

Crathes, Drumoak & Durris Community Council (CDDCC)

Minutes of 2007 Annual General Meeting

12 December 2007 at Drumoak Church Hall from 19.30 hours

1. Sederunt

Community Councillors: David Morrish (Chairman), Jean Downie, Molly Atkinson, John Hopkins, Debbie Cameron, Caroline Cruickshank, Anne Ross

Aberdeenshire Councillors (Ward 16): Linda Clark

Aberdeenshire Councillors (Ward 18): Peter Bellarby, Wendy Agnew, Graeme Clark

Members of the public: Ron Stark, Sandy Stark, Geoffrey Atkinson, Emma Forster, Denis Birnie, Mary Birnie, Janet Dean, Gillian Hare-Scott

Apologies: Rev. Jim Scott, Don Keith, Philip Dean, Keith Whitehead, Karen Clark, Jill Webster, Tony Butcher

2. Chairman's Report.

The report was distributed to those present. David Morrish summarised the main points of his report, reproduced here:-

2007 Community Councillors

Chairman	David Morrish (Crathes)
Vice Chairman	Molly Atkinson (Drumoak)
Secretary	Jean Downie (Durris)
Treasurer	John Hopkins (Durris)
	Keith Whitehead (Crathes)
	Anne Ross (Crathes)
	Tony Butcher (Crathes)
	Jill Gow (Drumoak)
	Jenny Watson (Drumoak)
	Caroline Cruickshank (Drumoak)
	Debbie Cameron (Drumoak)
	Mark Allen (Drumoak)

The following members also comprise sub-committees:

Planning	Molly Atkinson, Keith Whitehead, Jean Downie
Project	Molly Atkinson & (co-opted) Donald Keith & William Downie

Resignations during the year: Mark Allen, *Keith Whitehead (moving to another area)* and *David Morrish himself*.

CC 2007 Priorities

1. Improve Public Amenity
 - a. complete the DYP multi-purpose ballcourt
2. Support community lead policing
3. Campaign for road safety and appropriate speed limits
4. Better publicise CC activities
5. Planning
 - a. Ensure Planning Gain is applied according to local need
 - b. Check that Aberdeenshire Planning hear CC views
6. Contribute to green issues
 - a. Lobbying Aberdeenshire Council eg: re street lighting times

Drumoak Youth Project

Two new Drumoak community councillors volunteered to pursue the DYP, following which there has been significant progress in earmarking funds and identifying what needs doing to complete the all weather pitch, install new 'play' facilities, and improve the landscaping and general amenity of the park.

Policing

This year the police presence at CC meeting has increased allowing a two way exchange of information. The community has had the opportunity to report concerns in line with the request for support for the community lead policing approach and vice-versa. Community councillors have pointed the public towards the police help-lines where necessary and encouraged people to report incidents. The police have provided regular newsletters raising current issues, which is very helpful. This material is also now being sent to the web administrator and the editor of the Drumoak Newsletter.

Road Safety and Speed Limits

It is no doubt with sadness, anger and incredulity that the whole community looks back at the tragic picture painted by this year's road statistics in and around our community. It is therefore inevitable that much of this year's community council agenda time has been devoted to discussing traffic calming, speed limits and other means to reduce road traffic accidents. The Community Council has supported further traffic calming measures at Drumoak, written to the roads department and talked with the police with a view to establishing further speed limits at Crathes and Durris. The community council has also continued its policy of considering road safety angles to all planning applications and making the appropriate representations to Aberdeenshire Planning.

Driving at 30mph is an established practice in the vicinity of houses in England and many European countries. It therefore remains a complete mystery as to why we live with the extraordinary criteria which finds no reason to install speed limits in areas of housing where vehicles are regularly measured at speeds well in excess of 100mph.

The community council is urged to carry forward its objective of achieving 30mph limits in its villages. *Graeme Clark noted that it had now become Aberdeenshire Council policy to impose 30 mph limits in villages.*

Planning

The CC has continued throughout the year to do its best to make representations on behalf of the community on planning applications that arise. This year there have been a few key applications that it has been necessary to track and pass comment. There are significant proposed developments in each of the three community council's areas.

Drumoak

Drumoak continues to attract significant domestic and commercial development. The Drumoak Housing re application APP/2003/1562 continues to cause concern with respect to the sewage treatment capacity which should have been upgraded as part of the development. This has a significant impact on the School and further approved development. There are also applications for a Horticultural Nursery at Mains of Drum and a Car Showroom. The CC continues to make representation re the size and suitability of such developments in the countryside and draws attention to the associated road safety issues.

More esoteric, is the Eco-Village proposed by Chap as an alternative to reinstating the Park Quarry. In 2008 the CC will no doubt pass comment on this in relation to the Strategic Plan when it is finalised.

Crathes

APP/2007/0091 – Crathes 45 Houses. Following the completion and approval of the Development Brief and the rejection of the initial Outline Planning Application in the early part of the year there

has been little activity on this development. It is understood that the land is currently being or has been purchased by a developer. The community council's efforts will be to stay connected with the next steps of the planning process and ensure real discussion around the wider impact for the village, the roads and environment. This will mostly be done by a Crathes sub-group.

Durris

Although there have been a number of sporadic development applications that have had the CCs input, the focus at present is on the two new development areas at Woodlands and Kirkton. A sub group has also been formed for Durris to help influence and address the impact of these developments on the communities. A Development Brief has been completed for the housing at Woodlands of Durris and the outline application is currently held pending. However, it has been noticed that for this application APP/2006/3585, a deadline for comments of 13/12/2007 has appeared on the Aberdeenshire's website but no new application is apparent. This is being investigated as a matter of urgency.

Jenny Watson mentioned the recent Friends of Durris Forest, at which attention had again been drawn to concerns about potential sale for housing of part of the Durris Forestry Commission site.

Mineral Extraction

The issue of wind blown sand continues to be a subject for discussion through the 'Liaison Committee'. It is a reminder of the price often paid by the community when planning conditions are not properly thought through and become difficult to police and enforce.

Access

The CC continues to field concerns with access rights and refer theses to the appropriate authorities. In this respect the CC has links with the Aberdeen Local Outdoor Access Forum. During 2007 there were one or two old protracted issues that seem to take forever to resolve.

Other Activities

The community council has received two interesting presentations, one on recycling and the other the Invercannie-Aberdeen pipelines. These were delivered by the Aberdeenshire Council and Scottish Water respectively.

Community Council members have also been able to improve their knowledge by attending some of the events such as community council forums and planning groups. The latter included attending the Strategic Planning seminars. The Strategic Plan being something of high importance for all of us.

The CC cycle ride this year, held this year on 9th September, was attended by 20 people including children, albeit that 3 of them were on one bike. Nevertheless, there were 5 people last year, so at this rate, we can surely expect 80 in 2008.

Publicising the Community Council Activities

We still need to do better on this point.

CDDCC Charitable Donations

Once again the CDDCC, spending relatively little money on itself, was in a position to consider modest charitable donations to local bodies from its own funds.

Charitable donations were made to the Drumoak & Durris Church (to subsidise the Newsletter, including making it available in Crathes) and to the Forget Me Not Club.

It remains for me to thank each and every member of the 2007 Community Council and our multitude of local councillors who have supported us in our role as a CC this year. As always, there is more to do!

I wish all the best to those in Crathes, Drumaok and Durris for Christmas and the new year.

3. Treasurer's Report

John Hopkins distributed copies of the draft 2007 accounts for CDDCC and for the Drumoak Youth Project (DYP), for which CDDCC continues to act as fundholder. He invited, and responded to, a number of questions about those accounts.

The CDDCC accounts were proposed for acceptance by Jenny Watson and seconded by Wendy Agnew. The DYP accounts were proposed for acceptance by Jenny Watson and seconded by Jean Downie. They were formally adopted and signed by John Hopkins and counter-signed by David Morrish.

The AGM was declared closed at 20.00 hours. Wine and cheese were then served.

JFH

13 December 2007

Distribution			
Email	Post	by hand	other
CDDCC Councillors (excl. Jenny Watson)	Jenny Watson	Park Shop (via John Hopkins)	Website www.durris.net (also for previous minutes)
Cllrs. Linda Clark, Karen Clark, Jill Webster (Ward 16)	Crathes Hall Notice Board (via David Humble)	Drumoak Post Office (via John Hopkins)	
Cllrs. Peter Bellarby, Graeme Clark, Mike Sullivan, Wendy Agnew (Ward 18)	Banchory Public Library		
Mr W Munro, Area Manager, Kincardine & Mearns	Community Police Officer (Drumoak/Durris/Crathes), c/o Banchory Police Office		
Mr L Allen, Area Manager, Marr	Drumoak Public Hall Notice Board (via Ian Pirie)		
Rev. Jim Scott, Durris Manse, Durris	Drumoak Church Hall Notice Board (via Morag Keith)		
Durris Hall Notice Board (via Sheila Watt)			
Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator – Alister Bisset			
Leanna MacLarty (Press and Journal)			