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Crathes, Drumoak & Durris Community Council (CDDCC)
Minutes of Meeting
6 August 2014 at Crathes Hall from 19.30 hours

1. Sederunt

Community Councillors: Howard Scholey (Chairman), Ann Ross, Mark Ansell, Geoffrey Atkinson, Maxine Smith, Les Bray, Daniel Wake

Aberdeenshire Councillors: Linda Clark, Raymond Christie, Graeme Clark

Minutes Secretary: John Hopkins

Apologies: David Morrish, Angela Bichan, Linda Murray, Wendy Agnew, Cliff Grover.

2. Approval of Previous Minutes

The June minutes were proposed by Geoffrey Atkinson and seconded by Maxine Smith and accepted as an accurate record.

3. Police Matters

To check CDDCC email inbox to see if there had been a response from Allan Paxton following the June meeting (**Action: Maxine Smith**). If there had not, to contact him for information on the following items (**Action: Howard Scholey**):-

- results from the temporary speed camera erected in Crathes in the Spring, between the crossroads and Durris Bridge.
- police foot patrols making a high visibility appearance on the beat, but ignoring instances of parking on pavements
- the vehicle crash which had taken place in Park on 7 May
- outcome of reports to 101 about bikers and off-road vehicles in Durris Forest.

4. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

4.1 Infrastructure Problems in Drumoak

Les Bray noted that there had still been no effective action by Aberdeenshire Council on *any* of the infrastructure problems reported in February.

The most serious of these infrastructure problems was the burn in Keithmuir Park, which had repeatedly flooded over recent years, leading both to the inundation of the adjacent houses and to an imminent drowning danger for children playing in the Park.

Howard Scholey had submitted a formal complaint on behalf of CDDCC to this effect and had received an inadequate reply, which concluded by stating that Aberdeenshire Council regarded the issue as closed.

Following a discussion of this reply at the June CDDCC, Howard Scholey had recently written a letter to Dennis Robertson MSP, drawing his attention both to the unacceptable nature of the Aberdeenshire Council response and to the particular Keithmuir Park culvert problem. Thus far, he had received no response.

Graeme Clark noted that he had spoken to Willie Munro, who had expressed his disapproval of Aberdeenshire Council's practice of simply declaring a matter closed.

On the separate matter of the major road noise/vibration problem for residents of the main road in Drumoak (see minutes of June meeting), Howard Scholey noted that he had visited the section of road in question a two weeks ago to better understand the problem and had subsequently written to the Roads Department. He had thus far received no reply.

There followed a broad discussion of how to progress such issues in the face of denial by Aberdeenshire Council. Points made included:-

- Linda Clark, noting that her own constituency was outwith the subject area for these particular problems, suggested to Graeme Clark that – in the light of Willie Munro’s reported comment – he might get some action via Willie Munro.
- Raymond Christie noted that he had recently had some success, in comparable circumstances, by persuading the local MSP to write to the Council’s Chief Executive.
- Ann Ross suggested that Howard Scholey might write direct to the Council’s Chief Executive.
- John Hopkins said that if neither the Community Council nor an elected Councillor could get a proper response by using the “normal” channels of communication, then there seemed no point in persisting with such channels. All complaints should perhaps be addressed in the *first* instance to MSP or MP, as appropriate.
- Maxine Smith made the point that, in the light of clear evidence that it was being ignored by parts of Aberdeenshire Council, CDDCC’s duty was to escalate these issues, in order that it might fulfil its role of providing proper feedback to local people.

Maxine Smith asked what was a reasonable time limit for obtaining a constructive response to complaints from CDDCC. Howard Scholey said that he believed that this varied according to the particular circumstances. He proposed that, in the present circumstances, we wait for responses from:-

- Local MSP re Infrastructure Issues
- Road Department re vibration problem

4.2 Car Park for Durriss Primary

Howard Scholey said that the Planning Application had at long last been submitted. Some delay had been caused by planners querying the period for which temporary change of use of the carpark site was required. On the basis that a long-term carpark was provided for in the plans for the land behind the school, a notional two year period was chosen.

4.3 ID Badges

Howard Scholey reported that he had received just one passport-type electronic image (“mugshot”) – that of Maxine Smith. Les Bray said he had submitted his also. Howard Scholey apologised that he must have overlooked this. To resend his mugshot (**Action: Les Bray**). To send mugshots to Howard Scholey (**Action: other CDDCC members requiring ID badges**). To procure the ID badges (**Action: Howard Scholey**)

4.4 Laminated Maps

Howard Scholey said that a further four maps were with the printers for lamination, making a total of six maps available. He proposed that these be located in all the local Halls plus the Drumoak Post Office, but would be happy to hear other suggestions (**Action: Howard Scholey**)

5. Planning

5.1 Crathes Housing

Howard Scholey reported that he and David Morrish had had a meeting the previous week with representatives of Stewart Milne. Notwithstanding the planning application for a sales office, this was now unlikely to go ahead. The current plan was to make the sales from the Show House, which would be the first house completed (probably before year-end) and would be at the most south-easterly point of the site.

Contact details for Stewart Milne and ground works contractor would be put on CDDCC’s FB wall. (**Action: David Morrish to forward details to Maxine Smith**)

It was felt that the disruption probable when laying the sewage main all the way along North Deeside Road from the Crathes Housing site to Banchory was not public knowledge.

This infrastructure issue was discussed at some length, broadening into a discussion of the lack of coordination and planning evident from the chaos of the Blairs roadworks and of the disruption from the overrunning water main relaying (Drumoak/Park Bridge Road/Durriss Reservoir).

Ann Ross raised concern that the lack of a co-ordinated approach to infrastructure and planning within both Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire was having a detrimental effect upon business and the public. An example of this was the rumoured withdrawal of businesses in Westhill because of the inadequate provision of infrastructure.

To draft a letter drawing attention to these problems (**Action: Ann Ross/Maxine Smith**).
Les Bray observed that Robert Smith MP would be the appropriate addressee.

Graeme Clark noted that Westhill was somewhat outwith the CDDCC area, but that it was worth making the point that the traffic disruptions caused at Blairs should be avoided, if at all possible, when laying the new sewer along the North Deeside Road.

Linda Clark noted that it might be worth attempting to interest the young reporters on the Piper in the issues. Investigative journalism was always popular - with reporters and public alike.

Ann Ross left the meeting at this point

5.2 Current Local Planning Applications

Geoffrey Atkinson noted, with relief, that the revised planning website was now easier to use. He said that there were no new planning applications in the Drumoak area requiring comment from CDDCC. Neither were there for Crathes or Durriss.

Les Bray reported that the application for a very large wind turbine (160 feet to blade tip) at Rashesloch Farm had been withdrawn.

6. Correspondence

6.1 Plants for Community Projects

The usual letter had been received from Aberdeenshire Council, offering free plants for community plantings next year. The order form has to be submitted before the end of September. Maxine Smith suggested that CDDCC might organise a competition for the best local community display. To circulate letter (**Action: Howard Scholey**)

6.2 Street Naming for Nether Sunnyside houses

A letter had been received from Aberdeenshire Council, soliciting input in respect of the naming of the new cul de sac to be formed in the Bancon development in Drumoak. To circulate letter (**Action: Howard Scholey**)

7. Priorities for 2014

7.1 Kirkton of Durriss Speed Limit

To see if some leverage could be exerted via Dennis Robertson MSP, by following-up CDDCC's earlier letter to him on the subject (**Action: Howard Scholey**)

7.2 Local Development Plan Main Issues Report

Since this had now been formally adopted, it should be dropped from the list of 2014 Priorities (**Action: Howard Scholey/John Hopkins**)

8. Subcommittee Reports, etc.

8.1 Drumoak Durris Community Group (DDCG)

Maxine Smith reported that the renamed Drumoak Durris Community Group would be registered as a SCIO (the relatively-new Scottish Charity incorporation which allows charitable tax reliefs, etc., plus limited liability status) She noted that Crathes residents had been invited to join the group, but had shown no interest.

The projects expected to be adopted by DDCG were:-

- Community and Sports Pavilion for Drumoak (probably on site of redundant skateboard area)
- Youth drop-in cafe (modelled on the successful Maryculter version - initially to be located in Drumoak Church Hall/later in the new Drumoak School)
- Advocacy project
- Christmas Lights for Drumoak

Raymond Christie said that the Area Committee would be sympathetic to an application for funds for Christmas lights.

Maxine Smith asked for more assistance from interested Community Councillors.

8.2 Kincardine Development Project (KDP)

Maxine Smith reported that there would be a special General Meeting of KDP for all stakeholders at the Bervie Hall in Inverbervie on 25 September to progress the dissolution of KMAP and endowment/activation of KDP.

8.3 Wind Farms

Mark Ansell said that the Meikle Carewe funding process for 2014 was up and running. The Midhall fund procedures were still being developed.

To forward to Maxine Smith a copy of the European Funding papers, to be used as the basis of applications for wind farm money (**Action: Howard Scholey**)

8.4 Subcommittee Remits

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

9. Referendum Debate

Howard Scholey said that all the feedback from the Referendum Debate organised by CDDCC had been positive. Even if opinions had been firmly held (and his impression was that few minds were changed on the night), the process had been both efficient and polite. He paid tribute to the work of the organising team, particularly Maxine Smith and David Morrish.

Howard Scholey noted that he was currently completing a form to apply to Aberdeenshire Council for various moneys, including:-

- costs associated with staging the Referendum Debate
- Lamination of maps
- ID cards
- Costs associated with establishing the new Community Council to run from 2015

Maxine Smith asked him to apply for an extra £500, to cover the cost of leaflets and a replacement CDDCC website.

John Hopkins said that he was happy to pass across responsibility for running a CDDCC website. The existing website belonged to him, but had hosted CDDCC for around ten years, simply because it was expedient (and zero marginal cost) to so do. He would not release the website name (durris.net), since this was used for several purposes other than those of CDDCC. A replacement website name would therefore be needed, together with a hosting server and suitable (multi-editor) editing software.

10. Status of Alan Ross

Howard Scholey referred to the question – raised by Maxine Smith – of the status of Alan Ross. John Hopkins suggested that, since he had missed so many meetings in a row, CDDCC would be justified in asking for his resignation.

11. Rotation of CDDCC Meeting Locations

Howard Scholey asked whether there were any new points on this issue. Maxine Smith said that it might be better to rotate on a quarterly basis, rather than monthly.

Howard Scholey proposed that the current arrangements be retained at least until the formation of the new CDDCC. The issue of meeting location rotation should be left on the Agenda.

12. Community Council Elections (November)

Howard Scholey asked all members to consider how the need to constitute a new Community Council could best be publicised. He proposed that as a first step, the CC request permission from the three local primary schools to send a letter home with the children. To draft/circulate the letter (**Action: Howard Scholey**)

John Hopkins observed that, if there were more candidates than vacancies (and an election thereby required), the whole process – which would necessarily involve Aberdeenshire Council – would take a minimum of two months. Given that the creation of a new CDDCC is required for November, the process needs to start no later than September. Nominations should be sought as soon as possible.

Maxine Smith said that succession planning was necessary. She was enthusiastic about elections as a means of consciousness-raising amongst the local public. John Hopkins made the point that elections and succession planning did not work well together.

To help anticipate the requirement for candidates, Howard Scholey said that as he planned to move from the area in 2015 he did not intend to stand for nomination. He asked that any others who had made similar decisions should let CDDCC know as soon as possible. Geoffrey Atkinson declared that he did not propose to stand again. Howard Scholey said that Linda Murray had also indicated that she would stand down.

Maxine Smith expressed concern at the possibility of the loss of all the experienced Community Councillors. Howard Scholey said that, although he would be standing down, he was prepared - if asked - to act in a non-voting co-opted capacity for a period, to ensure continuity.

13. Meeting to Discuss CDDCC Process, etc.

To propose a date and venue for a private meeting of CDDCC members (outwith the normal cycle) to debate more fully “process” issues (**Action: David Morrish**)

14. AOB

14.1 Financial Report

Maxine Smith asked for a brief report on CDDCC’s finances. To provide report on expenditures (**Action: John Hopkins**)

15. Next Meeting

Crathes Hall – 3rd September at 1930 hours.

DISTRIBUTION				
<u>EMAIL</u>	<u>EMAIL</u>	<u>EMAIL</u>	<u>EMAIL</u>	<u>WEBSITE</u>
CDDCC Councillors	Kirkton of Durris Hall Notice Board (via Gillian Edward)	Insp. Stuart Ednie	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)		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	<u>BY POST</u> Banchory Public Library	<u>BY HAND</u> Park Shop Drumoak Post Office
Mr W Munro, Area Manager, Kincardine & Mearns				
Mr L Allen, Area Manager, Marr	Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator - Alister Bisset	Local Newsletter Editor – Marion McNeil		