



*Responding to community needs*

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**CRATHES, DRUMOAK & DURRIS COMMUNITY COUNCIL**  
**MINUTE OF MEETING HELD OF WEDNESDAY, 2<sup>nd</sup> SEPTEMBER 2015 – CRATHES VILLAGE HALL**

**1. PRESENT**

**Community Councillors:** Mr P. Renwick (Acting Chair), Mrs M. Smith, Mrs M. McNeil, Mr H. Scholey

**Aberdeenshire Councillors:** Mr R. Chrisitie, Mr G. Clark, Mrs L. Clark

**Member of Public:** Mrs D. Rippiner

**Minute Secretary:** Miss R. Garry

**APOLOGIES:** Mr R. Mitchell, Mrs A. Bichan

The acting chair declared a quorum was not met.

**2. APPROVAL OF JUNE MINUTES**

The minutes for the June meeting had been pre-approved by e-mail

**3. POLICE MATTERS**

Mr P. Renwick read the Police Report which is attached.

**4. MATTERS ARISING from the June meeting**

A gift recognising the service given to the CC by Mr David Morrish had been discussed at previous meetings, but not been actioned. It was agreed this should be attended to as soon as possible.

**ACTION: H.S.**

**Funding**

There was a brief discussion on ideas for funding. However both Mrs Bichan and Mr Mitchell were not present to report more details on CC funding ideas.

**ACTION: C/FWD**

**Safety**

The speed limit in Kirkton of Durris had been discussed at length at earlier meetings of the CC, and the regulations relating to the setting of speed limit had been looked into and guidelines were provided by a former Community Councillor, who has since resigned, and the speed limit has remained unchanged. However the documents relating to his research are available and will be circulated, along with a synopsis of previous data gathered from local residents

**ACTION H.S.**

No further action is to be taken regarding the tree at Park Bridge.

There was discussion about the requirement for a Pelican Crossing in Drumoak, and its position following the expansion in the number of family homes in the area. Cllr L Clark stressed the requirement for justification of the need for such a crossing. It was unclear as to what stage had been reached in negotiations with A/shire Council, and details are to be requested from Mrs A Bichan.

**ACTION: M.Mc**

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Community Councillors: Maxine Smith – Vice Chair, Angela Bichan – Secretary, Peter Renwick – Treasurer

T: 07593 448587 E: [enquiries@crathesdrumoakdurrisc.org](mailto:enquiries@crathesdrumoakdurrisc.org) W: [www.crathesdrumoakdurrisc.org](http://www.crathesdrumoakdurrisc.org)

Facebook: Crathes-Drumoak-and-Durris-Community-Council

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It was noted Mrs Bichan had also been working towards a safe pedestrian access to the new school in Drumoak, and details of this will also be requested from Mrs Bichan **ACTION: M.Mc**

In the meantime, Cllr G Clark will continue to pursue this matter of safe access to the school.

**ACTION: Cllr. G.C**

5. **PLANNING** This item was brought forward on the agenda in view of Mrs Rippener's attendance at the meeting.

One current planning application (ref no 2335) had been brought to the attention of the Community Council by Mr and Mrs Rippener, who were seeking the support of the CC regarding their objection to the demolition of a traditional farmhouse for the building of a modern family home.

Mr Renwick and Mr Scholey had both previously been in contact with Mrs Rippener, and had researched the content of the application. In their opinion it did not contravene the current regulations or requirements of A/shire Council, and although they expressed their sympathy to Mr and Mrs Rippener, they were uncertain of any grounds for objection. A lengthy discussion followed, and Cllr L. Clark was able to provide background information regarding the planning process. It was suggested Mr and Mrs Rippener continue to liaise with the Planning Department, and copy the CC on any correspondence with A/shire Council. It was pointed out that, although a deadline for Mr and Mrs Rippener was close, the CC are not required to meet the same deadline, and have longer to object to any planning application. Mrs Rippener expressed appreciation for the support of the CC, and would forward copies of any correspondence to the members, who would then become aware of any changes with which they could become involved in the progression of the application. Mrs M. Smith suggested it may be helpful to residents if the CC produced a simple explanatory schedule of the planning application process. It was agreed this should be carried forward. **ACTION: C/FWD**

#### **Crathes Crematorium**

Mr Scholey and Mr Renwick had visited the Crematorium site. They have a contact person within the construction company, who estimates building will be completed by the end of January. An e-mail had been received from one resident complaining as to the fact the ridge line could be seen above a small hillock. It was recalled the architect had mentioned previously that the ridge line would be glimpsed. Mr Renwick stated that the resident had been responded to. Finally, Mr Scholey offered to approach representatives of the Crematorium to enquire whether a natural screen of trees was being considered to address this matter.

**ACTION: H.S.**

#### **Kinclunly Village**

There was a brief summary of the public meeting held in August. Mr Renwick stated that the majority of those present at the meeting objected to the development. Following a meeting of a small sub-group, Mrs Smith has crafted a report which will be circulated and can be approved by email. Along with this will be a draft letter to A/shire Council and a formal call to residents to forward their views in writing, be it either in favour or against the Kinclunly development. **ACTION: ALL**

Cllr G Clark gave details of Development Funds (previously Planning Gain) available for this area, and details of who to contact regarding any possible claims from the funds

#### **Current Area Planning Applications**

There were 3 other applications noted, but no objections raised.

- In Upper Park, Drumoak the demolition of an existing dwelling and outbuilding; as well as erection of two new dwellings, ref no 2532
- In Quarry Bank, Durris the erection of a replacement dwelling and change of use of agricultural land, ref no 2444
- Land at Upper Ashentilly, Durris the erection of 3 houses, ref no 2403

## 6. FINANCE

### Budget

The current balance is now £954.00. Payment of grant from Community Wind Farm has been forwarded to the local Scouts group.

Discussion followed regarding the procedure for administering the wind farm funds, with particular attention drawn to the possibility of setting up a separate bank account for processing applications and payments. Mr Scholey asked for clarification as to how disbursements are made from the Wind Farm Fund. Mrs Smith replied that this council's role was to act as administrator to the fund. **ACTION: C/FWD**

### Mandate Signatories

It was noted Mrs M McNeil has now completed the application forms to be added to the list of signatories for the CC.

### Funding

Following a discussion as to how the CC could financially support its work, Mr Renwick proposed a business plan be created towards the end of this year. Members were reminded of the questionnaire previously received from A/shire Council requesting input into the manner in which funding should be generated. Sponsorship of a local CC, which had been secured was discussed, as was the facility to act on behalf of other organisations to source funding. In particular funding for the local Newsletter was identified as having been discussed previously. Mr Renwick stressed the need for a business plan to outline and form a strategy for fundraising.

## 7. 2015 – 2016 PRIORITIES

### Bringing Communities Together

Mrs Smith reflected on the progress achieved following the training session members attended earlier in the year.

She noted 68 responses had to date been received to the Road Safety Survey, and suggested this becomes an item for discussion at the October CC meeting, when the next steps could be formalised. It was suggested contact be made with the Police to ascertain exactly what actions could be taken by the CC.

**ACTION C/FWD**

Windfarm funding was briefly discussed in relation to the availability of funding for Drumoak & Durris Community Group. It was noted funds for the group could be accessed from A/shire Council, and it is understood applications could be made for amounts up to £4,000.

Mrs Smith went on to outline the projects for 'Bringing the Community Together', which had been identified as one of the objectives at the training session. An update of the achievements of the Community Council and the Community Group in this respect had been included in the Drumoak-Durris Newsletter. It included news of the Community Action Plan (currently being written up), the provision of a permanent Christmas tree in Drumoak, the success of Mr J. Singer's campaign to establish improved internet access in Drumoak, and various other items.

Mrs Smith then outlined the challenges being faced by the CC. There is an urgent need to recruit new Community Councillors in all three areas, and the methods for doing this were discussed. Some attention was focussed on the viability of using mail-drops to inform residents of the shortfall in representation, etc. Overall it was agreed it is difficult to assess the success of this, but other forms of notification were discussed. In particular members of the public attending the AGM could be made aware of the shortfall, and the option to co-opt up to three new members could be considered. A request for new members appears regularly in the local Newsletter and on the Facebook page. A discussion followed examining the problem of recruiting volunteers in general, and methods used by other organisations were reviewed.

**ACTION: C/FWD**

## **8. CORRESPONDENCE**

The use of Dropbox for storing archive materials was discussed. In reply to a question, Mrs Smith outlined the procedure for using this facility, and mentioned costs would be incurred. Currently Mr D. Morrish has a link to the CDDCC Dropbox for the storage of the many documents he has from his many years of serving on the Community Council.

**ACTION: C/FWD**

Mrs M Smith mentioned the need for a CC representative to serve on KDP, and asked for a volunteer.

**ACTION: ALL**

## **9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting will Wednesday, 7<sup>th</sup> October 2015, when Mrs M Smith will act as Chair. It is hoped the meeting can be arranged for Drumoak, and this will be confirmed in due course.

It was stressed if members are unable to attend, then apologies must be forwarded to the Secretary or Acting Chair. It seems unlikely the meetings leading up to the AGM will be quorate, so any agreements or decisions required will be conducted by e-mail. It was noted co-option of two new members would alleviate this situation for the immediate future.

Notice was also given of:

- Citizens Advice Bureau AGM, which will take place on 15<sup>th</sup> September at Westhill Holiday Inn
- KDP AGM will take place on 24<sup>th</sup> September in Laurence Hall
- Mrs Smith and Mrs McNeil will be attending a Community Council Training Session run by A/shire Council on 9<sup>th</sup> September in Banchory.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9:40pm.