

Crathes, Drumoak & Durris Community Council (CDDCC)

Minutes of 2008 Annual General Meeting

2 December 2008 at Drumoak Church Hall from 19.30 hours

1. Sederunt

Retiring Community Councillors: David Morrish (Convenor), Jean Downie, Tony Butcher, Jenny Watson

Aberdeenshire Councillors (Ward 16): Linda Clark

Aberdeenshire Councillors (Ward 18): Graeme Clark

Members of the public: Nicola Chambury, James White, Geoffrey Atkinson, Gail Bleakley, Delane Morrison, Helen Hamilton, William Downie, Rob Skinner, John Baillie, Malcolm Robertson, Robert Harper, Molly Atkinson, John Hopkins, Caroline Cruickshank, Don Keith, Philip Dean

Police: Insp. Jim Gordon

Aberdeenshire Council official: William Munro

Apologies: Rev. Jim Scott, Cllr. Peter Bellarby

2. Note

As it is now three years since the last CDDCC election, all Community Councillors are required - under the constitution - to retire, although they may offer themselves for re-election.

Nomination papers were made available at the meeting and David Morrish encouraged anyone interested in becoming a Community Councillor to submit a completed nomination. These should be sent to the Returning Officer (John Hopkins), prior to 31 December 2008.

In January, if there are more nominees than posts, an election will be held by secret ballot. If there is the same number, or fewer, those submitting valid nominations will be declared elected.

Retiring Community Councillors will continue to serve until the time of the election or declaration.

At the first meeting of the New Year (which will be 6 January if there is a declaration, although will probably be postponed if there is to be an election), the Community Council will elect its office-bearers.

3. Police Report

Since attendance at Community Council meetings by representatives of the Police is subject to unpredictable emergency calls, David Morrish invited Insp. Jim Gordon – prior to the main business of the AGM - to introduce himself and to report on any matters affecting the CDDCC area.

Insp. Jim Gordon, who is based in Stonehaven, said that with effect from 7 December, new “community-focussed” policing arrangements were being put in place. Drumoak and Durris were to be policed from Portlethen: Crathes would continue to be policed from Banchory. If there were to be a report of a serious incident, however, the nearest-available unit would be sent, irrespective of base location.

PC Wayne Smart (based in Portlethen) had been appointed community-focussed officer for Drumoak and Durris.

Insp. Gordon said that it would be “a challenge” to cover Drumoak, because of the distances involved, but we should see how the service operates in practice.

Emails, or other forms of police report, would be sent to CDDCC and included on the www.durris.net website.

4. Chairman's Report.

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

Crathes, Drumoak & Durris Community Council Chairman's Report - 2008

2008 Community Councillors

Interim Chairman	Molly Atkinson	
Vice Chairman	Jean Downie	
Treasurer	John Hopkins	
Secretary	Ann Ross	
Minute Secretary	John Hopkins	
Planning	Geoffrey Atkinson (Drumoak)*, David Morrish (Crathes), Jean Downie (Durris)	
Member	Tony Butcher (Crathes) Sandy Wallace (Durris)	
Park Quarry Liaison	Donald Keith*, William Downie*	
K&M CC Forum	John Hopkins	
Marr CC Forum	David Morrish	
Website	John Hopkins	* non-members

Resignations during the year: Caroline Cruickshank, Jill Gow, Keith Whitehead, John Hopkins, Anne Ross, Molly Atkinson, Sandy Wallace (?)

CC 2008 Priorities

- Road safety
- Affordable Housing
- Concerns about Health Service Availability
- Youth amenity
- New School for Drumoak

Road Safety and Speed Limits

The community council continued bringing local issues to the attention of the Roads Dept, the Police and Councillors. In particular, the community looks forward to the 30mph limits promised for all villages. The Myrebird and Park/SDR junctions were also highlighted as specific local hotspots. The Roads Dept. are currently taking action in these areas

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. Although this year there have been few key applications, there remain significant proposed development in each of the three community council's areas. It will continue to be necessary to maintain a dialogue with planners and developers. In particular, the Aberdeenshire and City Strategic Plan, having passed the public consultation phase is now nearing the point where it spills out into the new Local Plan. Deeside may remain under pressure to absorb significant levels of further development.

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. The Garden Centre at East Mains of Drum gained approval and the CC supported the Culter Car Showroom once road safety issues were resolved. 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.

Eco-Village proposed by Chap as an alternative to reinstating the Park Quarry remains in the background with the developers putting forward their bid to the Aberdeenshire and City Structure Plan.

Crathes

APP/2007/0091 – Crathes 45 Houses. Although there has been little activity on this development since the outline planning application was refused last year, it is noted that the landowner has made a bid for an adjacent area to be included within the Structure Plan. Incidentally, an area which has previously been objected to by the community council.

Durris

A Development Brief has been completed for the housing at Woodlands of Durris and the outline application APP/2006/3585 was approved in January of this year.

Drumoak Youth Project

Subject of a separate report

Policing

This year the police presence at CC meeting has continued 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. The police have provided regular newsletters raising current issues which is very helpful. Policing is now divided for the CC area with Marr area providing for Crathes and K&M for Drumoak and Durris. Police members from each area will attend CC meetings when available.

Access

One remaining access issue this year is the padlocked and barb-wired gate that restricts access from the Deeside Way near the Myrebird junction to the river. This is a path used by many over a long period of time and therefore remains an issue.

Other Activities

The community council has received interesting presentations, Midhill Wind farm, the Culter Car Showroom with respect to planning applications as well the Royal Deeside Railway Preservation Society and The Friends of Durris Forest.

The CC cycle ride this year was cancelled due to extremely poor weather

Data Protection

This year saw resignations of Crathes, Drumoak and Durris Community Councillors (CDDCC) over what is seen as more and more needless bureaucracy. The final straw was that the Assistant Commissioner for Data Protection now requires Community Councils to register under the DP Acts as he considers them to be statutory bodies and for that reason unable to benefit from the exemptions.

The Assistant Commissioner apparently argues that any third party undertaking the processing of personal data for a Community Council is thereby a “data processor” under the Acts and this puts the Community Council in the position of being a “data controller” and hence itself liable to register. It is a shame that these bodies fail to consider the unintended consequences of their actions.

CDDCC Charitable Donations

Once again the CDDCC, spending 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 Homestart.

It remains for me to thank each and every member of the 2008 Community Council and our local councillors who have supported us this year.

I wish all the best to those in Crathes, Drumoak and Durris for Christmas and the New Year.

David Morrish

Acting Chairman for AGM only – Crathes, Drumoak & Durris Community Council

5. DYP Report

Caroline Cruickshank gave an oral report on DYP-related activities over the past year.

She said that she had now handed over to Gail Bleakley and Delane Morrison, whom she introduced to the meeting.

New play equipment had been installed in the park and the football pitch upgraded, with new goalposts scheduled for next year. This work had been undertaken by Aberdeenshire Council.

Meetings with local youth had identified a skate park as the most-desired additional facility, but this had been deemed impractical on safety and other grounds. Subject to confirmation at a further meeting, bike ramps would be installed instead. These would be installed in 2009, on the area previously designed for an all-weather pitch.

6. Treasurer's Report

John Hopkins distributed copies of the draft 2008 accounts for CDDCC and for the Drumoak Youth Project (DYP), for which CDDCC continues to act as fundholder.

He noted that, whilst there had actually been substantial achievements during the year by DYP, none of its accumulated funds had been spent. These therefore remained available for future use.

There were no questions on either set of accounts.

Both sets of accounts were formally adopted and signed by John Hopkins (Treasurer) and counter-signed by David Morrish, as Convenor of the AGM.

7. Closure of Meeting

The AGM was then declared closed and David Morrish invited Don Keith to give his presentation on the "Park eco-village" and potential housing sites around Drumoak.

The presentation initiated a lively discussion.

Wine and cheese were then served.

JFH

6 December 2008

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