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Crathes, Drumoak & Durriss Community Council (CDDCC)
Minutes of Meeting
5 March 2014 at Crathes Hall from 19.30 hours

1. Sederunt

Community Councillors: Howard Scholey, David Morrish (Acting Chairman), Linda Murray, Mark Ansell, Maxine Smith, Les Bray, Daniel Wake, Angela Bichan

Aberdeenshire Councillors: Linda Clark, Raymond Christie, Graeme Clark

Minutes Secretary: John Hopkins

Apologies: Cliff Grover, Ann Ross, Geoffrey Atkinson, Wendy Agnew, Karen Clark, Jill Webster

2. Approval of Previous Minutes

The minutes of the February meeting were proposed by Howard Scholey and seconded by Les Bray and accepted as an accurate record.

3. Police Matters

It was noted that there was no report from Police Scotland, nor were any representatives thereof present. To ask Insp. Stuart Ednie by email if reports – and the occasional attendance at a CDDCC meeting – might be resumed (**Action: Howard Scholey**)

4. Local Newsletter

Howard Scholey reported that he had received an email from Marion McNeil, subsequent to the February meeting of the Kirk Session. He understood that they had decided to continue publication of the Newsletter, although there remained details to be settled. Marion McNeill still wished to meet CDDCC to discuss matters further.

To arrange a meeting of herself, Cliff Grover and Marion McNeill (**Action: Maxine Smith**)

Subject to a satisfactory outcome of the above meeting:-

- To write a cheque to Drumoak and Durriss Church equal to half (i.e. £273.50) of its recent Admin Grant as support for the Newsletter (**Action: John Hopkins**)
- To apply, via Les Allen/Willie Munro, for top-up funds (**Action: Howard Scholey**)

5. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

5.1 Referendum Debate

It was noted that Crathes Hall was not available on 28 May. Accordingly, it was agreed that the date be changed to 29 May (from 1930). David Morrish pointed out that, by first selecting a date and then arranging for speakers, the non-partisan nature of the event would be underlined. Howard Scholey pointed out that the Community Council had been contacted Willie Munroe highlighting concerns that Community Councils were statutorily obliged to be non-political. David Morrish had responded to this concern by pointing out the CC was merely acting as a facilitator for a debate of major public interest, and that it would maintain

complete public neutrality in the issue. Community Council members were reminded of their individual responsibility to remain publically neutral.

To ask the Better Together campaign to provide a speaker (**Action: Raymond Christie**) It was noted that this might be Richard Baker MSP.

To ask the Yes campaign to provide a speaker (**Action: Linda Clark**)

Maxine Smith said that she envisaged a panel of 4 speakers and a format like Question Time. It was noted that she was continuing to make the necessary logistical arrangements for the debate. She appealed for help from all of CDDCC. To circulate a list of required actions with tentative responsibilities identified (**Action: Maxine Smith**)

The deficiencies of the acoustics in the Hall were discussed and the proposal made that the panel should be seated along one long side of the Hall, with questioners seated in a semi-circle around them. It was agreed that microphones/speakers would be of advantage.

5.2 Increased Dog Noise Nuisance at SSPCA

Graeme Clark reported that he had spoken both to Geoffrey/Molly Atkinson and to Environmental Health. It had been noted that the noise nuisance was worse at certain times. To follow-up with Environmental Health a visit at an appropriate time, in order to measure the noise and to verify that the agreed anti-noise measures had been installed (**Action: Graeme Clark**)

6. Planning

6.1 Crathes Housing

David Morrish noted that Stewart Milne had still not lodged an Appeal in respect of the decision by the Marr Area Committee. The deadline was 10 April, but it was expected that Stewart Milne would apply before then. In the event that an Appeal is lodged, to circulate a suitable draft representation to the Reporter (**Action: David Morrish**)

6.2 Crathes Master Plan

David Morrish reported that he had contacted Planning Aid for Scotland, who would be pleased to advise on the development of a set of Terms of Reference for a Master Plan for Crathes, as a means of helping to decide whether or not to develop one. They had asked whether funding were available for this work, but would be content to start work even if it were not. To investigate with the Aberdeenshire Planners (who had suggested the development) whether funding could be available (**Action: David Morrish**)

6.3 Other Planning Applications

6.31 Crathes and Durris

There were no new planning applications which were regarded as contentious.

6.32 Drumoak

6.321 Land near to Alma Cottage

It was noted that a planning application had been submitted for further two houses, to be accessed from the same lane as the previously-proposed three houses (to which application, CDDCC had objected). To circulate a draft letter drawing the attention of the Planners to the fact that the rules of Roads Department on visibility splays would seem to prohibit such a development (**Action: Howard Scholey**)

6.322 Drumoak School

It appeared that it might now be necessary for Aberdeenshire Council to apply for a Compulsory Purchase Order in respect of the land for the new School. The target date for coming-into-use remained August 2105.

Marion Smith asked what would become of the existing School building and – more particularly – whether it could be reserved for community use. Many other communities had a community-focussed building and she felt that Drumoak needed one.

It was noted that the Council had finally got around to advertising the old Drumoak Public Hall for sale. It was agreed that occasional use of the Hall in the new School (subject to priority use by the School) was not a proper substitute for a dedicated building. Graeme Clark suggested that Maxine Smith contact Willie Munro, Area Manager for Kincardine & Mears, in the first instance, to raise this issue. Linda Clark said that the Properties Officer, Ron Davidson, might also be a useful contact.

7. Correspondence

To circulate any significant correspondence from the CDDCC Hotmail site, received during March and April (**Action: Howard Scholey**)

8. 2014 Priorities

8.1 Miscellaneous Items

Les Bray noted that he had met Wendy Agnew on 8 February to inspect the locations of a list of minor infrastructure problems in Drumoak, although no action had so far resulted. To progress this with Wendy Agnew (**Action: Les Bray**)

8.2 LDP Main Issue Report

It was noted that this was due to be discussed by Councillors on 4/5 May.

8.3 Durriss School Carpark

Linda Murray said that the Planning Application had been held up, awaiting clearance from Aberdeenshire Council that land ownership issues would not cause problems. It was felt by CDDCC that the application could proceed, irrespective of such clearance. To progress this matter, if possible (**Action: Linda Murray**)

9. Subcommittee Reports

9.1 Windfarms Subcommittee

Mark Ansell summarised the (previously-circulated) subcommittee report, which concentrated mostly upon the third meeting of the Midhill Windfarm group.

It was agreed that:-

- CDDCC should base its branded documents for Midhill on those of Auchenblae CC
- public meetings to promote the fund would be overkill

To circulate details of the insurance cover carried by CDDCC (**Action: John Hopkins**)

To supply a further copy of the remit to John Hopkins for inclusion as an appendix to the CDDCC minutes (**Action: Mark Ansell**)

9.2 Community Engagement sub-committee

To draft the remit (terms of reference, powers, duration and composition) for consideration by CDDCC (**Action: Maxine Smith**)

9.3 Communications and Publicity sub-committee

To request Cliff Grover to draft the remit (terms of reference, powers, duration and composition) for consideration by CDDCC (**Action: Howard Scholey**)

9.4 Other

Maxine Smith asked whether there was a Planning subcommittee. It was noted that – with the possible exception of the Crathes Housing subcommittee - there was not. John Hopkins observed that a distinction perhaps needed to be drawn between Strategic Planning (which he felt should be dealt with by the main CDDCC committee) and Planning Applications. It was felt that there might be some benefits, in terms of public involvement, from having a Planning Applications subcommittee, but after some debate, this matter was left unresolved.

10. AOB

10.1 Identification Badges

Les Bray raised the possibility of identification (ID) badges for CDDCC members. He felt that they could be of benefit when approaching members of the public. To write to Willie Munro, to see if Aberdeenshire Council could assist (either financially, or in the production of laminated cards) (**Action: Howard Scholey**)

10.2 Kincardineshire Development Partnership (KDP)

Marion Smith reported on the KDP meeting that she had attended, on behalf of CDDCC. This body – which might end up with the name Kincardine & Mearns Rural Partnership – was in the course of being established, and was intended to supplant the Kincardine and Mearns Area Partnership (which was generally agreed to have failed). It was expected to get a grant of £37,000 annually and to inherit assets of KMAP worth in excess of £200,000.

10.3 Local European Funding Priorities 2014-20

In parallel with - but separate from - the establishment of KDP, is an “engagement event” for Local European Funding Priorities. This is on 13 March at the Invercarron Resource Centre. To attend the Event on behalf of CDDCC (**Action: Les Bray and (if available) David Morrish**). It is understood that future European funding is intended to be “bottom-up”, rather than “top-down”.

10.4 Sources of Funding

David Morrish summarised the sources of funding apparently to be available to (or through) Community Councils. These were:-

- Meikle Carewe Windfarm
- Midhill Windfarn
- European Union
- KDP

- Marr Area Partnership (on the basis that CDDCC relates to two Council Areas)

He added that the amount of bureaucracy associated with at least some of these would be prodigious. This meant that, if CDDCC hoped for local benefit from these sources, it would have to be prepared to resource the effort required to make successful applications.

To inform CDDCC of the date for the next Marr Area Partnership meeting (**Action: Linda Clark**)

11. Jenny Watson

To check with Jenny Watson that her service with CDDCC was now complete (**Action: David Morrish**). Assuming this to be so, to make an appropriate expression of gratitude for all the work she had done over her many years as a Community Councillor (**Action: CDDCC**)

12. Next Meeting

Crathes Hall – 2nd April 2014 from 19:30

DISTRIBUTION				
EMAIL	EMAIL	EMAIL	EMAIL	WEBSITE
CDDCC Councillors	Kirkton of Durris Hall Notice Board (via Gillian Edward)	Insp. Innes Coull	Maureen Newlands (KMAP/MAP/STP)	http://www.durris.net/ (also for previous minutes)
Cllrs. Linda Clark, Karen Clark, Jill Webster (Ward 16)	Crathes Hall Notice Board (via Nicola Chambury)	Insp. Stuart Ednie	Alison Ritchie, Community Learning	
Cllrs. Peter Bellarby, Graeme Clark, Raymond Christie, Wendy Agnew (Ward 18)	Drumoak Church Hall Notice Board (via Mary Robertson)	PC David Mitchell	BY POST Banchory Public Library	BY HAND Park Shop Drumoak Post Office Irvine Arms
Mr W Munro, Area Manager, Kincardine & Mearns				
Mr L Allen, Area Manager, Marr	Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator – Alister Bisset	Local Newsletter Editor		