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Crathes, Drumoak & Durris Community Council (CDDCC)
Minutes of January Meeting
7 January 2015 at Crathes Hall from 19.30 hours

1. Sederunt

Community Councillors: David Morrish (Interim Chairman), Angela Bichan, Maxine Smith, Mark Ansell, Ann Ross, Peter Renwick, Howard Scholey, Ronnie Mitchell, Marion McNeil

Aberdeenshire Councillors: Linda Clark, Graeme Clark, Raymond Christie

Minutes Secretary: John Hopkins

Members of Public: Robert Harper, Ann Buchan, Charles Clark

2. Approval of Previous Minutes

The October 2014 minutes - subject to the corrections included as section 2.1 of the December 2014 minutes - were proposed by Maxine Smith and seconded by Angela Bichan and accepted as an accurate record.

The December 2014 minutes were proposed by David Morrish and seconded by Howard Scholey and accepted as an accurate record.

3. Matters Arising

3.1 Police Matters

There was no police presence at the meeting.

David Morrish confirmed that Sandra Crighton and Olga Lorensen had been given the necessary information to ensure some police attendance at CDDCC meetings. Ann Ross noted that it might be necessary, given its re-organisation, to remind Grampian Police that CDDCC's area also covered Crathes. David Morrish said that it was clear - from the emailed report that he had recently received - that it was, in fact, being included.

3.2 CDDCC Day

David Morrish noted that he had undertaken to convene the meeting to review CDDCC processes and organisation. He passed round a sheet for members to indicate their availability in January/February (see also section 9 of these minutes).

3.3 Transfer of Treasurer Responsibilities

John Hopkins noted that he had sent the letter requesting the Admin Grant for 2014/5. Peter Renwick had obtained the relevant forms from Royal Bank of Scotland. It was agreed that the names of Maxine Smith, Angela Bichan and Peter Renwick should be added to the list of authorised signatories.

The transfer of responsibilities from John Hopkins to Peter Renwick was expected to be completed once (a) the new signatories were authorised and (b) the 2014/5 Admin Grant payment had been received (**Action: John Hopkins**)

3.4 Park Bridge

Graeme Clark said that he had spoken to the Roads Department, who had agreed to ask the Park Estate to fell the tree at the south-west corner of Park Bridge. To underline this request to Park Estate (**Action: Angela Bichan**)

3.5 Houses behind Durris School

To make arrangements for Kirkwood Homes (responsible for the 20 houses proposed behind Durris School) to make a presentation at the February meeting of CDDCC at 19.00 hours (**Action: Mark Ansell**). To ask them also to provide – ideally prior to that meeting - a copy of the report that they had prepared subsequent

to their public meeting on the subject (**Action: Mark Ansell**) It was noted that any representation by CDDCC on the subject would necessarily follow the lodging of the Planning Application.

3.6 Kincardineshire Development Partnership (KDP)

To circulate the draft completed application form for any further comment (**Action: Maxine Smith**). To sign and submit the finalised form (**Action: David Morrish**).

3.7 Thirty mph limit for Crathes

David Morrish noted that this would be the subject of an item at the Marr Area Committee on 29 January. He had written, on behalf of CDDCC, to support the proposal, but without prejudice to the related matters also raised by CDDCC (e.g. changed speed limits on North Deeside Road).

Ann Ross drew attention to the one-sided narrowing of the road – without relocation of the centre line - and to the obscuration of crossing markings, which represented a source of danger, albeit in some cases recognised to be temporary. To draw these matters to the attention of the Roads Department (**Action: David Morrish**).

3.8 Crematorium

Howard Scholey reported that he had attempted drum up interest in the formation of a Crematorium Subcommittee to monitor this development, but with limited success thus far. To attempt to set-up an informal monitoring group of residents most directly affected by the proposed development to keep the Community Council informed of further activities .l (**Action: Howard Scholey**)

4. Planning Representatives

David Morrish raised the issue of Planning Representatives. These members of CDDCC had the task of reviewing the Aberdeenshire Council planning lists and drawing items to the attention of CDDCC – either at the subsequent meeting or more urgently if appropriate – in the event that action or comment were required.

The following undertook to carry out this duty, at least until the CDDCC Day:-

- David Morrish for Crathes
- Mark Ansell for Durris
- Marion McNeil for Drumoak

5 New CDDCC Website

Maxine Smith said that she had registered a new domain and currently had a web developer developing a new website for CDDCC. A test site would be made available within two weeks.

Ann Ross asked whether www.durris.net would continue in parallel with the new site. John Hopkins said that www.durris.net was his own site. It had subsequently been used – albeit for a considerable number of years – simply as a courtesy, to host CDDCC webpages on a no-cost basis. Once the new CDDCC website were available, all CDDCC material would be filleted out of the www.durris.net site, which he would continue to use for his own other purposes.

Maxine Smith said that she would need the old CDDCC Minutes and certain other items, e.g. Community Councillor “mugshots”, from www.durris.net John Hopkins said that he was happy to facilitate this, but asked that only CDDCC material was copied from the site. Maxine Smith said that she would ensure that items were only taken by his agreement.

To develop a transition plan for migration to the new website (**Action: Maxine Smith**)

6. Planning

6.1 Current Applications

6.11 Crathes and Durris

None requiring attention.

6.12 Drumoak

Howard Scholey noted an application at Belskavie (APP/2014/4340) for an extension of a caravan storage park. Although this was of a substantial size (200 caravans), it was understood to be for storage only (and no residence), so action was not deemed necessary by CDDCC.

Howard Scholey noted that the revised Aberdeenshire Council planning website was unstable, and that from time to time it was impossible to access documents that were purported to be hosted on the site.

6.2 Drumoak School

It was noted that the construction of Drumoak School was running twelve weeks behind schedule and, as a result, it might not open at the beginning of the Autumn Term. It was, however, believed that the current delay might be overcome.

The walking path from the village to the school was discussed at some length. It seemed inappropriate – and unnecessary – to CDDCC that the walking route for schoolchildren should cross the road twice, when consideration of the geography suggested that a short and direct (off-road, and hence safer) route from the school site, passing to the west side of Drumoak Church (or some variant thereon) should be possible. There was perhaps some problem with land holdings.

Linda Clark noted that the “Safer Routes to Schools” initiative – and funds – should be relevant in this case.

Graeme Clark suggested that a first step should be to write to the Education Committee, to find out what was the true projected situation. In the light of her position on the Drumoak School Council, to write to the Education Committee on behalf of CDDCC, raising this issue (**Action: Angela Bichan**)

7. Correspondence

7.1 Forthcoming Meeting in Edinburgh

Howard Scholey noted that there was a notice on the CC hotmail account of a forthcoming workshop in Edinburgh (30 January) on the subject of digital communications for CCs and the use of social media which might prove very relevant.

7.2 Congestion of Hotmail Inbox

The congestion of CDDCC’s Hotmail Inbox, not least with spurious Twitter references, was noted. Howard Scholey undertook to monitor the Hotmail account for the immediate future to remove such material, and forward relevant communications to CC members. (**Action: Howard Scholey**)

8. Subcommittees – Update

8.1 DDCG

Maxine Smith noted that DDCG had recruited some useful additional members in recent weeks and would – as a result – be reorganising its committee.

It had not proved possible to install Christmas lights by 14 December, but the Xmas Event held on that date at the Bowling Club had proved a great success, with some £700 raised in donations at the meeting. The venue had filled to capacity and it was envisaged that only the new School Hall would prove big enough in future.

The Fun Day (moved loved by long-standing residents) which had been run in the past in Drumoak had been discussed and it was hoped to revive this – perhaps in Drumoak and Durris in alternate years.

A survey had shown that all but one of the lamp posts in Drumoak were too weak to support Christmas lights. The plan was therefore to have a Christmas tree, with an underground adjacent electricity supply box, which would be dressed with lights by DDCG for the Christmas season. A grant of £1,500 towards this had been obtained from the Council. Lighting of the tree would be the responsibility of DDCG: insurance thereof would be the responsibility of CDDCC

It was suggested that the idea of a permanent, growing, Christmas tree be considered, in place of a succession of temporary trees.

8.2 Wind Farms

Mark Ansell said that it remained the case that Meikle Carewe funds had been allocated for the current round and that the Midhill application process was still pending finalisation.

9. CDDCC Day

David Morrish announced that the sole suitable date identified for this, from the circulated sheet, was Sunday 22 February. Accordingly, that was the chosen date. It was agreed that the slot from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. should prove suitable.

Peter Renwick suggested that perhaps an independent facilitator might be helpful for the meeting. Maxine suggested that Lorraine Grant might be a suitable person. To discuss this possibility with Lorraine Grant herself and David Morrish (**Action: Maxine Smith**)

To produce a “straw-man” proposal for the structure and content of the CDDCC Day – ideally before the regular February meeting – and circulate it for consideration and comment (**Action: David Morrish**)

In view of possible congestion at the February meeting, it was agreed to bring forward the Kirkwood Homes presentation to 19.00 hours, starting the meeting at this time.

10. AOB

10.1 Forthcoming Aberdeenshire Council Budget

Ann Ross noted that independent – as distinct from party - councillors elsewhere in Aberdeenshire Council had circulated questionnaires to solicit views as to what should be included (or not included) in the forthcoming Aberdeenshire Council budget. She felt that this was a welcome – and democratic - development.

Linda Clark said that – in her view and in the light of the inevitability of local authority budget cuts – it was the job of the elected members to decide on the budget, but that they would be happy to receive input from individual members of the public.

10.2 KDP EGM

Maxine Smith drew attention to the fact that the (initial) EGM of the Kincardineshire Development Partnership would be taking place at 19.00 hours on 26 February at the Bettridge Centre, Newtonhills AB39 3UL

11. Next Meeting

Crathes Hall on 4 February 2015 at 19.00 hours (N.B. early start time).

JFH
11/1/15

DISTRIBUTION

EMAIL	EMAIL	EMAIL	EMAIL	WEBSITE
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	BY POST Banchory Public Library	BY HAND 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		