



Responding to community needs

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
CRATHES, DRUMOAK & DURRIS COMMUNITY COUNCIL
Wednesday 4 November 2015 – 19:30hrs
Crathes Village Hall, Crathes**

FORMAL AGM BUSINESS – 19:30

1. Welcome and Introductions

Maxine Smith proceeded as Chair of the meeting and introduced the Committee as follows:

Maxine Smith – Vice Chair and Chair for the AGM – representation is Drumoak

Peter Renwick – Treasurer – representation is Crathes

Marion McNeil – representation is Drumoak

Rhona Garry – Minute Secretary and CC representation is Drumoak

Mark Ansell – representation is Durris

Patricia Scholey – representation is Crathes

Howard Scholey – representation is Crathes

Public representation at the meeting were invited to confirm their details in the attendance register, as a record of their attendance and also to ensure they can be kept informed of any updates from the meeting.

2. Apologies

Stuart Cruickshank – Scottish Fire & Rescue Service, Stephen Holtom, Andy Bond, Claire Hepworth, and Ronnie Mitchell

3. Minutes of previous AGM

There were no formal amendments or corrections to the 2014 AGM minutes. Howard Scholey proposed to accept the minutes and Peter Renwick seconded.

Previous minutes enclosed as **Annex A**

4. Community Council's Annual Report and Annual Financial Statement

4.1 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2015

Maxine Smith presented the Chair's Report, to the meeting. The report and presentation are available on the Community Council's website and as an annexure to this minute. **Annex B**

A Q&A session from the floor opened. Anne Ross (Crathes resident) raised an issue relating to a pending planning application regarding the Stewart Milne – Garden of Crathes development. Ms Ross stated building had

commenced prior to planning consent being granted and the window period for objections still pending. Following a lengthy discussion Maxine Smith noted whilst the Community Council publish all new applications received through the Aberdeenshire Council website, the primary purpose of doing this is to identify:

- any major developments that may be coming through
- any applications of concern, and
- for local residents to be aware of applications on the Council system, as often these are not reviewed by the public.

Ms Ross was thanked for her input.

ACTION: The Community Council will review the application in question and respond directly to Ms Ross and include in matters arising from the minute of the AGM so others are aware of the Community Council's position in the matter.

There were no other questions from the floor on the Chair's Report, which was pre-approved by the Community Council.

4.2 FINANCE REPORT 2015

Peter Renwick presented the Report, which is available on the Community Council's website and as an annexure to this minute. **Annex C.** The report documents the income and expenditures as of 31 October 2015. It was noted that the Community Council had been without a minute secretary for 5 months, during this time the Community Councillors operated a rotation plan of taking minutes. To advertise current vacancies within the Community Council and to generally promote Community Council matters the accounts reflect an increase of expenses for advertising and promotions via social media sites. For 2016 similar expenses are to be expected with the possible exception in advertising, where it is expected to increase.

Questions from the floor were invited, not received. Maxine Smith proposed to accept the Finance Report, Howard Scholey seconded.

The formal business of the AGM concluded and the Community Session commenced.

REPORTS – COMMUNITY INTEREST MATTERS – 20:00hrs

A. ROAD SAFETY SURVEY REPORT

Mark Ansell presented the findings from the Road Safety Survey that began in June 2015 and ended in September, the presentation and the Survey Report is available on the Community Council's website and as an annexure to this minute. **Annex D.**

Maxine Smith noted one of the challenges we will face is how best to engage and communicate with all residents, in particular to those who are not online. Additionally, and essential to emphasis at the meeting was for everyone to fully understand that the outcome of the survey and how matters are taken forward from here is totally dependent on involvement and participation from active residents/volunteers.

Maxine Smith confirmed the survey report had already been distributed to a range of stakeholders, which included:

- Aberdeenshire Council – Area Manager's Office
- Police Scotland
- Scottish Fire
- Ward Councillors

It was requested for Ward Councillors in attendance to provide some advice and guidance based on their experience on these matters, for the meeting to consider in the discussion.

The discussion that followed covered a range of issues and concerns, a few examples noted here, but all details as per the Road Safety Report and presentation:

- Bus route stops for children being located in dangerous crossing areas, which exposes children to incredibly high risks in their attempts to cross the busy road where vehicles travel well beyond the noted speed limits. This is the area by Mains of Drum and the Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animal (SSPCA).
- The North Deeside Road further along the road within the village of Drumoak by the new Bancon Homes with residential areas on both sides of the roads and children having to make their own way of crossing a very busy main road only aided by a 30 mph speed sign which is frequently abused by speeding motorists.
- The Slug Road by the Garden of Crathes Stewart Milne development where high frequency of excessive speeding, in particular motorbikes, exist.
- Through road in Durris where excessive speeding occurs in areas with no side walks for pedestrians to walk safely

Further discussion identified a range of options that could be considered, such as:

- Changing the bus stop drop for the children to the opposite side of the road, averting the need for the children to need to cross.
- Traffic calming measures.
- Speed traps / monitoring – Road Watch

Cllr Clark suggested that representatives from the Residents Bus Group, Aberdeenshire Council, Road Safety and Police could be invited to attend one of the Community Council's meetings to discuss this.

Maxine Smith concluded the discussion by noting the only way to take forward the issues identified from the residents in the survey was through a Road Safety Community Action Group (RSCAG) and not through monthly Community Council meetings. With just over 5 community councillors at any given time there was no capacity within the Community Council to take a leading role, but they could provide co-ordination and support to this as a community project. The Road Safety Survey received details of at least two thirds of the participants in the survey agreeing to take part in action to address the concerns, therefore this must be responded to and action taken as soon as possible.

The following was agreed:

ACTION:

A RSCAG be formed as soon as possible by an invitation for a residents meeting to take place to all participants of the Road Safety Survey, in particular to those who confirmed they wished to participate in action to address their concerns.

Relevant stakeholders to be invited to the meeting for consultation and guidance on the way forward.

Agreement and action on the less complex but highly serious concerns be taken into effect as the main priority.

The members of public present were urged to encourage neighbours and friends to join the RSCAG.

B. KINCLUNY VILLAGE (proposed development) REPORT

Maxine Smith confirmed the Community Council has already followed up on action from the public meeting conducted in August with the following:

- I. Publish the Community Council Report of their view of the proposed development, taking into account the feedback and input from local residents. The Report has been openly available on the Community Council website and is available on request by hard copy or email.
- II. The Community Council is now in correspondence with Aberdeenshire Council, specifically the Planning Enforcement Officer for explanation and response to one of the key issues raised in the public meeting “restoration of the Quarry site to its previous form, as per the documented planning conditions”. This matter remains in progress and updates will be provided in due course.

Questions from the floor were invited, Stephen Park, a representative of the CHAP Group responded with thanks to the Community Council for organising the public meeting. He updated the meeting by noting as yet there has not been an application submitted but that there will be one soon. He further requested if the Community Council could participate in a meeting with them to discuss further details of the proposal.

Maxine Smith responded by declining to engage in any further discussions on details of the proposed development, until current issues of concern are addressed by Aberdeenshire Council:

- Why the planning conditions had not been met by the CHAPS Group within the original timelines
- What action has been applied by the Planning Enforcement Office throughout the term of the planning conditions, for planning conditions to be met
- The current status of all remaining planning conditions
- Clarification on the statement made by the CHAPS Group Planning representative on planning conditions falling away if new planning applications are submitted
- A view on the level of confidence on the integrity of the CHAPS Groups intentions if they remain evasive in applying previously agreed conditions which resulted in planning permissions being granted

Maxine Smith thanked everyone for attendance and participation. No further business was noted, the meeting concluded at 8:45pm.