

**CRATHES, DRUMOAK & DURRIS COMMUNITY COUNCIL  
MINUTE OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 1<sup>st</sup> APRIL 2015**

**SEDERUNT**

**Community Councillors:** Messrs. D. Morrish (Interim Chair), M. Ansell, P. Renwick, H. Scholey, Mmes. A. Bichan, M. McNeil, M. Smith

**Aberdeenshire Councillors:** Messrs. G. Clark, R. Christie, P. Bellaby, Mrs L. Clark

**Members of the public:** Messrs. H. Podesta, J. Singer

**APOLOGIES:** Mr R. Mitchell

**APPROVAL OF MINUTE** of the meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2015 was proposed by Mrs Maxine Smith, and seconded by Mr David Morrish as being an accurate record.

**MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTE** will be addressed in the items listed on the agenda, previously circulated.

**APPOINTMENT OF A NEW CHAIRPERSON:** Mr David Morrish had previously intimated his resignation from the role of Chairperson at the end of April, having served in this capacity for a period of more than two years. As there was no candidate for the role, and in view of the inexperience of the majority of the council members, Cllr L. Clark suggested a decision could be reached whereby the chairperson could conduct the meetings on a month to month basis; and the role of chairperson would rotate on a monthly basis for the time being. After a lengthy discussion it was agreed Mr Mark Ansell would chair the meeting in May, Mrs Maxine Smith in June, Mr Howard Scholey in August (providing he is still resident in Crathes at that time), Mrs Angela Bichan in September, Mr Peter Renwick in October and Mrs Maxine Smith in November (unless Mr Ronnie Mitchell would be willing to chair this meeting). It was suggested this system could result in one of the community councillors being willing to take on the responsibility of the chairperson on a more long term basis.

Mr Howard Scholey was still receiving mail from Aberdeenshire Council, and highlighted the need to communicate the recent changes of office bearers.

It was noted there was also a need to appoint a Minute Secretary following the resignation of Mr John Hopkins, and it was agreed this role should also be rotated. Mr Howard Scholey offered to record the minute of the meeting in May.

**ACTION: H.SCHOLEY**

**2015 COMMUNITY COUNCIL PRIORITIES** recognised at the recent training day were discussed.

**i) BRINGING THE COMMUNITIES TOGETHER**

- a) Mrs Maxine Smith informed the meeting the sub-group of herself, Mr Ronnie Mitchell and Mr Howard Scholey had yet to meet. However, she assured the members a report would be available for the meeting in May. The group proposed to meet shortly after Easter.
- b) Mr John McCrank had been appointed as Rural Development Worker by KDP, and he had offered to come to a Community Council meeting to assess the needs of this area. It was agreed he be invited to attend the May meeting.

**ACTION: A.BICHAN**

At this point this item was interrupted to allow for the earlier item of Police Matters.

**POLICE MATTERS:** Sgt Sandra Crichton and PC Joe Smith introduced themselves, and referred to the Police Report previously circulated to the members. This report stated there had been approximately 300 incidents in the Kincardine and Mearns area, which local officers have attended; 14 of which related to the Crathes, Drumoak and Durris areas. However crime remains low in this area. The majority of calls relate to road traffic issues, and only one crime resulted in a Crime Report being raised. Whenever possible, mobile patrols continue throughout Kincardine and Mearns to reduce the likelihood of crimes and offences occurring. In view of recent calls regarding vandalism, residents are requested to report any such anti-social behaviour to the Police, who WILL take appropriate action. If safe to do so, take a description of the individuals involved. It has been noted at other Community Council meetings there is an increase in complaints relating to road safety, particularly in areas around schools. Road policing units are regularly in the areas surrounding Portlethen, and are taking appropriate action in regard to any offences.

There have been reports from rural areas of bogus callers, who are attending residential addresses applying for business from the residents. Residents are being asked to call the Police on the 101 number if they are not happy with persons calling at their home addresses or are suspicious of the person's motives or activities.

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Operation Ruby continues to respond to the number of thefts of motor vehicles, and a Force wide operation is ongoing to target these offenders. Local residents are again advised to ensure all doors to their property are securely locked, especially overnight to help prevent and deter any opportunistic type activity. It was stressed that the keys to the doors – and any vehicles – should be kept at a safe distance from the doors.

Operation Quarterlight is a national campaign launched by Police Scotland to tackle car crime. Each week across Scotland since November 2014, more than 70 vehicles have been stolen. In addition, more than 230 vehicles have either been broken into or had items stolen from them after having been left insecure. Police officers will focus on the prevention of vehicle crime by engaging with partners, key stakeholders and members of the public. By changing habits and working in partnership, vehicle crime can be prevented.

In response to a question, the police officers confirmed items from the Police Report could be reproduced in the local community newsletter, and it was agreed a copy of the Police Report should be forwarded to the Editor of the Drumoak and Durris Newsletter. The police officers also intimated the Crime Prevention Officer has copies of information for local publications, and these are available on request. **ACTION: A.BICHAN; M.McNEIL**

Sgt Crighton and PC Smith were warmly thanked for attending this evening's meeting, which they then left.

**2015 COMMUNITY COUNCIL PRIORITIES cont'd**

**(i) BRINGING THE COMMUNITIES TOGETHER cont'd**

**c) CHRISTMAS LIGHTS**

Mrs Angela Bichan reported the initial work for the permanent site of a Christmas tree in Drumoak had been completed. Aberdeenshire Council had contributed £1500-00, and Drumoak-Durris Church had donated an amount of £300-00 towards the cost. The remaining amount for this work will be raised from fundraising events.

**d) DRUMOAK SCHOOL PEDESTRIAN ACCESS**

Mrs Bichan updated the members on the provision of a safe pedestrian access to the new Drumoak Primary School. Ownership of the surrounding land had been ascertained, and although the ground alongside the church building is owned by Aberdeenshire Council, an adjoining area remains in private ownership. Aberdeenshire Council are negotiating with the landowner, and providing this land can be acquired, pedestrian access will be progressed. However, there can be no time scale for this, but the possibility of safe pedestrian access is still being considered. Mrs Bichan hopes to update the members at the next meeting, and along with the Aberdeenshire Councillors, the members of the Community Council sincerely hope that common sense will prevail in regard to this issue. **ACTION: A.BICHAN**

**e)** Mrs Bichan also spoke of concern regarding the crossing of the A93 by pupils who live to the south of Drumoak. This will be discussed later during Road Safety.

**(ii) COMMUNICATING**

**a) WEBSITE STATUS**

Mrs Maxine Smith confirmed the new website is up and running. There has been input from Crathes, and Mrs Smith is working alongside Mrs Nancy Jackson from Drumoak. Shortly letters of appreciation for the resources provided will be required. **ACTION: A.BICHAN**

The website is still in soft launch mode, and will be fully launched in June. Any feedback and comment would be welcomed. Some problems had been noted with the e-mail access and security, as well as difficulties experienced with access to any administration work required.

It was hoped three people could be identified to feed in information regarding organisations operating within each of the three areas covered by the Community Council. This would provide public access to what is available in this area, and give relevant contact details. This matter will be discussed at the forthcoming meeting of the sub-group. **ACTION: M.SMITH**

**b) CONNECTIVITY**

Mr Jim Singer gave a brief report of the background of his investigations into the provision of superfast speed Broadband to Drumoak. He then went on to speak of the ongoing communications he has had with Aberdeenshire Council, BT, Openreach and Digital Scotland. He learned of problems relating to the installation of a cabinet in the vicinity of the telephone exchange in Drumoak. This cabinet would be essential for the provision of superfast Broadband to the residents of Drumoak, but there had been an objection from a local resident and this had delayed the installation of the cabinet. However, Mr Singer had been unable to source any information regarding the planning

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application relating to this cabinet from the Aberdeenshire Council website. Furthermore, his telephone enquiries regarding this matter have been mainly unsuccessful. Cllr G. Clark offered to make enquiries on behalf of Mr Singer and the Community Council, and Cllr L. Clark expressed her concern that this matter had not so far been resolved.

Mr Singer indicated he will continue to pursue this matter, and will report back to the Community Council. He agreed his contact details could be forwarded to the Editor of the local newsletter, and it is hoped the wider community can be made aware of the work being carried out by Mr Singer on its behalf.

**ACTION: J.SINGER**

Cllr Christie reported this matter had been discussed at a recent committee meeting within Aberdeenshire Council, and the problem is not unique to Drumoak.

c) **MANAGING CC e-mail**

Mrs Maxine Smith reported she is aware of the problems in the duplicity of e-mail accounts for the Community Council, and is in the process of transferring all messages from the Hotmail account to the new website with its relevant e-mail facilities. Mr Howard Scholey is assisting with this task, and many of the problems currently being experienced will be rectified. It was acknowledged that it will take time to determine exactly how the new system will work, but one suggestion was that separate in/out boxes could be integrated within the website. The question of maintaining a level of confidentiality within e-mails relating to the business of the Community Council was discussed, and the need to ensure a safe level of confidentiality with members of the public was acknowledged.

(iii) **FUNDING**

Mr Mark Ansell referred to the information recently circulated regarding windfarm funding. This information was now available on the website, and a simplified application form had been prepared. As yet, no applications had been received. It had previously been suggested the Community Council should take advantage of the opportunity to promote the availability of funding at the regular Crathes Fly held in Crathes Hall. It was agreed both he and Mrs Maxine Smith would host a Community Council information table at the next Crathes Fly to be held on Saturday, 3<sup>rd</sup> April. Information relating to various funding opportunities would be made available, as would the recently published Land Development Plan.

**ACTION: M.SMITH; M.ANSELL**

It was also discussed this event could provide an opportunity to begin to collate a list of local organisations, clubs, etc., with contact details for the website. This could form the basis of a useful data-base of local information for inclusion on the website, and all members of the Community Council were asked to forward the contact names of any local groups of which they were aware.

**ACTION: ALL MEMBERS OF CC**

Mr Mark Ansell stressed that other forms of funding should be investigated. CDDCC falls within the boundaries of both Kincardine & Mearns and Marr, and a relationship needs to be established with both. A discussion regarding Rural Partnership followed, and Mr David Morrish agreed to raise this issue at a forthcoming meeting with the Marr Area Manager. He was asked if he would be reporting back to the Community Council in view of his resignation from the end of April. He assured the members he would continue to attend the meetings, and act as an informed resource on any issues with which he could help. In reply to a question, Section 75 was clarified as being the agreement of an amount paid by any developer for the benefit of a community at the time of any new build. It was confirmed CDDCC could not directly benefit financially from this agreement.

(iv) **BUDGET & CC FINANCE**

The handover to the new Treasurer, Mr Peter Renwick, had been completed, and the new signatories had been confirmed as Mr Peter Renwick, Mr David Morrish and Mrs Maxine Smith. All files relating to the previous ten years had been passed on. The current bank balance is £112-00, with an amount of £60-00 still outstanding to Mr John Hopkins, who had acted as Minute Secretary. No funding had as yet been received from Aberdeenshire Council, and the Treasurer will follow this up. A letter relating to the funding received by CDDCC had been received from Aberdeenshire Council, and after discussion it was determined to be a consultation document regarding future funding for Community Councils. After some discussion, the preferred option was agreed by the members; this would entail a smaller grant, but would allow access to greater funding for community projects. When questioned as to where the present funding comes from, it was confirmed CDDCC's

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funding comes from Kincardine & Mearns. The Treasurer will question whether there should be some contribution from Marr.

**ACTION: P.RENWICK**

**(v) ROAD SAFETY**

- a) Cllr G. Clark had made enquiries regarding the speed limit at Kirkton of Durrus and a recent meeting at which this had been discussed. He had ascertained the meeting had not been minuted, but copies of the notes made would be forwarded to him.
- b) Mr Angela Bichan referred to her earlier comments regarding a safe crossing of the A93 for those living to the south of this road. Cllr G. Clark recommended she make contact with Mr Stuart Clark of Aberdeenshire Council to query the statistics which justify the installation of a pedestrian crossing. Cllr L. Clark urged Mrs Bichan to pursue this matter with some urgency, as it could be viewed more favourably whilst the present construction in Drumoak continues. It was agreed there would be substantial public support for such a crossing in Drumoak. Members were again reminded the children attending Drumoak School would already have to cross Sunnyside Drive twice to reach the new school building.
- c) Mr David Morrish reported the public consultation regarding a 30mph speed limit in Crathes closed on 2<sup>nd</sup> april 2015, but he did not foresee any problems and confirmed there would be a traffic island with the boundary of the 30mph limit.
- d) Mr Peter Renwick asked if the persons who had posted comments on Facebook had received a response to their comments. It was agreed that any such comments should be formally responded to.

**ACTION: H.SCHOLEY**

**(vi) PARK BRIDGE**

Mrs Angela Bichan had made representation to Aberdeenshire Council and the local landowner regarding a tree to the south of the new speed restriction at Park Bridge in Drumoak. The outcome had been that both parties had agreed the tree, which it is claimed restricts drivers' view on approach to the bridge, effectively enforces the speed restriction on this stretch of road. Mrs Maxine Smith suggested CDDCC should challenge this decision.

**ACTION: A.BICHAN**

**ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS**

**i) PLANNING**

- a) Mr David Morrish had failed to circulate an e-mail relating to the development at Woodlands of Durrus, but would action it now.  
**ACTION: D.MORRISH**
- b) Mr Mark Ansell reported an application for the provision of a Sales Suite at Woodland of Durrus, which would involve the loss of hedges, and it was agreed representation should be made to Aberdeenshire Council  
**ACTION: M.ANSELL**
- c) Mr David Morrish reported the representation made regarding the steading development at Drumoak had been rejected as no objection could be made regarding the design of the development at this stage. However, the Roads Department of Aberdeenshire Council had requested a hold on the application whilst vehicle access queries had been addressed. It was agreed by Aberdeenshire Council that the letter of representation from CDDCC would appear on its website. Mrs Maxine Smith queried if the local residents who had lodged complaints should be notified of the action taken by CDDCC, and this was agreed  
**ACTION: H.SCHOLEY**
- d) Mrs Marion McNeil reported an application for signage for a show house at the Bancon Development in Drumoak had been lodged.
- e) Cllr. P. Bellaby reminded the members of the closing date for consultation on the LDP - 8<sup>th</sup> May 2015. Mr Scholey suggested the LDP contained no contentious issues, and intimated he would distribute an e-mail link to the members. Should anyone have any concerns regarding the LDP, they were asked to inform the Chairperson of this meeting.

**ii) INTEGRATED HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE**

This item will be carried forward to the May meeting.

**iii) ELECTION EVENT**

The decision reached at the March meeting not to host this event had been forwarded, as requested. However, this decision had since been taken to the press.

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**iv) RECRUITING NEW MEMBERS**

There had been no response to the request for nominations, and the resignation of Mr Robert Harper has once again made the number of Community Councillors fewer than recommended. The next step to recruit new members would be to advertise within the local press. Should there then be an election, a Returning Officer would need to be appointed. Cllr. L. Clark offer to act as Returning Officer should an election take place. Enquiries would now be made as to the funding available for such an election.

**ACTION: H.SCHOLEY**

**v) VOTE OF THANKS**

Cllr L. Clark proposed a vote of thanks to Mr David Morrish for his long and devoted service to Crathes, Drumoak and Durrus Community Council. Mr Morrish offered his good wishes to the members of the Community Council and assured them of his support in the future.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING** will be on Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> May at 7-30pm in Crathes Hall.