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Crathes, Drumoak & Durris Community Council (CDDCC)

Minutes of Meeting

5 February 2014 at Crathes Hall from 19.30 hours

1. Sederunt

Community Councillors: Howard Scholey (Chairman), David Morrish, Geoffrey Atkinson, Linda Murray, Maxine Smith, Les Bray

Aberdeenshire Councillors: Linda Clark, Raymond Christie, Wendy Agnew

Members of Public: Marion McNeil

Minutes Secretary: John Hopkins

Apologies: Cliff Grover, Mark Ansell, Daniel Wake, Angela Bichan, Ann Ross, Graeme Clark

2. Approval of Previous Minutes

The minutes of the January meeting were proposed by David Morrish and seconded by Geoffrey Atkinson and accepted as an accurate record.

3. Police Matters

Howard Scholey noted that he had not received any report from Police Scotland, nor were any representatives thereof present. To ask Insp. Stuart Ednie by email if reports – and the occasional attendance at a CDDCC meeting – might be resumed (**Action: Howard Scholey**)

Maxine Smith drew attention to a recent local radio report, which stated that crime levels in Aberdeenshire had increased. Mention was also made of the apparent disturbance of attempting burglars at East Mains Farm and of the somewhat-dubious door-to-door offer of tools for sale from a van.

4. Local Newsletter

Howard Scholey reported that, as requested, he had written to Marion McNeil, with a view to setting up a meeting between the Kirk Session and CDDCC. Marion McNeil said that it had been hoped that this meeting would follow the Kirk Session meeting of 26 January.

Unfortunately, this latter meeting had been postponed due to bad weather. It would now take place on 20 February, at which meeting the Kirk Session would decide upon the future of the Newsletter.

John Hopkins made the point that, if the Kirk Session decided to discontinue the Newsletter, there seemed little point in having a subsequent meeting with CDDCC. It would make more sense if the Kirk Session were aware of all the potential support for the Newsletter at the time of making their decision. This would suggest holding the Session/CDDCC meeting before 20 February. What was important was that all possible sources of support be brought to bear.

The possible use of Wind Farm money was mentioned, although it was pointed out that neither Community Councils nor bodies with religious/political objectives could apply for such funds. Although the latter objection could be circumvented by forming a new organisation to produce and distribute the Newsletter, it remained true that such money would have to be applied for, every successive year - which hardly made for a secure funding future.

John Hopkins suggested that the Council might be prepared to support the Newsletter, either directly or by using it for the publication of official notices. Wendy Agnew suggested that the Newsletter might apply for money from the Area Committee top-up funds. This would only be possible every other year, but with CDDCC in the unusual position of reporting to two Area Committees, applications could be made to each, alternately.

Howard Scholey proposed that – on the assumption that the Newsletter continued production – CDDCC give half of its recent Admin Grant as support. This was unanimously agreed (and comes to £273.50). To apply, via Les Allen/Willie Munro, for top-up funds (**Action: Howard Scholey**). To contact Howard Scholey after 20 February meeting (**Action: Marion McNeil**).

To draft CDDCC contribution to March Newsletter (copy deadline 10 February), including reference to Jim Willimson's service to CDDCC (**Action: Howard Scholey**)

5. Planning

5.1 Crathes Housing

David Morrish said that Stewart Milne had still not lodged an Appeal in respect of the decision by the Marr Area Committee. He would keep an eye on the government website to see when it was lodged, at which point he would circulate a draft. To circulate a suitable draft (**Action: David Morrish**)

5.2 Crathes Master Plan

David Morrish said that CDDCC needed to develop a set of Terms of Reference for a Master Plan for Crathes, as a means of helping to decide whether or not to develop one. There were reasons against, as well as for, developing such a Plan. To approach the charity, Planning Aid for Scotland, for advice on such a development (**Action: David Morrish**)

John Hopkins suggested that, to avoid the incoherence of planning new houses at a local level and, separately, at a strategic level in the Local Development Plan, the Master Plan should concentrate on those things that did not appear in the LDP, e.g. crematoria, medical centres, shops, etc.

Maxine Smith pointed out that there needed to be an interface between the Community Engagement Plan and any Master Plan.

5.3 Crathes Crematorium

Howard Scholey stated that he had replied to James Burnett's recent letter.

5.4 Other Planning Applications

5.41 Crathes

5.411 Railway Platform

In response to a question, John Hopkins said that he understood that the application would involve the use of eight inverted rectangular offshore containers, with non-slip surface and picket fence behind. The objective would be so that journeys could be made on the railway from one station to another. (Note: as at time of writing, full plans are on the Aberdeenshire Planning website under **APP/2013/3922**)

5.42 Drumoak and Durris

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

6. Correspondence

To circulate any significant recent correspondence from the CDDCC Hotmail site (**Action: Maxine Smith**)

7. 2014 Priorities

7.1 Miscellaneous Items

Les Bray noted that he had a list of minor infrastructure problems, affecting Drumoak in particular. Because these had been held over at a previous meeting, it was agreed to discuss them under this item. To meet Les Bray in Drumoak on Saturday 8 February to inspect the locations of these problems, with a view to getting them actioned by the relevant Council department or other body (**Action: Wendy Agnew**)

7.2 Speed Limit – Kirkton of Durris

CDDCC members reiterated that they still felt it worthwhile to continue pursuing the fight.

7.3 LDP Main Issue Report

Howard Scholey proposed a vote of thanks for all of the effort that David Morrish had put into CDDCC consultations on the Main Issues Report. This was carried by acclamation.

David Morrish noted that although he had consulted a number of CDDCC members by phone to get assent for his draft letter to Aberdeenshire Council planners by 1 February, the tight deadline had meant that he did not get a full quorum of responses. He therefore asked for confirmation from the meeting that the reply was supported. Support was expressed unanimously.

7.4 Durris School Carpark

Linda Murray confirmed that the Planning Application had been made, under the name of CDDCC.

7.5 Subcommittees

Howard Scholey noted that the draft remit (terms of reference, powers, duration and composition) had been received from Mark Ansell for the Windfarms Subcommittee. He proposed adoption of this remit; it was seconded by Maxine Smith and unanimously adopted. In accordance with the Subcommittee Rules, to include the remit as an appendix to the minutes (**Action: John Hopkins**)

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

To request Cliff Grover to draft the remit (terms of reference, powers, duration and composition) for the Communications and Publicity sub-committee (**Action: Howard Scholey**)

8. Succession Planning

Howard Scholey noted that 2014 was an election year for CDDCC. He went on to say that he intended to step down as Chairman, probably around mid-year. He asked CDDCC to start thinking about a suitable replacement as Chairman.

9. AOB

9.1 Rules for Subcommittees

Howard Scholey noted that a second draft had been circulated of the rules for CDDCC Subcommittees (copy appended to these minutes). He proposed that this version be adopted. This was agreed.

9.2 CDDCC Facebook Page

Howard Scholey said that he would relinquish the task of FB admin (leaving Ann Ross, Maxine Smith and Cliff Grover with admin responsibilities).

To provide a few lines to Howard Scholey, plugging the CDDCC FB page, for use in the contribution to the March Newsletter (**Action: Maxine Smith**)

9.3 Referendum Debate

Linda Clark reminded CDDCC that the Referendum “Yes” campaign had asked to stage a local debate under the auspices of CDDCC. John Hopkins observed that – because of the Community Council rule on political activity - any debate would have to include both Referendum factions or neither. This point was agreed. David Morrish said that such a debate would be exactly the sort of activity that CDDCC should be promoting. This, too, was agreed.

The preferred date was w/b 26 May. Howard Scholey said that considerations of Crathes Hall availability suggested Wednesday 28 May as the best choice.

To ask the Better Together campaign to provide a speaker – with a target of 19 February to have a firm undertaking to provide one (**Action: Raymond Christie**)

To contact Mearns FM, to see if they would be interested in recording/broadcasting part of the proceedings (**Action: Raymond Christie**)

To make the necessary logistical arrangements for the debate (**Action: Les Bray/Maxine Smith**)

To include notice of the Referendum debate in his contribution to the March Newsletter (**Action: Howard Scholey**)

9.4 Jim Williamson RIP

The sad and untimely death of Jim Williamson was noted. To mark his past service with CDDCC, it was agreed to include a suitable notice with the CDDCC contribution to the March Newsletter (**Action: Howard Scholey**) and to send flowers to his wife, Ann (**Action: Linda Murray**)

9.5 Increased Dog Noise Nuisance at SSPCA

A worsening in the noise nuisance from the SPPCA compound had been noted. To ask Graeme Clark to request Environmental Health to visit, in order to measure the noise and to verify that the agreed anti-noise measures had been installed (**Action: Geoffrey Atkinson**)

10. Jenny Watson

To check with Jenny Watson that her service with CDDCC was now complete (**Action: David Morrish**). Assuming this to be so, to make an appropriate expression of gratitude for all the work she had done over her many years as a Community Councillor (**Action: CDDCC**)

11. Next Meeting

Crathes Hall – 5th March 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 Irvine Arms
Mr W Munro, Area Manager, Kincardine & Mearns				
Mr L Allen, Area Manager, Marr	Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator – AlisterBisset	Local Newsletter Editor		

APPENDIX TO MINUTES

Crathes, Drumoak and Durris Community Council (CDDCC) Subcommittees

- 1) In accordance with its constitution, the Crathes, Drumoak and Durris Community Council (CDDCC) may from time to time establish subcommittees to further its objectives.
- 2) Subcommittees may be established by resolution of an ordinary meeting of CDDCC, subject to confirmation by a majority of all members. If such a majority is not available at the meeting, non-attending members may subsequently be polled by email and the subcommittee established if there is a majority of all members in favour.
- 3) Exceptionally – in urgent circumstances - a subcommittee may be established by the CDDCC Chairman (or in his/her absence, the CDDCC Vice-Chairman), subject to ratification as above at the meeting next following of CDDCC.
- 4) A subcommittee shall comprise at least two and no more than four members of CDDCC, one of whom shall be appointed Chairman of the subcommittee.
- 5) Subject to the approval of the CDDCC Committee, a subcommittee may co-opt members of the public who may have special interest or expertise that the Chairman of the subcommittee considers will benefit CDDCC. The number of co-opted members shall not exceed the number of CDDCC members on the subcommittee.
- 6) CDDCC shall determine the remit (terms of reference, powers, duration, composition, etc.) of all subcommittees. Unless varied by their remit, subcommittees shall have the powers only to:-
 - consult third parties
 - gather information
 - make recommendations to CDDCC
 - execute tasks specifically authorised by CDDCC
- 7) Members of a subcommittee are not allowed to make commitments on behalf of CDDCC, except as explicitly authorised by the CDDCC Committee.
- 8) The remit of each subcommittee (and any subsequent changes to it) shall be recorded in writing in the minutes of CDDCC.
- 9) Subcommittees need not prepare minutes of their own meetings, but must make a report (ideally in writing) on their activities to each ordinary meeting of CDDCC, which will be considered under the standing Agenda Item “Subcommittee Reports”.