

Crathes, Drumoak & Durris Community Council (CDDCC)

Minutes of 2011 Annual General Meeting

7 December 2011 at Kirkton of Durris Hall from 19.30 hours

1. Sederunt

Community Councillors: David Morrish, Ann Ross, Geoffrey Atkinson, Jim Williamson, Gill Bruce

Aberdeenshire Councillors (Ward 16): Graeme Clark, Wendy Agnew

Aberdeenshire Councillors (Ward 18): Linda Clark

Members of the public: Jean Downie, John Hopkins, Mark Bramwell

Apologies: Don Keith, Howard Scholey, Jenny Watson, Peter Bellarby

2. Chairman's Report.

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

2011 Community Councillors

CC Office	Community Area Represented		
	Crathes	Drumoak	Durris
Chairman	David Morrish		
Vice Chairman		John Baillie (Resigned)	
Vice Chairman			
Treasurer			John Hopkins*
Secretary			
Minute Secretary			John Hopkins*
Planning	David Morrish	Geoffrey Atkinson	James Williamson
Planning		John Baillie (Resigned)	
Access		Molly Atkinson*	
Park Quarry Liaison		Donald Keith*	William Downie*
K&M CC Forum			John Hopkins*
Marr CC Forum	David Morrish		
Website			John Hopkins*
General		Jenny Watson	
General	Anne Ross	Jennifer Milne (Resigned) ⁺	
General	Howard Scholey	Gill Bruce ⁺⁺	
General			
General			
Total no. councillors	3	3	1
7			

* non-members ⁺ Co-opted March 2011 ⁺⁺ Co-opted May 2011

Resignations: John Ballie (notification received in June)

Jennifer Milne (notification received in November, prior to the AGM)

Community Councillors

Following the 2010 AGM the community council had the constitutional minimum number of councillors and carried forward an intention to recruit. During 2011, the Community Council welcomed two new co-opted members but by the end of the year, two resignations returned us to a merely quorate strength once again.

Road Safety

2011 has been another year where Road Safety has been a regular and predominant agenda item. The Crathes Speed limit was introduced and the notorious Myrebird junction had its sight-lines greatly improved. Notable too was the public petition to reduce the Kirton of Durris speed limit to 40mph. Following a speed survey this requested was not supported by Roads Department at this time. At year-end the community council continue their campaign for the reduction into 2012.

In general, there is some dismay at the Council's apparent adherence to 'standards' and lack of discretion in the face of common sense requests based on local knowledge and the apparent 'different standards' applied in other areas where if there are houses, there is a 30mph limit.

Schools

The Community Council has maintained a watching brief on the funding situation for the Drumoak primary school which is due for replacement by 2016.

Raising our Profile & Community Planning

Although a priority for 2011 the Community Council has sadly made almost no progress on this front, despite a significant amount of discussion. Ideas to kick-off a community planning exercise failed to find a starting point despite the resources available to support such an initiative. The problem appeared to be 'finding a way' to address the Community Council area which is formed by one large village and a number of widespread small 'hamlets' within a quite remote and rural landscape, contained by hills and divided by a river. Altogether, the CDDCC community has some very diverse needs and the CC was unable to come up with a way into the idea of 'engaging the community' in content other than Road Safety and Local Planning.

Strategic Planning and Local Development Plan

The most significant aspects of planning in 2011 are twofold. Firstly, we still don't have the Local Plan adopted in what appears to be an endless process and secondly, we end 2011 with a large number of planning events or issues, at least two of which, would appear to be in stark contrast to the tenet expressed in the plan (yet to be adopted). These are:

- Kilcluny Village
- Brodie Countryfare
- Housing in Crathes
- Crathes Crematorium
- Holiday Chalets

The SSPCA centre, now in operation, is now potentially exhibiting problems predicted by the local community at the time of application where proposed mitigation was avoided through the appeal process.

It seems clear, that in 2012, the Community Council will require a strong profile if it is to orchestrate the kind of public engagement necessary to respond to the emerging rash of applications.

Finally, the words expressed in last year's chairman's report seem perfectly relevant today: "the applications that we have dealt with are a constant reminder that we need to pay close attention, especially to the larger ones. We need to remember that developers, and their agents, are full time professionals and, despite the attempt at improving local consultation, are commercial cynics who are usually good at the 'game'. In 2010, there are applicants in the CC area who 'salami-slice' their applications revealing the full intent only piece at a time, even later appealing against conditions imposed. In 2010, we have learned again that we need to think along the same lines as developers if we are to make good representations on behalf of the community."

Policing

This year the main subject involving discussions with the police were some youth issues in Drumoak causing a certain amount of anxiety. In this instance, the Community Council consulted with the relevant agencies with a view to clarifying what the community could do to ensure that any incidents were properly recorded and thereby brought to the attention of those who could address the problem. Some support was made available in the form of visits from youth workers, an effort likely to yield results in proportion to input also from local volunteers.

The police have continued to issue monthly newsletters. These raise current issues which is very helpful. Police members have continued to attend CC meetings when available which is very much appreciated.

It remains for me to thank each and every member of the 2011 Community Council and our local councillors who have supported us this year.

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

David Morrish
CDDCC Chairman 2011

3. Treasurer's Report

John Hopkins distributed copies of the draft 2011 accounts for CDDCC. It was noted that, chiefly as a result of the free use of Crathes Hall for meetings this year, there was an accumulated balance in CDDCC's accounts totalling £640.01. Practice in previous years had been to make small donations to worthy local causes, where this opportunity existed. John Hopkins stated that he felt that the Local Newsletter was worthy of support from CDDCC. Geoffrey Atkinson mentioned the Royal Deeside Railway as another possible candidate. David Morrish proposed that this issue be addressed at the January 2012 meeting, but alongside the costs of potential public meetings (discussed below).

There were no other questions on the accounts. The accounts were proposed by John Hopkins, seconded by David Morrish and formally adopted and signed.

To submit the accounts to Aberdeenshire Council, with a request for the 2011/12 Administration Grant (**Action: John Hopkins**)

4. Urgent Planning Issues

4.1 Kincluny Village (formerly Park Eco-village)

David Morrish noted that, whilst the democratic process whereby this proposal had been rejected from the Local Development Plan was understood, it was not clear what democratic process validated the continued re-presentation of the proposal. To organise a public meeting, in the New Year, of the Community Council, local Councillors, the Planning Unit and the general public to discuss this issue (**Action: David Morrish**)

Wendy Agnew strongly recommended that Piers Blaxter be invited to the meeting.

4.2 Brodie Countryfare

It would appear that the Brodie Countryfare proposal has been resubmitted, for the same site as before. To invite the proposer to speak to CDDCC about the proposal, how it differs from the previously-rejected proposal and the significance of it not being in the Local Development Plan (**Action: David Morrish**)

4.3 Housing at Crathes

There has been no further planning application as yet, so there is nothing to which to react, although it is apparent that proposals are being developed.

4.4 Crathes Crematorium

This has reached the stage of an enquiry about potential sites. The Leys Estate has reportedly indicated that the wooded site north-west of the Crathes crossroads might be feasible.

4.5 Holiday Chalets in Drumoak

There was a general feeling that this proposal was not financially viable and that it might be no more than a device to sidestep controls on new housing in the countryside. Despite this, it was agreed that CDDCC should neither support nor oppose the application.

5. Nominations for CDDCC Membership

As Returning Officer, John Hopkins declared that a total of 7 valid nomination forms had been received for membership of CDDCC from December 2011 onwards. As this number was less than the number of vacancies, he declared that the following were appointed to the (reconstituted) CDDCC:-

- David Morrish
- Geoffrey Atkinson
- Howard Scholey
- Ann Ross
- Jim Williamson
- Jenny Watson
- Gill Bruce

The next election would be in 2014. In the interim, vacancies should be dealt with by co-option.

David Morrish proposed that election of office-bearers be addressed at the January 2011 meeting.

6. Meeting Dates for 2012

Meetings for 2012 would be on the first Wednesday of each month (excepting July) at 7.30 p.m. at Crathes Hall. The hope was expressed that CDDCC would be able to arrange a Bike Ride in July (there had been none in 2011).

The AGM was then declared closed.

Wine and cheese were then served.

JFH

9 December 2011

DISTRIBUTION				
EMAIL	EMAIL	EMAIL	EMAIL	WEBSITE
CDDCC Councillors (excl. Jenny Watson)	Danny Law (Deeside Piper)	Insp. Andrew Todd	Diane Collinson (KMAP)	http://www.durris.net/ (also for previous minutes)
Cllrs. Linda Clark, Karen Clark, Jill Webster (Ward 16)	Gary Cruden (STV)	Insp. Steve Golightly	Alison Ritchie, Community Learning	-
Cllrs. Peter Bellarby, Graeme Clark, Mike Sullivan, Wendy Agnew (Ward 18)	Graeme Scott (Press and Journal)	PC Wayne Smart	BY POST Jenny Watson Banchory Public Library Drumoak Church Hall Notice Board	BY HAND Park Shop Drumoak Post Office Irvine Arms
Mr W Munro, Area Manager, Kincardine & Mearns	Kirkton of Durris Hall Notice Board (via Sheila Watt)	Crathes Hall Notice Board (via Nicola Chambury)		
Mr L Allen, Area Manager, Marr	Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator – Alister Bisset	Local Newsletter Editor (Marion Nixon)		