

**14 12 03**  
**Crathes, Drumoak & Durris Community Council (CDDCC)**  
**Minutes of December Meeting and AGM**  
**3 December 2014 at Crathes Hall from 19.30 hours**

**1. Sederunt**

**Community Councillors:** Howard Scholey (Chairman), Geoffrey Atkinson (part-time), Angela Bichan, Maxine Smith, Mark Ansell, Ann Ross, David Morrish, Peter Renwick

**Aberdeenshire Councillors:** Linda Clark, Graeme Clark, Peter Bellarby

**Minutes Secretary:** John Hopkins

**Apologies:** Wendy Agnew, Karen Clark, Jill Webster, Raymond Christie

**Members of Public:** Nicola Chambury, Robert Harper

**2. December meeting**

**2.1 Approval of Previous Minutes**

Maxine Smith said that she had drawn attention to a number of errors in the draft October minutes, but had been unable to do so until after the finalised version had been issued.

At Howard Scholey's request, to send him an email containing the corrections (**Action: Maxine Smith**). To include the text of this email in the December minutes as corrections (**Action: John Hopkins**)

The corrections to the October minutes are as follows:-

**Kincardineshire Development Partnership (KDP)**

Maxine Smith referred to the update report she provided prior to the meeting and made reference to the following points:

KMAP held its final meeting on the 25 Sept 2015 as a Special General Meeting of its members and agreed to wind down KMAP and to transfer all assets and liabilities to KDP, the newly formed Rural Partnership for the K & M Area (which includes Drumoak and Durris).

KDP is a constituted voluntary not-for-profit organisation governed by a management committee consisting of representation from the 12 Community Councils in the K & M Area and no more than 6 community groups/projects remain to be nominated. A total of up to 18 committee seats remain to be filled, with 9 actively participating and 3 remaining to confirm representation for the meetings.

The call for new members to KDP is now open and Maxine provided the CDCC with membership information, which is available on the KDP website.

Maxine confirmed she was the CDDCC representative, which was created when a volunteer from CDDCC was asked to participate in this forum at the beginning of 2014. Maxine is also the Secretary and Treasurer of KDP to take them up to the EGM scheduled for November 2014, but which may be pushed back to early 2015.

The update report is available on the KDP website under the membership section.

**Drumoak & Durris Community Group (DDCG)**

Maxine provided a brief outline to the proposed project, which is being championed by Dr David Wells, in Durris. Maxine stated, in principle, there is support for this initiative, but further information is being sought and a meeting pending with Dr David and Judith Wells. Maxine will make available to the CC members, the outline proposal developed by Dr Wells.

## **AOCB**

Confirmation that Alan Ross will be removed from the CC mailing list as he is not a Community Councillor and his name appearing in this manner is an error.

To review the accuracy of the October and December minutes together at the January 2015 meeting (Action: All)

### **2.2 Police Matters**

Howard Scholey noted that he had had no reports from Police Scotland, nor was there any representative thereof present. Angela Bichan said that she had noted some increase in police visibility in Drumoak.

David Morrish noted that there was an outstanding action on him/Howard Scholey to inform the Police of CDDCC's nominated contact. Maxine Smith noted that the local Newsletter had also asked for the same information. To provide details of the contact in both cases (**Action: Howard Scholey**)

### **2.3 Nominations for Office-Bearers for new Community Council**

The members of the new Community Council were:-

- Mrs Angela Helen Bichan (Drumoak)
- Mrs Maxine Smith (Drumoak)
- Ms Ann Ross (Crathes)
- Mr Peter Renwick (Crathes)
- Mr David Paul Morrish (Crathes)
- Mr Howard Scholey (Crathes)
- Mr Mark Peter Ansell (Durriss)

Howard Scholey noted that, notwithstanding his email on the subject, he had received no nominations for Office-Bearers. He himself, in the light of his expected move away from the area during the coming year, did not wish to stand for re-election as Chairman. The Office-Bearer posts were Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary. He noted that John Hopkins had been undertaking the two latter posts.

John Hopkins clarified that he had been elected as Treasurer in the past and that, when he had resigned from CDDCC, he had made the offer to continue as Treasurer and to act as Minute Secretary (although not Secretary), because nobody on CDDCC at that time was prepared to undertake those tasks. He said that he would be content to resign from either or both positions if there were now Community Councillors prepared to take on the tasks.

Angela Bichan asked for a job specification for the Chairman post. Maxine Smith said that Good Practice Guide for Community Councils (from Aberdeenshire Council) set out precisely what the role of the Chair of a Community Council should be. Howard Scholey said that the post had been interpreted in an informal way and that in practice it was what the incumbent Chairman and the individual Community Council chose to make of it within the published guidelines. Guidance was provided in the Community Council Handbook, produced by Aberdeenshire Council. John Hopkins added that the Vice-Chairman post was essentially the same as the Chairman's, but acting in the latter's absence. Howard Scholey added that the "Scheme for Establishment" document (a revised version currently being out for consultation) contained a precise legalistic view of how a Community Council should run: the Community Council Handbook, by contrast, was more informal.

David Morrish reminded the meeting that it had been agreed to be worthwhile for CDDCC to dedicate a special meeting to reviewing the processes by which it operated. He had attempted to convene such a meeting in July (when there was no regular meeting), but without success. The present discussion showed how worthwhile this would be. He proposed that such a meeting should be held early in the New Year

(February being agreed to be an appropriate time). This was agreed. To convene a “process” meeting in February (**Action: David Morrish**)

Maxine Smith asked whether David Morrish would take on the role of Chairman, at least until the “process” meeting had been conducted. David Morrish said that he would so do, if there were no other candidate. Geoffrey Atkinson (having received clarification of membership status under which the – essentially transitional - AGM operated) seconded this proposal.

Ann Ross stated that CDDCC needed continuity and suggested that David Morrish be appointed Chairman for a full term, not just the interim. David Morrish said that he was not prepared to commit to that, but only to the interim.

Howard Scholey asked Maxine if she would be prepared to accept nomination as vice chair. She accepted. Angela Bichan seconded this.

Maxine Smith proposed that Angela Bichan be Secretary, with initial assistance from Howard Scholey. This was seconded by David Morrish.

Maxine Smith asked Peter Renwick if he would act as Treasurer. He said that he would be prepared to so do. This was seconded by Angela Bichan.

David Morrish asked whether Ann Ross would continue to act as Publicity Officer. She said that she would not. Maxine Smith said that she would do the Publicity Officer work as part of her Vice-Chairman role. This was seconded by David Morrish.

The Office-Bearers for the new CDDCC are therefore:-

Interim Chairman = David Morrish  
Vice-Chairman = Maxine Smith  
Treasurer = Peter Renwick  
Secretary = Angela Bichan  
Minute Secretary = John Hopkins

To transfer all materials relating to the role of Treasurer to Peter Renwick (**Action: John Hopkins**). It was subsequently agreed to be convenient that John Hopkins send the pending letter requesting the Admin Grant for 2014/5.

## **2.4 Co-options**

Howard Scholey said that he had been passed a letter from Marion McNeil, stating that she would be prepared to accept a co-option. Maxine Smith proposed that Marion McNeil be co-opted as CC member for Drumoak. Howard Scholey seconded this.

Mark Ansell stated that the candidacy for Ronnie Mitchell as co-optee for Durris had already been discussed. Ronnie Mitchell was co-opted nem con.

Howard Scholey said that he believed that it was not constitutionally allowable to co-opt more than two persons, although some doubt on this point was expressed. It might be that further elections would have to be held. It was agreed that any further co-options would have to await clarification on this issue.

Robert Harper said that, in Ronnie Mitchell, CDDCC already had a good co-optee for Durris. Maxine Smith said that, in addition to Robert Harper, she had two potential co-optees for Drumoak

Peter Bellarby made the point that, if there were more people interested than could be members of CDDCC, they could be invited as members of the public.

## **2.5 Urgent Matters arising from October meeting**

### **2.51 Road Modifications at Park Bridge.**

Graeme Clark said that he had raised this issue with Stuart McFarlane, who had consulted Graeme Fisher (structures engineer).

Graeme Fisher had made the points that:-

- The Council had implemented the 3 tonne weight limit to address an immediate and unacceptable risk to public safety
- Notwithstanding this limit, vehicles well in excess of 3 tonnes had continued to cross the bridge
- The Council had implemented a nominal 2m width restriction in a final attempt to limit the width and thereby weight of vehicles crossing the bridge
- There is sufficient space for Range Rovers and Transit Vans to pass the width restrictions
- The southern width restriction could not be located on the straight because of a private access close to the bridge
- Without the width restrictions, the only option is to close the bridge to all vehicular traffic, which CDDCC agreed was undesirable
- The bridge surface is to be replaced in the next financial year

To persist with the point about effective trimming or, if necessary, felling of the tree at the southern end of the bridge (**Action: Graeme Clark**)

## **2.6. Urgent Planning Issues**

### **2.61 Paradigm office/yard on the Drumoak Straight**

Nicola Chambury noted that the lights in the car park of the Paradigm office/yard on the Drumoak Straight (previously represented as a replacement for the Culter Cars showroom) were much too bright. This re-emphasised the need to ensure that this is not allowed to be a precedent for other unsuitable developments. The point was made that there is no sign of the required bund, but Graeme Clark re-iterated that the planners were aware of this and had allowed a delay until “prior to the next growing season”.

### **2.62 Houses behind Durriss School**

Mark Ansell said that Kirkwood Homes (responsible for the 20 houses proposed behind Durriss School) had expressed the desire to be able to attend the February meeting of CDDCC and make a presentation. This was agreed. To arrange for their attendance (**Action: Mark Ansell**)

## **2.7 Kincardineshire Development Partnership (KDP)**

Howard Scholey noted that Maxine Smith had circulated a proposal for CDDCC to join KDP. Maxine Smith said that, since then, KDP had become active with a £37,000 budget. It was seeking memberships by all 12 CCs in its area and six community groups. She was the representative of CDDCC, as well as interim Secretary and Treasurer of KDP.

KDP would be holding an EGM on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2015.

Howard Scholey asked whether she needed assistance with her work for KDP. Maxine Smith said she did not. All that was required was the engagement of 12 CCs and 6 Community Groups. She therefore proposed that CDDCC join KDP. This was agreed. To complete the necessary application form (**Action: David Morrish**).

David Morrish said that, in the light of having Crathes as part of its area, CDDCC should equally join Marr Area Partnership.

Mark Ansell said that KMAP (the body dissolved, in order to form KDP) had done a creditable job on the administration of moneys from Meikle Carewe windfarm. MAP, which was having more difficulty with the apparently more complex Midhill, would accept help from KDP.

## **2.8 AOB**

### **2.81 30 mph limit for Crathes**

David Morrish said that an email had been received from James Craig asking whether CDDCC, amongst others, still supported the 30 mph limit for the road alongside the Stewart Milne development in Crathes. He made the point that CDDCC had asked for three further items as part of its earlier submission:-

- Extension up to the A93 speed-limited area
- A traffic island
- Zebra crossing at Deeside Way

Ann Ross said that she also still wished to see the A93 speed limit extended past the Milton of Crathes. David Morrish proposed, however, that the proposed 30 mph limit and road layout be supported and that the other items be pursued subsequently, for fear of causing a further delay to the 30 mph limit (already delayed by the rejection, then successful appeal, of the houses). This was agreed. To reply, in the affirmative, to the email from James Craig (**Action: David Morrish**)

David Morrish asked if the Ward 16 Councillors still supported the 30 mph speed limit. Linda Clark said that she couldn't speak for her colleagues but presumed that they did.

### **2.82 Crematorium**

Ann Ross asked what was happening in respect of the new Crematorium. The road had been closed for some time, but no work had been apparent for two weeks. Nobody present could cast any light on this.

To follow-up Crathes residents who had contacted David Morrish to ascertain their willingness to join a Crematorium monitoring sub-committee (**Action Howard Scholey**)

## **3. AGM**

### **3.1 Chairman's Report**

Howard Scholey said that he had already circulated his Chairman's Report and received one set of comments on matters of accuracy, from David Morrish. He conducted the meeting through the gist of his revised report, which is reproduced as Appendix A to these minutes.

Maxine Smith asked what had happened with the commemorative tree to be planted for Jenny Watson. David Morrish said that he was awaiting a response from the Crathes Hall Committee (present, in the person of Nicola Chambury) as to a suitable site in the Hall grounds.

### **3.2 Treasurer's Report**

John Hopkins said that he had not prepared a report as such, simply a set of financial accounts for the year ended 12/11/14, which he had already circulated (and which is reproduced as Appendix B to these minutes). He would be happy to take any questions, however.

Angela Bichan asked whether the Admin Grant was guaranteed. John Hopkins said that the level of the grant was not guaranteed, but that the fact of there being a grant was as guaranteed as any other item of Council expenditure. Peter Renwick asked what was the main expenditure under Other Expenditure, as this was the largest item. John Hopkins said that this was chiefly payments made to himself as Minutes Secretary for preparing and distributing the minutes of the meeting. Peter Bellarby asked why there was an increase in this item since 2012/3. John Hopkins said that, because of different dates of clearance of cheques written at the end of each year, the cost of more sets of minutes appeared in the more-recent financial year. There had been no change in the amount paid per set of minutes.

It was noted that a substantial part of the Admin Grant was charitable donations (£273.50 to the local Newsletter in 2013/4). Maxine Smith said that she did not consider this a charitable donation.

Linda Clark said that the Admin Grant in many, although not all, cases covered payments to a Community Council's "Scribe". Peter Bellarby made the further point that no supplementary grant for a Scribe was payable; any payments necessarily came from the Admin Grant.

Maxine Smith asked whether there were any known future increases in CDDCC costs. John Hopkins said that there were not.

Acceptance of the 2013/14 Accounts was proposed by Mark Ansell and seconded by Ann Ross. Accordingly, Howard Scholey signed the accounts as chairman.

### **3.3 Votes of Thanks**

Howard Scholey expressed his thanks to retiring member Geoffrey Atkinson for his service to the Community Council as a councillor for Drumoak.

A vote of thanks to Howard Scholey, as retiring Chairman, was proposed by David Morrish. A vote of thanks to John Hopkins, as retiring Treasurer, was proposed by Ann Ross.

### **3.4 Forthcoming and Next Meetings**

Howard Scholey announced that CDDCC meetings for 2015 would be held on the first Wednesday of each month (except July, when no meeting would be held), unless subsequent changes were made.

Accordingly, the next meeting would be at Crathes Hall on 7<sup>th</sup> January 2015 at 1930 hours.

JFH

14/12/14

## Appendix A

### Chairman's Report 2014

#### 2014 Community Councillors

CC Office	Community Council Area Represented		
	Crathes	Drumoak	Durris
Chairman	Howard Scholey		
Vice Chairman	David Morrish		
Treasurer			John Hopkins*
Secretary			
Minute Secretary			John Hopkins*
Planning	David Morrish	Geoffrey Atkinson	
K&M CC Forum			
Marr CC Forum	Howard Scholey		
Website			John Hopkins*
Press Officer	Ann Ross		
General		Maxine Smith	
General		Les Bray	
General		Angela Bichan	Cliff Grover
General		Dan Wake	Mark Ansell
General			Linda Murray
General			Alan Ross <sup>+</sup>

\*Non-member      <sup>+</sup>Inactive

Resignation: Les Bray : September 2014

Standing down at the end of 2014: Cliff Grover, Linda Murray, Dan Wake, Geoffrey Atkinson :

#### Community Councillors

Community Council Membership remained nominally healthy throughout the year, but for various reasons, five members found themselves unable to stand for nomination to the new Council to serve for the three year term from 2015-2017. A concerted effort to encourage nomination for membership of the new Council was made through leafleting to the homes of the pupils at the three primary schools, announcements in the local press and personal contacts. Regrettably, this resulted in only one new nomination, for the Crathes subdivision.

It was with great sadness that we learned in January of the unexpected death of former Community Councillor, Jim Williamson. Jim served with distinction as a councillor for Durris until his resignation in 2013 in order to spend more time sailing and pursuing other interests. He will be sorely missed by his friends and neighbours in the community.

The composition of the new Community Council is currently

Drumoak - Maxine Smith, Angela Bichan

Durris - Mark Ansell

Crathes - David Morrish, Ann Ross, Peter Renwick (New Member), Howard Scholey

I would like to express my thanks to all the retiring members of for their support and valuable contributions over the past year, and to welcome Peter Renwick and hope that he will enjoy his term on the new Community Council.

We are left with a Community Council which does not meet its membership requirements for the Drumoak and Durris subdivisions, although it does meet the minimum requirement of five members for the overall Council. This must restrict the scope of what we can achieve, and importantly, compromises our ability to represent the whole community.

### **Overview of 2014**

The role of Community Councils is to “Ascertain, co-ordinate and express the views of the entire community within its agreed boundaries.” (Draft Aberdeenshire Scheme document 2015) Given their voluntary nature, this can only be achieved to the extent that their membership reasonably represents a cross section of the communities involved, although we do attempt to involve the wider community through the forum of public meetings, where we can see that there are particular matters of concern. The increased membership of our Council during the course of 2013 and carrying through to 2014 has been reflected in some changes in our approach in 2014.

Concerns were raised over the past year or so that there has been over-emphasis on planning matters, at the expense of what might be characterised as community engagement. This could be explained by the arrival of three major development proposals in the past three years; Sunnyside Farm residential development in Drumoak, the Crematorium in Crathes and the Crathes residential development. In addition, there have been further controversial planning proposals that required our attention. Inevitably, these aroused local concerns, and the Community Council has striven to help articulate these concerns in a coherent and democratically responsible fashion. This was particularly so in the case of Crathes, where the small nucleus of the community is to be tripled in size by the housing development, and further impacted by the proximity of the proposed (and in the settled view of the clear majority of the Crathes community, wholly inappropriately located) crematorium.

The increase in membership during 2013 helped in broadening the Community Council’s engagement, and this year saw the formation of the Drumoak and Durris Community Group, which was an initiative of Maxine Smith, Community Councillor for Drumoak. Whilst the Group is independent of the Community Council, it is to be hoped that both Maxine and Angella Bichan’s membership of both bodies will facilitate greater engagement with the major population centre within our area. It is a matter of concern that there were no nominations for new members of the 2015-18 Community Council from either Drumoak or Durris. This suggests a worrying disengagement between these two communities and the Community Council, which poses an existential challenge to its future. This is something the Community Council must strive to rectify by attracting new members from both Drumoak and Durris.

During the course of the year two further sub-committees were set up (there was a pre-existing sub-committee to deal with the Crathes Housing Development); Community Engagement led by Maxine Smith, and Wind Farms led by Mark Ansell. Thanks are due to all three of these for the work that they have done throughout the year in both maintaining and expanding the Community Councils activities. Our thanks are also due to Ann Ross for once again discharging her duties as press officer.

### **Priorities for 2014**

At the start of 2014, the Community Council set itself a short list of priorities to be addressed, and an intention to review the list during the course of the year. Progress on these priorities has been mixed.

#### **Kirkton of Durris Speed Limit.**

This issue has been dragging on for at least three years, driven by the desire of local residents, supported by a petition signed by more than 200, to reduce the speed limit on the B9077 through Kirkton of Durris from 50 to 40mph. This is in recognition of the dangers to all road users posed by a restricted visibility road junction and lack of any sidewalk in the settlement. It is dispiriting to report that no progress has been made on this. Cliff Grover devoted considerable effort to analysing the regulations governing the setting of speed limits at both local and national level, and constructed a robust case for revising the limit. Our

representations on the matter have been met with obdurate refusal by the officers of Aberdeenshire Council to engage in any real debate as to how the criteria may be better interpreted to meet specific local circumstances. Unfortunately, Cliff was unable to pursue this further, owing to other commitments, and this remains as an unresolved issue.

### **LDP 2016 Main Issues Report**

The Aberdeenshire Local Development plan is renewed every four years, and goes out for consultation via community councils three years in advance of its compilation. It is important to stress that it is vital for communities to engage with this early stage of the planning process, as it largely determines how land is allocated in the future. Our Community Council took part in the consultation process, and held a meeting attended by 40-50 members of the public at Crathes Hall on 22<sup>nd</sup> January to gauge public response to the Main Issues Report. A detailed submission on behalf of the Community Council was made by David Morrish at the end of January. There were several applications for residential development and mineral extraction in our area, which were not supported by the Aberdeenshire Policy Planning Unit, and our Community Council supported the Policy Unit's position.

### **Drumoak Representation on CC**

This was satisfactorily addressed in 2014 with, at one point, a full quota of five members on the Community Council. This has now fallen to only two members for the new Community Council, and as mentioned above, engagement with the residents of Drumoak remains a problem. Similarly with Durriss.

### **Durriss School Car Park**

Thanks to the continued efforts of members of the School Council, supported by Cllr Graeme Clark, approval for the provision of limited parking at the school has now been granted. This is only a temporary solution, but thanks are due to the owner of the land who has made this much needed facility possible.

### **Wind Farm Funds**

The Meikle Carrew and Midhill wind farms became operative during the course of this year, and community funds have been set-up, whereby properly constituted organisations within communities contiguous to the wind farms can apply for grants. The bodies responsible for administering these funds include representatives from the relevant community councils. Our representatives were Mark Ansell and Linda Murray, and we must thank them for their contributions in the establishment of these bodies. Although Community Councils can not themselves apply for funds, applications from eligible organisations have to be routed through the relevant Community Councils.

### **Development and Planning**

**Crathes Housing Development.** Following the rejection of grant of planning permission by the Marr Area Committee in November 2013, the developer Stuart Milne submitted an appeal to the Directorate for Planning and Environmental Appeals (DPEA) in April this year. David Morrish prepared an exceptionally detailed submission to the DPEA on behalf of the Community Council, setting out not only the objections to the application as submitted, but also highlighting what were considered to be democratic deficiencies in the way Aberdeenshire Council had dealt with the application. Despite this, the appeal was upheld, and work on the site began in the middle of the year.

Once the decision had been made, the Community Council had meetings with Stuart Milne to ensure that disruption to local residents would be kept to a minimum. In particular, a known problem with vibration from heavy machinery being transmitted through a shallow hard ground in the immediate vicinity was brought to their attention. When work started on the site and severe vibration was experienced in surrounding properties, we were able to contact Stuart Milne immediately and arrange for surveys of the affected properties to be undertaken. Monitoring equipment was installed in several properties so that the contractors could be alerted if vibration exceeded an acceptable level. The Crathes Housing sub-

committee of the Community Council continues to maintain a close watch on operations as the development progresses.

In addition to monitoring ongoing work on the site, the sub-committee is currently actively engaged in ensuring that Aberdeenshire Council introduce a 30mph speed limit on the A957 through the newly expanded Crathes village settlement.

The Community Council coordinated a survey to request suggestions for the naming of the three roads on the new development, including suggestions from Crathes Primary School. This resulted in one suggestion from the school being put forward for adoption, along with two from the wider Crathes community which referenced a fishing beat on the River Dee and the Coy Burn.

**Development of three houses to the west of Alma Cottage, Park, Drumoak.** This planning application is a carry over from 2013, and was opposed by the Community Council along with a number of local residents. Following a site visit by the Kincardine and Mearns Area Committee in April this year the application was rejected, largely on the same grounds that the Community Council had suggested. The applicant has taken the case to appeal at the DPEA, and the Community Council made a submission to the DPEA restating our objections, and emphasising that to grant this application would be contrary to nearly all the guidance on organic growth of existing settlements given in the Local Development Plan (LDP). In the light of the policies and guidance set out in the LDP, it is astonishing that the local planning officers recommended the application be granted. The DPEA have indicated that a decision should be made by December 26<sup>th</sup>, but at present the outcome of this appeal is unknown.

### **Policing**

Attendance by the police at our regular monthly meetings has been infrequent particularly in the latter part of the year, and the back-up of written reports provided by Police Scotland has been patchy. This is regrettable, as the updates provided by the police, and the opportunity to feed back any concerns from the community was much appreciated. It is appreciated that operational considerations must take precedence, but we would stress that we would like these regular contacts to be maintained as far as possible.

We are fortunate that we live in what is generally considered to be a low crime area. There have been isolated housebreakings and incidents of illegal off-road vehicle use in Durris Forrest and other generally low-level offences, but no reports of further more serious incidents within the area this year. The police continue to stress the need for householders to ensure the security of their properties to deter opportunistic property crime, particularly as we have a large proportion of isolated rural households.

### **Special Events**

The Community Council arranges public meetings on an as-needs basis to gauge the response of the local community to particular issues as they arise. In addition to this more or less routine activity, on 26<sup>th</sup> June we hosted a Community Referendum Debate at Crathes Hall. The meeting was attended by about 120 mainly local residents and was widely recognised as having been a great success. Organised on a "Question Time" format, with a principal representative from the two sides of the campaign, the debate was energetic and robust. There was enthusiastic participation from the floor, and whilst strong opinions were expressed, it was carried out with appropriate respect on all sides. The meeting was expertly chaired by Maxine Smith, and I would like to thank her for her efforts in leading the organisation of this event.

### **Comment from the Chair**

This has been a challenging year for our Community Council. During the course of the year, some members have found that they were unable to devote as much time to community affairs as they would have hoped, and have decided that they are unable to stand for nomination to the new Council. Our lack of success in obtaining new members for Drumoak and Durris is particularly concerning, and poses an existential threat to the continuation of the Community Council.

The perennial challenge to voluntary bodies with a wide remit such as ours is that the fewer the members on the council, the greater the load those that remain. This not only means that we will limit the scope of what we can or would like to achieve, but also that we become less representative of the community we are here to serve. The lack of membership has a multiplier effect as we shrink the informal networks that connect us to our community, and that forms a feedback loop further isolating us from the wider base of support for what we try to achieve.

I am standing down as chair of the Community Council, as I anticipate losing my residency qualification at some point next year, although I am happy to remain as an ordinary member until that point. I would like to thank the members of the Community Council for their support and hard work not only through this year, but also during my whole term as Chair, and would also like to extend my thanks to our Aberdeenshire Council ex-officio members for their support and guidance.

On behalf of the Community Council, I extend our best wishes to all the residents of Crathes, Drumoak and Durriss for Christmas and the New Year.

Appendix B

**CRATHES, DRUMOAK & DURRIS COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**INCOME & EXPENDITURE STATEMENT FOR 12 MONTHS ENDING 12/11/14**

INCOME	Line	2013/14	2012/13
Administration Grant 13/14	1	£547.00	£545.00
Other Grants	2	£0.00	£0.00
Donations	3	£0.00	£0.00
Other Income	4	£0.00	£0.00
Total		£547.00	£545.00
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>			
Advertising	10	£41.83	£0.00
Hire of Halls	11	£0.00	£28.00
Other Expenditure	12	£330.00	£236.50
Memberships	13	£0.00	£0.00
Donations Made	14	£273.50	£300.00
Postage & Photocopying	15	£1.18	£0.00
Legal and Consultancy Fees	16	£25.00	£0.00
Total		£671.51	£564.50
Surplus / Deficit		<u>£-124.51</u>	<u>£-19.50</u>

**BALANCE SHEET AS AT 12/11/14**

<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Cash at bank	Line 21	£183.38	£307.89
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Amounts falling due within one year	22	£0.00	£0.00
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>		<u>£183.38</u>	<u>£307.89</u>
<b>ACCUMULATED FUND</b>			
Opening balance	23	£307.89	£327.39
Surplus for period	24	-£124.51	-£19.50
Closing balance		<u>£183.38</u>	<u>£307.89</u>

*I certify that the above accounts have been prepared by me and accurately reflect the financial transactions relating to the period.*

.....  
John Hopkins (Treasurer)

Date: 3 / 12 / 14

*Authorised by me on behalf of CDDCC*

.....  
Howard Schley  
Chairman

Date: 3 / 12 / 14

<b>DISTRIBUTION</b>				
<b><u>EMAIL</u></b>	<b><u>EMAIL</u></b>	<b><u>EMAIL</u></b>	<b><u>EMAIL</u></b>	<b><u>WEBSITE</u></b>
CDDCC Councillors	Kirkton of Durris Hall Notice Board (via Gillian Edward)	Insp. Stuart Ednie	Maureen Newlands (KMAP/MAP/STP)	<a href="http://www.durris.net/">http://www.durris.net/</a> (also for previous minutes)
Cllrs. Linda Clark, Karen Clark, Jill Webster (Ward 16)	Crathes Hall Notice Board (via Nicola Chambury)		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	<b><u>BY POST</u></b> Banchory Public Library	<b><u>BY HAND</u></b> Park Shop Drumoak Post Office
Mr W Munro, Area Manager, Kincardine & Mearns				
Area Manager, Marr	Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator - Alister Bisset	Local Newsletter Editor – Marion McNeil		