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

1. Sederunt

Community Councillors: Ann Ross, David Morrish (Acting Chairman), Mark Ansell, Les Bray, Angela Bichan

Aberdeenshire Councillors: Linda Clark, Raymond Christie, Peter Bellarby

Scottish Police: PC Colin McKeen

Members of Public: Tony Mortishire, Sue Mortishire, Les Oliver

Minutes Secretary: John Hopkins

Apologies: Howard Scholey, Cliff Grover, Wendy Agnew, Daniel Wake, Linda Murray, Maxine Smith, Graeme Clark, Geoffrey Atkinson

2. Approval of Previous Minutes

The April minutes were proposed by Mark Ansell and seconded by Les Bray and accepted as an accurate record.

3. Police Matters

Colin McKeen noted that, since the most recent report, there had been 520 policing incidents in Kincardineshire. For comparison, there had been 39 in the CDDCC area. Police Scotland had continued high visibility patrols and speed checks on the South and North Deeside Road, as well as ongoing Operations against car theft and housebreaking. A vehicle safety initiative in Banchory had led to the issue of 5 fixed penalty tickets.

David Morrish invited committee members to mention other information relevant to the Police:

- Les Bray commented that he had noted police foot patrols making a high visibility appearance on the beat, but ignoring instances of parking on pavements. He also mentioned the vehicle crash which had taken place in Park earlier in the day.
- Mark Ansell noted that, in the past few weeks, bikers and off-road vehicles had been in considerable evidence in Durris Forest. He was aware that several people had phoned 101 to report this.
- Ann Ross drew attention to the fact that a temporary speed camera had been erected in Crathes some weeks ago, between the crossroads and Durris Bridge. She asked if a verage speed evidence could be provided. She also noted that, whilst she had been commuting, she had observed high speed driving in Kirkton of Durris.

To provide feedback in respect of the above (**Action: Colin McKeen**)

4. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

It was agreed that, where items appeared on the current meeting's Agenda, any Matters Arising from the previous minutes would be discussed under those headings.

It was noted that Maxine Smith had had a number of meetings with Marion McNeil about the Newsletter, reporting back upon them to CDDCC by email. As one outcome of this, John Hopkins had passed CDDCC's cheque for £273.50, in support of the Newsletter, to Marion McNeil – who had asked him to relay her thanks to CDDCC.

It was noted that a formal complaint had been submitted to the Council about the lack of action in response to the numerous infrastructure problems discussed by Les Bray and Wendy Agnew. To progress this matter further with Graeme Clark (**Action: Linda Clark**)

It was still not known for certain whether the planning application for the car park for Durris Primary had actually been submitted. *(Note: This was subsequently checked on the “new look” Planning website by Mark Ansell, who reported that – as of 6th May – it had still apparently not been).*

The drafting of remits (terms of reference, powers, duration and composition) of various subcommittees was discussed. It was noted that:-

- the remit for the Windfarms subcommittee had been formally adopted and recorded as an Appendix to the April minutes
- Maxine Smith proposed to defer drafting the remit for Community Engagement subcommittee for consideration by CDDCC until the Deeside Residents Group was further advanced (**Action: Maxine Smith**)
- upon further consideration, Cliff Grover felt that communication with the outside world was something that affected the whole of CDDCC and was not as self-contained a matter as (say) wind farms. He felt that the easiest way to progress a number of such issues was simply to have the main committee agree a to-do list and a priority order for it and have them worked through as and when possible, and by whoever agreed to pick up a topic, rather than to form a sub-committee

David Morrish reported that Howard Scholey was attempting to source cash which could be put towards ID badges. It was agreed that Community Councillors were not required to have/wear such badges, but that they could be very useful to those meeting members of the public for the first time. For budgetary purposes, the production of 12 badges would be assumed. To research methods of production (**Action: Howard Scholey**). To source passport-type electronic images of themselves for this purpose (**Action: CDDCC members**)

To approach Jenny Watson with the proposal to plant a tree with a plaque recording CDDCC’s appreciation of all her efforts, 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**)

Once the Appeal in respect of the Crathes Houses had reported, to investigate with the Aberdeenshire Planning Policy Team 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**)

It was noted that access to the powerpoint presentation relating to the proposed Banchory Community and Sports Centre had been provided via the CDDCC facebook page.

5. Planning

5.1 Planning Application in respect of the Gennel

David Morrish introduced to the meeting Tony and Sue Mortishire, who had moved to Deeside some months before and who had asked permission to speak to CDDCC in relation to their planning application to reinstate/extend the Gennel. This application had already been discussed with the planners, with most issues being agreed, although with one sticking

point. In order to give a greater amount of useable space at first floor level (but without raising the roofline), the Mortishire proposal was to increase the eaves height of the extension. Tony Mortishire made the points that the situation of the house was such that the higher eaves could not be seen from the road and that a short trip down Deeside would reveal a dozen instances of extensions with different eaves heights. He therefore asked whether CDDCC, in the light of these points, would consider making a representation on the matter.

Angela Bichan said that her experience persuaded her that the planners were likely to be very difficult on this matter. Linda Clark agreed with this and asked whether, as a counterbalance, the proposal included any sustainable energy sourcing. Tony Mortishire said that he wished to limit the upfront expenditure of the extension works.

David Morrish expressed a personal opinion that it was most desirable that this dwelling be brought back into use, after having lain derelict for some time. In the particular circumstances, he felt that this more than offset the need to conform to the same eaves height. For this reason, he was all in support of the proposal. Other Community Councillors unanimously agreed. David Morrish asked that this be minuted. To send a copy of the draft to Tony Mortishire, so that he might exhibit them to the planners and – if relevant – to the Planning Committee (**Action: John Hopkins**). It was noted by Raymond Christie and Linda Clark that the next Area Committee Meeting was on 20 May, but that the lack of lodged objections might mean that the proposal would be dealt with by the Planning function, under Delegated Powers, not therefore coming before the Area Committee.

5.2 Crathes Housing

David Morrish reported that the Appeal was underway, but that the Directorate for Planning and Environmental Appeals did not wish to reveal the date of the site visit, the likely reporting date remains 2nd June.

5.3 Crathes Crematorium

David Morrish noted that he continued to exchange emails with Jamie Burnett with a view to clarifying the disparity between his view of relevant local opinion and that of CDDCC.

5.4 Current Local Planning Applications

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

5.5 Proposed development of three houses west of Alma Cottage

As noted by Howard Scholey, this application – to which CDDCC had objected on a number of grounds - had been refused.

Peter Bellarby said that it had been he that proposed to the Planning Committee that the proposal be refused. This had been on grounds which included road safety, flooding and the development not being organic growth. He had been supported by Wendy Agnew. The vote had been unanimous in rejecting the proposal.

6. Correspondence

It was noted that there would be a:-

- K&M Area Forum meeting in Mackie Academy on 15 May at 1900 hours
- Marr Area Forum meeting in Crathes Hall on 21 May at 1845 hours, with an Agenda including Community Planning, Public Entertainment Licensing and Cairngorms Nature Strategy (it transpiring that neither David Morrish nor Ann Ross would be free to attend)

David Morrish offered the view that CDDCC should be represented at both Area Forum meetings if at all possible.

To re-circulate the details of these meetings to CDDCC (**Action: David Morrish**)

7. Priorities for 2014

7.1 Kirkton of Durris Speed Limit

David Morrish noted that Cliff Grover, who had done a great deal of work on this subject as CDDCC's appointee, had now concluded that the only remaining ways forward were to:-

- gather our own data on accidents and challenge that part of the council's case that the current limit is appropriate *and/or*
- engage some sort of higher or review body who can take a look at the situation and if in agreement with our position and that of the villagers could overrule the Aberdeenshire Roads Department position

David Morrish proposed that the issue be considered once more at a better-attended CDDCC meeting.

7.2 LDP Main Issues Report

The LDP Extraordinary K&M Area Committee meeting had taken place the previous day: the Marr equivalent was due on 3rd/4th June. These meetings are to agree what goes forward into the next stage of the LDP process following the Main Issues Reporting.

7.3 Subcommittee Reports

7.31 Community Engagement

Angela Bichan summarized the initial meeting of the Deeside Residents Group and noted that the next steps were public meetings on:-

- 3rd June at the Drumoak Bowling Club
- 5th June at Kirkton Hall

She asked Mark Ansell to review whether there were any specific Durris people who should individually be invited to the latter.

Raymond Christie noted that the proposal for Christmas lights in Drumoak would be looked upon favourably by the top-up fund. Karen McWilliam (at Viewmount) could assist with this and other related issues.

7.32 Wind Farms

Mark Ansell said that details of how to apply for grants in respect of the Meikle Carewe and Midhill Windfarms would be published in the forthcoming Newsletter. To let Mark Ansell know of any groups that might be interested in applying (**Action: CDDCC members**)

8. Referendum Debate

It was noted that Debate was now fixed for 26th June (this is a change of date). To circulate poster, etc. for comment (Action: David Morrish). To comment by this Friday, 9th May (**Action: CDDCC members**), to meet the copy deadline for next Newsletter.

9. AOB

David Morrish said that he was pleased to note that Les Bray had agreed to remain on CDDCC.

Referring to Maxine Smith's email about "(1) Meetings/Minutes/Decisions, (2) Badges for CC members, (3) CDDCC Sustainability", David Morrish said that - if we really wished to progress the matters raised therein - we should convene a private meeting of CDDCC members (outwith the normal cycle) to debate them more fully. To propose a date and venue (**Action: David Morrish**)

Les Bray drew renewed attention to the lack of lighting of the path up the side of the Bowling Club. There was some debate as to whether this were likely to be the responsibility of the Bowling Club or of Aberdeenshire Council.

10. Next Meeting

Crathes Hall – 4th June 2014 from 19:30

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CDDCC Councillors	Kirkton of Durris Hall Notice Board (via Gillian Edward)	Insp. Stuart Ednie	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)		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 - Alister Bisset	Local Newsletter Editor – Marion McNeil		