



Responding to community needs

**CRATHES, DRUMOAK & DURRIS COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING (MEETING NOT QUORATE) HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 7th OCTOBER
2015 – CRATHES HALL**

1. PRESENT:

Community Councillors: Maxine. Smith (Acting Chair), Peter Renwick, Marion McNeil, MarkAnsell

Aberdeenshire Councillors: Cllr Graeme Clark, Cllr Peter Bellaby

Member of Public: David Morrish

Minute Secretary: Rhona Garry

APOLOGIES:

Ronnie Mitchell, Howard Scholey, Cllr Raymond Christie, Cllr Linda Clark, and Angela Bichan

In addition, Steven Holtom (a Durris resident) who expressed an interested in being co-opted was expected to attend, due to urgent business had to submit his apologies and confirmed his interest remains.

The acting Chair declared a quorum was not met, any proposals for decisions will be circulated to all Community Councillors via email correspondence, for agreement. Updates will be provided at the next meeting in matters arising.

2. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

The September meeting was not quorate and this must be made clear in the minutes. September minutes had been approved, published and distributed.

3. POLICE MATTERS

Maxine Smith read the Police Report, which is attached and published on the CDDCC website.

It was stated that there had been 191 incidents since the September meeting mainly regarding anti-social behaviour and speeding. There was also mention of the Student Safety Campaign to promote advice for 6 to 16 year olds staying safe. The report also included some bullet point suggestions to keep homes safe this winter. In addition, there was also some simple guidance for young people regarding preparations for Halloween.

Cllr G. Clark notified the Council of a three-wheel buggy stolen from a home in Drumoak and expressed a warning for people to secure cars and belongings. There was also reference to the recent theft of a shotgun in Peterculter and an extra reminder for people to be cautious.

4. MATTERS ARISING from the September meeting

Funding

Ronnie Mitchell and Angela Bichan were not present at the meeting so there was no report concerning the ongoing discussions about funding. It was stated that the issue was to be taken back to all Community Councillors and continued after the AGM.



Safety

Howard Scholey is also continuing to enquire about the speed limit in Kirkton.

Marion McNeil reported on the information she had gained concerning the options for a footpath for accesses to the school. It was discussed that an assessment would conclude the necessity of a safe footpath as at the present moment some children would have to cross a busy road twice. Cllr Graeme Clark suggested that Marion McNeil should contact a Jim Savage at Aberdeenshire Council about a possible footpath link by the cemetery and an assessment by planning services regarding a path. Marion McNeil also highlighted a problem brought to attention from correspondence with a member of public who commented on how the drain outside his house does not work and therefore causes an icy road during the winter. This was a problem because its location being where children would be crossing. David Morrish enquired as to why the issue of safe access to the new school had not been a bigger issue before. Marion McNeil replied that a safe pedestrian crossing had been in the original plan. A discussion ensued about other options of the location of a footpath. One idea was for the road to be shifted into the lay-by, outside the current school, so that a footpath could be created from the pre-existing green section next to the church. However, it was brought up that the present school will be put on sale and the lay-by proposal may present some issues. . Maxine Smith suggested Marion McNeil should create a first draft of a letter to the council prompting the further exploration of safe access to the school. In addition, that a review of the road safety survey outcome may be useful to include information and concerns from residents on the situation.

Planning

The CC had no objection to the action on planning from Mrs. Rippner, Maxine Smith has written confirmed this to Mrs Rippner.

Correspondence

As it was stated that not all community councillors understood Dropbox, Maxine Smith suggested a training session by her Administrator, Sandra Stuart, after the AGM. It would be a one/two-hour session at a time that was convenient for most. However, a different venue would have to be found for better connectivity. The training session would then be followed with a brief guide handout about Dropbox. There was a lengthy discussion about the possibility of David Morrish transferring the information he has into Dropbox. The problem however is that much of the documents are attachments on email and therefore are extremely difficult to transfer into Dropbox. In addition, people would not have the knowledge to know if the information was on the database or not. It was discussed and considered that such information such as planning procedures would be useful. It was finally agreed that there would be no value in transferring lots of document to Dropbox and instead that David Morrish could remain as a repository and that any information needed could be forwarded to the Community Council, on request.

5. FINANCE

Budget

Approximately £954 in the bank, however there are still some cheques that need to be cashed.

Funding



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There was a quick recap about ideas discussed before the summer of ways for the CC to fund itself and ways the CC could apply for funding. In addition there was mention that the Crathes School had approached the CC for funding requirements.

Mr Ansell commented that the Midhill Windfarm fund was still open and there had been no applications since the Scouts.

The responses collected from the Away-Day indicated that the CC's monetary appetite was related to community projects. It was suggested that the Community Council may be eligible for administration funding and as such Maxine Smith proposed that the Drumoak & Durris Community group should be approached for support. Cllr Graeme Clark commented that it is easier if CC applies for a specific project. There is a change to how communities get involved and so funding will not be given just for administration. It was decided that the CC must collectively consider the following points regarding the organisation of a fundraiser:

- 1) What could be done quickly or easily?
- 2) Are there long-term objectives including the community?

Cllr Graeme Clark also commented that the Stonehaven Community Council had been gifted six defibrillators and that this might be useful for areas within Crathes, Drumoak and Durris. Maxine Smith replied that one of the energy companies still had the funds to provide these and should be approached directly for further information.

It was finally decided that everyone should contribute some ideas about fundraising and supporting the CC, including incomes and costs, to Mr Renwick.

2015-2016 PRIORITIES

Bringing Communities Together

To follow-on from the first Away Day workshop of the Community Council in February 2015, it was agreed to continue this as an annual workshop for the Community Council due to its usefulness. Maxine Smith will approach the Kincardineshire Development Partnership and Community Learning & Development Team in Banchory for facilitation support for the workshop. The event would take place around the end of February 2016 and further details provided.

Road Safety Survey

The final survey was circulated to the attending members and reviewed. A discussion began with the feeling that the responses were quite predictable with particular concern to three or four key areas. These concerns included safe access to the school, excessive speeding and road signage. In general, it was a positive response with around 70% of participants willing to volunteer. There was concern to the amount of authority the survey held and it was commented that the CC would need guidance as to what the next steps could be. Cllr Graeme Clark suggested that the survey should be sent to Steven Archer for his attention and the police for problems of speeding, in particular motorcycles. David Morrish commented that 75 responses seemed somewhat disappointing considering the increased social media presence. However, Maxine Smith replied saying that despite the responses being perhaps somewhat low in number considering the number of residents in the three



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villages, they were of a high quality with only a few participants skipping questions. Additionally, the survey created a good starting group of volunteers. It was decided that further research needed to be conducted on ways for the CC to take the results further and the approach on advocacy issues raised from the survey and how best the CC could provide any influence. There was a proposal that a public meeting should be called inviting survey participants. This would allow people to break into sections and decide actions. From within these groups of volunteers a leader should be chosen and the CC would simply work as coordinators. This was announced as a live project and an email should be sent to participants, and forwarded to the police, suggesting three dates for meeting around the end of January. There would be a reliance on elected councillors for support and guidance in contacting the correct authorities.

Wind Farm Funding

The Midhill fund status will be assessed. There was a question raised about any feedback concerning the Crathes Hall, and there had been none.

CC Training

Some community councillors are attending a Kemnay Training session by Aberdeenshire Council about the Planning Procedure on the 7th of November. The workshop agenda included such topics as planning and communication.

The CC was informed about Jean Henretty, Kincardineshire Development Partnership, who has offered one-hour training sessions for community groups, covering a wide range of topics.

6. Planning

There was a copy available listing updates to the Crathes Development of Stewart Milne Homes. It raised questions as how the affordable houses were to be allocated, so as to include local needs. Cllr Graeme Clark commented that Douglas Edwardson is the person to contact. David Morrish has and will continue to follow up on the issue of the speed limit and signage in the surrounding area. As there will be nine new homes occupied by the end of November David Morrish has also offered to deliver information on the CC and copies of the newsletter to the houses.

There was also a quick question raised about if the privately owned public spaces had caused any problems. The reply was that there has been no complaint from areas in Drumoak where this structure is used.

Crathes Crematorium

Howard Scholey reported on this during last month's meeting as there was correspondence concerning how the crematorium could be glimpsed over the hillock. He is awaiting feedback regarding further clarification from the development.

Kincluny Village

A report has been published that will be circulated to all those that attended the meeting. CHAPS has expressed their disappointment concerning the tone and the content of the report. The CC has responded to CHAPS noting the purpose of the public was not to



champion the CHAPS agenda, but to provide information on the history surrounding previous proposals by the CHAPS Group, some clarity on the proposed development and its revisions and the opportunity for local residents to present questions and seek information. The CC believes this was achieved and CHAPS, as is anyone else, is welcome to respond with any comments. Maxine Smith also contacted the Planning Enforcement Officer at Aberdeenshire Council seeking clarity and explanation why the CHAPS Quarry site has not actioned the planning conditions applied when the Quarry planning permission was granted. This response is still awaited. Since the CHAPS public exhibition of their proposed plans in June 2015, so far there has not been a planning application made by them on the Aberdeenshire Council Planning website.

Current Area Planning Applications

There are three dwellings at Ashentilly Kennels but it raised no objection from the CC.

There was also comment that the planning applications were mostly uploaded to the website but responses are infrequent from the public.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

Old CC Email

There had been no news from Howard Scholey concerning the old email.

New CC Email

Enquiry form from Mr. G Atkinson – Drumoak resident requesting notices/signs to be erected along the Deeside Way instructing cyclists to warn pedestrians as they approached. Cllr Graeme Clark commented that the man in charge of the Deeside Way should be contacted if some occasional signs were to be placed.

Maxine Smith stated that she will produce weekly updates of correspondences including those received on Facebook.

Maxine Smith also noted any Facebook promotions where we can boost posts can be easily applied. A spend in the region of approx. £10 tends to be quite effective as it promotes the information to a higher number of Facebook users. It would be useful for the CC to set aside a budget for social media marketing.

8. AGM

Peter Renwick enquired if the AGM had to be held in November. Maxine Smith confirmed it is stated in the Constitution for the AGM to be held in the month of November. Obviously, this has been made flexible on occasion as the CDDCC has previously held this in other months.

Recruitment/ Nominations/ Preparations

It was expressed that more members would need to be co-opted onto the CC, however, some form of structured orientation should be provided to enable people to be apprised of protocols and procedures and the general workings within the CC. The following vacancies remain: Crathes – 2, Drumoak – 3 and Durris – 2 (with Steve Holtom pending – possibly 1



vacancy for Durris. David Morrish confirmed he will deliver nomination forms to new residents.

Existing councillors currently all fall within their term of continued renewal therefore will not need to complete any forms. Co-opted members will need to complete the nomination forms – Marion McNeil and Ronnie Mitchell. In addition, Steve Holtom would need to be nominated. David Morrish reminded the CC that public members could nominate councillors as well.

The date for the AGM was decided to be the 4th of November at Crathes Hall, beginning at 7:30 pm. However, there would be the monthly Community Council meeting before at 7:00 pm.

There was however a problem regarding if a quorum could be met at the AGM. It was clarified that at monthly meetings five members must be present but the AGM required seven. Maxine Smith decided she would seek advice as to how this issue could be solved as there had been cases of similar problems in other areas. For example, Stonehaven has separated the election from the AGM before. It was also suggested that councillors could email people who may be interested for co-option. Peter Renwick also suggested referring to the Constitution to determine if it was fit for purpose concerning the current problem.

9. AOB

Woodlands of Durris Street Naming

There had been many suggestions for names from the Durris primary as well as from residents. The deadline was for Thursday the 15th October and Mr. Ansell was to email others of proposed names.

Christmas Tree

Angela Bichan had provided a handover regarding the Drumoak Christmas tree site to Marion McNeil. Marion provided an update to the meeting. The location of the tree needed to be finalised and concerns remain with its location as potential safety issues with the location being so close to the main road. It was discussed whether the site be re-negotiated with Aberdeenshire Council? Generally, it was thought that the original plan of placing the tree in the green area next to the Bowling Club would be a safer option. Cllr Graeme Clark commented that Keith Melvin will need to be contacted and involved for any safety measures. This he said he will do.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 9:30 pm.