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

1. Sederunt

Community Councillors: Howard Scholey (Chairman), Ann Ross, David Morrish, Maxine Smith, Geoffrey Atkinson, Les Bray, Angela Bichan

Aberdeenshire Councillors: Linda Clark, Raymond Christie, Wendy Agnew, Graeme Clark, Peter Bellarby

Member of Public: Phyllis Christie

Minutes Secretary: John Hopkins

Apologies: Cliff Grover, Daniel Wake, Mark Ansell, Linda Murray

2. Approval of Previous Minutes

The following corrections were made to the minutes of the March meeting:-

- ***In sections 6.322 and 10.2***, “Marion Smith” should have read “Maxine Smith”.
- ***In section 6.322***, date should be August 2015, not August 2105.
- ***Under section 9.2, new paragraph as follows:*** “Maxine Smith sought clarity from the CDDCC whether it would be acceptable for a CC to be involved in the setting up and participation of a local residents group. David Morrish confirmed it was and would be actively encouraged by any CC who wished to do so as this would strengthen the impact of the CDDCC and the local area. Maxine noted she would report back on this at the next meeting as a residents group was currently under discussion with some local Drumoak residents, including some of the CC’s for Drumoak”.
- ***Replace section 10.2 (entire) with:*** “Maxine Smith reported on the KDP meeting that she attended on behalf of CDDCC. This body is currently being constituted and will replace the Kincardine & Mearns Rural Partnership, which is in the process of winding down. Whilst the KMAP was a functioning body, for various reasons it was no longer being as effective as it could so the decision to review the local needs and to reform a more appropriate body with representation from Community Councils within the region was considered more appropriate. All assets of KMAP will be transferred to the newly formed KDP, at this stage the assets remain to be quantified but sums in the region of £37k as an annual grant from Aberdeenshire Council will need to be applied for and the KMAP asset transfer will need to be made once the KDP formation was completed. Maxine noted a figure of £206k was mentioned in discussion but remained to be confirmed in the coming few months as currently this is unclear”.

Subject to these amendments, the March minutes were proposed by David Morrish and seconded by Les Bray and accepted as an accurate record.

3. Police Matters

No representatives of Police Scotland were present. Howard Scholey noted that he had contacted Insp. Stuart Ednie by email to ask if reports - and the attendance at a CDDCC meeting - might be resumed.

A police report had been received after the March meeting. Howard Scholey summarized it orally. 23 local incidents had been attended by police during the period in question, mostly road traffic issues, but also vandalism and thefts. No details were given of any arrests or prosecutions. There were warnings about car theft and bogus callers, as well as notices about the ongoing national Operations Ruby (car theft) and RAC (housebreaking). The latter noted that “the public are undoubtedly heartened by our relentless pursuit of those involved in acquisitive crime”.

David Morrish noted that Neil McHattie had telephoned him apologizing for the lack of a police attendance at CDDCC meetings, of late. This was often due to short-notice operational reasons.

Ann Ross said that there had recently been an incident where people had tried to break into garages on the outskirts of Aberdeen. They had used the Deeside Way to gain quick access to and from the area concerned.

4. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

Maxine Smith reported she had been in contact with Marion McNeil to arrange a meeting about the Newsletter, which will take place within the next week or so. Unfortunately, Cliff Grover advised he was not able to attend the meeting. To report back to CDDCC (**Action: Maxine Smith**)

Subject to a satisfactory outcome of the meeting, to write a cheque to Drumoak and Durriss Church equal to half (i.e. £273.50) of its recent Admin Grant as support for the Newsletter (**Action: John Hopkins**)

To apply forthwith, via Les Allen/Willie Munro, for top-up funds towards the Newsletter (**Action: Howard Scholey**)

Raymond Christie and Linda Clark were asked whether they had been able to confirm principal speakers for the Better Together and Yes Campaigns respectively, to participate in the proposed Referendum Debate to be facilitated by CDDCC. Linda Clark confirmed she has a speaker, Richard Baker. Raymond informed Richard Tompson is no longer confirmed and Sophie at the HQ informed Maxine Smith to request directly from their department that deals with speaker allocation. Maxine Smith confirmed she has made the request and will chase up the response.

The resignation was noted, with regret, of Ann Ross as Newsletter contribution writer. Howard Scholey would undertake this task for the foreseeable future.

Graeme Clark noted that Environmental Health had checked noise levels at SSPCA, although no dogs were barking that day. An Environmental Health officer would make a further visit when passing. Geoffrey Atkinson surmised that noise was being reflected outwards off the hard roof of the buildings, thus negating the effect of the noise control measures reluctantly installed by SSPCA. It was generally agreed that the intransigence of SSPCA had meant that the problem had continued for far too long. David Morrish offered to make a separate complaint to SSPCA. Graeme Clark advised that this be left to Environmental Health.

Proposed development of three houses west of Alma Cottage; It was noted that planning permission for a further three houses at Sunnybrae had been submitted, which would mean that the access road was likely to serve a total of nine dwellings if all these applications were granted. To circulate a draft letter drawing the attention of the Planners to the fact that the rules of Roads Department would require larger visibility splays than were provided for in the new proposed development adjacent to Alma Cottage (**Action: Howard Scholey**). It was noted that the K&M Area Committee would be making a site visit there on 22 April.

It was noted that Wendy Agnew had met with Les Bray on 8 February, to inspect the locations of a list of minor infrastructure problems in Drumoak. She had subsequently reported on actions requested of various Council departments, but – she not having his email address – the email had been sent indirectly and had gone astray.

Les Bray had since received a letter from a resident, drawing further attention to issues that he himself had raised. The upshot was that no apparent action had been taken on any of the reported points. Wendy Agnew noted that - at the end of the financial year – money was particularly tight for some Council departments. Les Bray pointed out that there was an outstanding problem with an unguarded drain in Keithmuir Park in Drumoak which had caused flooding to adjacent housing and also posed a drowning risk to children playing in the park. This dated back some two years. To meet - outside of the present meeting - and draft a formal written complaint to the Council about its slow response to these reported problems (**Action: Howard Scholey and Les Bray**)

It was reported by Graeme Clark that the planning application for the car park for Durris Primary had been submitted by Melissa Coutts on 13 March. It was understood, though, that it had not yet appeared on the Council's Planning website. To confirm situation with Melissa Coutts (**Action: Howard Scholey**)

John Hopkins reported that he had circulated details of the insurance cover carried on behalf of CDDCC. In common with the insurances of all Community Councils in the Aberdeenshire and Highland Council Areas, this would in future be placed by Highland Council (resulting in a significant saving in cost).

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

To draft the remit (terms of reference, powers, duration and composition) of the Communications and Publicity sub-committee for consideration by CDDCC (**Action: Cliff Grover**)

Peter Bellarby asked why the matter of a Planning sub-committee had been left unresolved (section 9.4 of March minutes). Ann Ross commented that she believed that all planning should be considered by the full CDDCC. It was argued that in the past meetings appeared to have been dominated by planning issues, and that this could act as a deterrent to engagement in subjects of wider community interest. The counter-argument was advanced, that this only occurred where the significance of planning issues was high. It was **agreed** that every planning issue should continue to go, in the first instance, to the full committee of CDDCC, but where - as with the case of the Crathes Housing - it was better made the subject of a sub-committee, then such a sub-committee should explicitly be formed, for the requisite duration in order to avoid planning issues dominating the agenda.

Howard Scholey said that he had spoken to Lizzie Shepherd of Marr Area, about identification (ID) badges for CDDCC members. She was looking into suitable suppliers/costs. To source passport-type electronic images of themselves for this purpose (**Action: CDDCC members**)

David Morrish had spoken to Jenny Watson, who confirmed that she had resigned from CDDCC. He said that we now had to resolve only the question of how best to mark the many years of Jenny's service to CDDCC. It was agreed that to plant a tree with a commemorative plaque would be appropriate. To approach Jenny Watson with this proposal, asking where she would prefer such a tree to be planted (**Action: David Morrish**)

To hand-draw the CC area boundaries on OS laminated maps of the CC area and distribute the resulting maps (**Action: Howard Scholey**)

5. Planning

5.1 Crathes Housing

David Morrish noted that Stewart Milne had now lodged an Appeal in respect of the decision by the Marr Area Committee. He had circulated for approval and then submitted, a representation of evidence from CDDCC to the Directorate for Planning and Environmental Appeals

5.2 Crathes Crematorium

CDDCC supported David Morrish's proposal to continue to draw attention to actual local opinion in respect of this planning permission. Angela Bichan suggested that this might further be underlined if a petition were signed by a majority of Crathes residents. David Morrish undertook to consider this as a possible later step.

5.3 Possible Master Plan for Crathes

To investigate with the Aberdeenshire Planners (who had suggested the development) whether funding could be available for Planning Aid for Scotland, to assist with the development of a set of Terms of Reference, as a means of helping to decide whether or not to develop a Master Plan for Crathes (**Action: David Morrish**)

5.4 Current Local Planning Applications

There were no new planning applications which were regarded as contentious.

5.5 Strategic Plan

Peter Bellarby noted that the Strategic Plan had now been accepted by the Scottish Government.

6. Correspondence

Howard Scholey noted that in the CDDCC Hotmail account there was correspondence relating to the following points of general interest-

- The Queen's Commonwealth Baton would be passing close to the area on 29 June
- Changes to local off-street parking meant that the first 30 minutes would be free of charge

- A powerpoint presentation was available concerning a consultation on the proposed Banchory Community and Sports Centre – providing access to this via the CDDCC facebook page would be useful for the wider community. (**Action: Maxine Smith**)

7. European Funding

Les Bray had attended a presentation on the new “community-led” EU funding scheme covering 2014-2020, under which 1:1 match-funding grants may be available for projects that meet up to six “indicative priorities”. This is at the stage where ideas are sought on what should be included in the strategies. Project-by-project applications for funding will presumably come later.

8. Priorities for 2014

8.1 Kirkton of Durris Speed Limit

Deferred pending the availability of Cliff Grover.

8.2 LDP Main Issues Report

Linda Clark said that there would be councillor meetings to consider this in the next 2 months.

8.3 Subcommittee Reports

8.31 Windfarm

Both Mark Ansell and Linda Murray were attending a windfarm meeting, which clashed with the present meeting.

8.32 Communications and Publicity

Cliff Grover was still prevented, by pressure of work, from attending the meeting

8.33 Community Engagement

Maxine Smith and other Drumoak CCs had met and were proposing to form a “Deeside Residents’ Group”, a meeting of invited local stakeholders is scheduled for the 10 April. She envisaged that this would be a charity, limited by guarantee. Subject to the outcome of that meeting, she would consider and draft the TOR for the Community Engagement sub-committee as one would have a consequence to the other (**Action: Maxine Smith**)

9. Referendum Debate

It was noted that the Better Together campaign now had a central unit for providing speakers. Maxine Smith had spoken to them and given a deadline of 4 April to provide a speaker. (**Action: Raymond Christie and Maxine Smith**)

Once two speakers were confirmed, Maxine Smith would commence the publicity. She again appealed for help from all of CDDCC, noting that the debate would not go ahead unless sufficient volunteers were forthcoming. She would re-circulate the list of required actions (**Action: Maxine Smith**)

Ann Ross expressed grave concern over the CC hosting such a debate, since she felt that there was a danger that it may expose divisions in the community on a subject where people

had deeply held contrary views. After some discussion, it was agreed that whilst this concern was recognized, the majority view of those Councillors present was that it was appropriate for the Community Council to provide a neutral facilitation of a public presentation of two sides of the debate, as this is an issue which is of cardinal importance to the whole community.

10. AOB

Maxine Smith noted that the CDDCC Facebook Page had gone live and has already had a notable increase in the number of “likes”.

11. Next Meeting

Crathes Hall – 7th May 2014 from 19:30

DISTRIBUTION				
EMAIL	EMAIL	EMAIL	EMAIL	WEBSITE
CDDCC Councillors	Kirkton of Durris Hall Notice Board (via Gillian Edward)	Insp. Innes Coull	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)	Insp. Stuart Ednie	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				
Mr L Allen, Area Manager, Marr	Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator - AlisterBisset	Local Newsletter Editor – Marion McNeil		

Appendix

CDDCC Subcommittee Remit/Terms of Reference

NAME OF SUB COMMITTEE - Windfarms Community Funding

PURPOSE

To represent CDDCC at wind farm funding meetings as required (Meikle Carewe and Midhill).

Delegated authority to liaise with the wind farm membership Community Councils and wind farm operator, where necessary.

To advise and make recommendations to the Committee (CCDCC) on meetings, discussion and outcomes; between the Wind Farm Community Fund Grant Schemes- this primarily being funding application details and evaluation.

COMPOSITION

Chair- Mark Ansell

Members- Linda Murray; any other committee member(s) agreed by the Committee.
Co-opted members of the public or specialists

OPERATION

To attend meetings of the Wind Farm Community Fund Grant Schemes.

To meet before each full Committee where appropriate (e.g. previous outstanding Committee action for report or update)

Duration for as long as deemed necessary, or as agreed by the Council (a standing committee)

REPORTING

Verbal or email report on activities to each full committee meeting, with recommendations of actions to be taken by the Council.