:30pm**

**19 May 2008 at 7:30pm**

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## **AGENDA**

**For the Ordinary Meeting on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2008 at 7.30pm  
in Maryculter Community Hall.**

1. Apologies.
2. Minutes of the meeting of 17th March 2008
3. Matters Arising
  - Rural Schools
  - Website
  - Roads
  - Western Peripheral Route
4. Planning
  - Blairs
  - Meikle Carewe
  - Recent planning applications
5. Finance:
  - 200 Club
6. Correspondence
7. AOCB

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