Crathes Drumoak & Durris Community Council Monthly Meeting

Wednesday 12 December 2018 – Durris Hall

MEETING MINUTES

1. **Introductions & Apologies**

   Present : David Reaich (Chair), Peter Renwick (Minutes), Mark Ansell, Chris Charnley, James O'Flynn(Secy), David Morrish, Emma Windle. Apologies: David Groundwater, Marion McNeil

   Councillors : Cllr S Wallace, Cllr A Ross. Apologies : Cllr S Dickenson, Cllr R Bruce

   Members of the public : Derek Forbes, Catrionna Woodburn

   Police : Constable Nicola Lock

   The meeting was quorate.

2. **Review & approval of previous meeting minutes.**

   The minutes from October were reviewed with corrections that Cllr Eileen Durno would action the Banchory school bus issue. D Reaich requested that we add a congratulatory note to the efforts made for the WW1 commemorations.

   The minutes were proposed M Ansell and seconded by C Charnley.

   Business arising

   M Ansell reported that his action to investigate why the planning authority allowed 3 applications at Ashentilly was because this was a cheaper option for the applicant. Cllr S Wallace stated that the charges are set by the Scottish Government.

   (Discussed in Planning but reported here) The KWH development seemed to have hit the buffers with no real progress in the last month. The sewage system is now connected to the mains but there remains flooding issues resulting in lingering smells from legacy overflows.

   Action M Ansell to contact Gavin Steel at Scottish Water to address this.

   M Ansell issued a report on the Netco outline proposals for a mountain bike / sport complex in Cairn Monearn. He had some feedback from P Renwick on the traffic issues. D Reiach asked if we had had further feedback from social media etc. – we had not. There was then a discussion what to do with this document and to be careful not to prejudice ourselves in advance of a planning proposal by communicating it to the public. Cllr A Ross queried that our reported might be too subjective as no written statements were taken from the public.

   It was agreed that the report would be for internal CDDCC use only. **Action M Ansell** to finalise.

   M Ansell was also actioned to follow up with Netco. Action M Ansell.

3. **Secretary's Report and Action List**

To follow

4. **Community Updates**

   a. **Minute Secretary**
   J O'Flynn advised that we had no response to our advert for a Minute Secretary. It was agree that with additional members now on the CC, that we rotate these duties.

   b. **Crathes in Flower (CIF) request**
   P Renwick advised that this newly formed group plans to install road side flower planters and acquire water equipment to tend plants in Crathes. In order to get funding from sources such as Tesco, they need to demonstrate that they had correct insurance in place for these items (for loss and third party). It was suggested that this group could piggy back on CDDCC's insurance policy (which was circulated in May). P Renwick investigated further and there are clauses covering street furniture items and general third party cover in the policy arranged by Aberdeenshire Council. It would mean that CIF would need to consign title of the items to CDDCC who would need to create and add them to an asset register. The request was put to a vote and carried unanimously. Note Cllr A Ross declared an interest and left the room during the discussion and vote. P Renwick to inform CIF.

   c. Aberdeenshire strategy plan
   P Renwick reminded the meeting that we had until 17 December to comment on the main issues report issued on 5th October regarding Aberdeenshire's strategic plan for the next decade. In summary, whilst we are not in one of the 3 strategic development zones, we could comment upon the plans. P Renwick reported that our responses were very similar to many of the other CC's i.e. that we wanted a careful balance between development and impact on local services and infrastructure, that we supported green energy but not more onshore wind and that we "went with the flow" on housing. One reason why we are not a development area is the road / transport network in Deeside and this will continue as the plan calls for restraint on development (except Westhill) around the AWPR until it was clear how well the new road and its junctions were working. P Renwick suggested we write to say that we had no further comment and this was agreed.

5. **Police**
   Constable N Lock is new and based in Stonehaven. She reported that there was one house break-in in Drumoak (unsolved), 2 drunk driving convictions and 2 careless driving convictions. Current Police initiative are the festive drink driving campaign and related shoplifting and anti-social behaviour initiatives. The Liam Smith enquiry is being handled by Aberdeen City team but there had been no break-throughs.

   The following topics were raised.

Cllr A ross reported possible poaching in the Crathes Estate- where numerous partly butchered deer carcases were evident close to walking paths. Cllr Wallace commented that these may be legal activities.

E Windle enquired if a speed monitoring survey had been done at the Park 40mph zone in Drumoak. Cnst Walker agreed to find out and follow up with PC Mark Camus.

Cllr Wallace commented on an abandoned vehicle which has been subsequently burnt out on the A957 and asked why it had not been removed. The Police advised on several reasons – that the insurance company may be slow or that the owner was addressing it. However even though the vehicle is not an immediate danger it has been there for 4 weeks and action was requested by the Police.

D Morrish raised the possibly of initiating a Community Speedwatch in our area. This had been previously raised also with PC Mark Camus, and DM commented that a campaign may be starting in Aberdeen and that we were very interested to carry one out. Again Police assistance was requested.

6. Finance

(i) **CDDCC Accounts.**

P Renwick advised that there was no activity in the last month but that cheques for £60 + 20 had been issued to Durris Hall but were not cashed. The cheque for Crathes PS trim Trak has not been issued due to unsatisfactory details on who to make the cheque payable to. This leaves us with £2,140.60.

(ii) **Windfarm Funding**

M Ansell reported that Fred Olsen had advised us that we have £10,444 available funds for the next year and that we can also request our annual admin fee of £759. It would appear that the annual cycle for funds in end October and we benefitted from a RPI uplift.

Action M Ansell / P Renwick – apply for our admin grant.

7. Planning applications

Crathes : one house with a minor extension

Drumoak : 3 applications with only one being somewhat contentious - for a 6 apartment building + gym near Coupers Road.

Durris : M Ansell reported that the recent Woodlands application had been withdrawn following 5 objections from neighbours. No new applications.

LDP :

a. D Morrish raised the issue of the LDP main issues report. This document is a preliminary report on the Councils preferred projects. In our area, the majority of

applications were not preferred and only modest developments in Drumoak preferred which is aligned with our wishes. However we now enter into the phase where developers may negotiate and horse trade on developments, so we need to be vigilant that undesired projects are not approved in the final phases.

b. Mr Forbes of Forbes Homes was present and told us that his project for Woodlands of Durris was not preferred and that he wishes to modify the original application to create a village square. Mr Forbes was informed that we need a concise proposal to be addressed to the affected community and to us before we could comment on the MIR and future planning applications without prejudicing ourselves.

c. E Windle reported that she sent her letter to Drumoak school regarding CDDCC position supporting keeping the land in Banchory designated as R3 reserved for future educational needs. This was to address concerns that some developers may be applying to build on this site.

8. **Any other competent business**

a. Cllr Wallace stated that he is addressing the poor state of roads in and around Woodlands of Durris.
b. The next meeting will be in Drumoak Primary school on 9th January (note this meeting is switched with Crathes which will host the meeting in Feb). **Action D Reaich** to update the Google calendars.
c. The chair wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

The meeting finished at 9:35