



Crathes Drumoak & Durris Community Council Monthly Meeting
Wednesday 9 October 2019 – Kirkton of Durris Hall
MEETING MINUTES

1) Introductions & Apologies

Present:

Community Councillors:

Peter Renwick, Chris Charnley, Mark Ansell,
Joyce Scott, Lynn Coull, Anne Shearer, Philippa
Jensen, David Morrish

Councillors:

Cllr Rosemary Bruce - Marr Area Ward 16
Cllr Ann Ross – Marr Area Ward 16
Cllr Sarah Dickinson – K&M Area Ward 18

David Millar – Durris resident,
Marion McNeil – Drumoak resident

Apologies:

Cllr Wendy Agnew, Cllr Dennis Robertson

2) Review and approval of previous meeting minutes

Noting one small correction under section 8, the Park Shop notice board was proposed for outside rather than within the shop, the minutes were approved, being proposed by Lynn Coull and seconded by Joyce Scott.

Outstanding actions from the September minutes and business arising:

2.3. **BT Phone Boxes.** K&M Councillors had submitted an objection on behalf of the community regarding the removal of the phone box at Keithmuir Gardens.

2.5. **Park Bridge.** The FaceBook survey was put in place and it was noted that this produced a good response.

Following the 3 public meetings Aberdeenshire Council will produce a Park Bridge report to include engineering aspects which will be discussed at the K&MAC meeting on 29th October 2019.

A request was made for access to the engineering report at the earliest opportunity. This can now be found on the CDDCC G-drive.

2.8. It was mentioned that there were some notice boards available to be used for the Park Shop. These were felt to be too flimsy and it was proposed that wind farm funding be applied for to obtain a new all-weather notice board for use outside the Park Shop. **Action: Charles Clark**

2.9 The Community Council grant has been applied for, but no response has yet been received.

3) Secretary's Report and Correspondence

The following points were raised through emails received: (Report available on G-Drive)

3.1 Aberdeenshire Council have advertised that certain plants and bulbs are available for communities. It was mentioned that the Crathes In Flower group (CIF) have applied. This prompted a discussion about Drumoak where the council already provides, plants and maintains some borders but it was felt that more could be done. **Action: Cllrs Sarah Dickinson and Ann Ross to provide contact details to Lynn Coull.**

3.2 On 8-10th May, 2020 widespread events are planned to mark the 75th anniversary of VE day. These may be organised in a similar way to the Armistice/Remembrance Day centenary events last year. It was suggested that the CC should have a 'lead' for this. **Action: All to think about who?**

3.3 The Banchory Medical Practice has requested a CC representative as part of their community engagement/consultation programme. Philippa Jensen volunteered for this. **Action: Philippa Jensen to follow-up with Banchory Medical Practice**

3.4 It was noted that consultation with respect to the Strategic Plan is now closed.

3.5 The Marr Area Manager is requesting community input to Crown Estate Planning. There was no knowledge in the room as to what,



if anything, the Crown Estate owned or managed in the CC area. Ownership of the River Dee was mooted as a possible Crown Estate involvement. To be clarified. **Action: Cllr Ann Ross**

3.6 An Aberdeenshire Budget Simulator has been created to help the public understand the challenges of council budgeting. [Budget Simulator](#)

3.7 There are a number of 'Greener' initiatives/groups. Greener K&M are now holding regular meetings as are the more Marr focussed Deeside CAN. Wood Group Plc (Chris Warbank) are offering support for tree planting and have made a request to our CC to identify appropriate land around Drumoak. The meeting was advised that the Woodland Trust can also provide trees for public land. The community council will need to consider its role and approach to 'Greener'. **Action: All to think about the what? how? and who?**

3.8 The National Trust at Crathes (Chris Wardle) is looking for community input to their tree management planning. This involves the thinning and felling of key woodlands in our community. In the first instance, this request has been forwarded to Robert Moss, an ecologist living in one of the effected woodlands. It was suggested that Robert may be invited to the next CC meeting to share his views which may help the CC form a response. **Action: Chris Charnley to invite Robert Moss to next CC meeting.**

4) Police Report

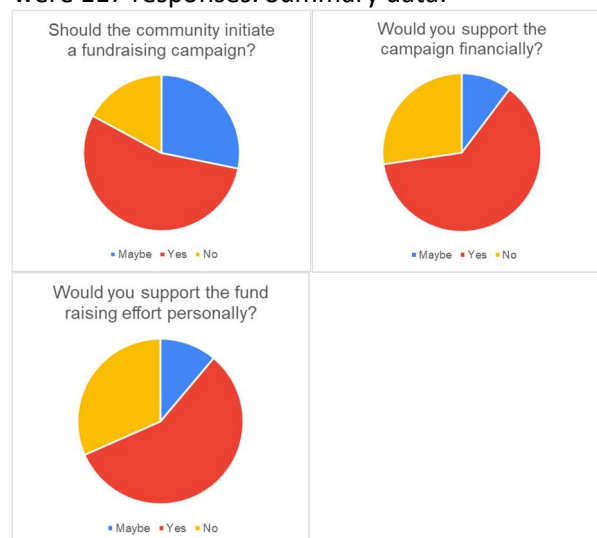
4.1 Police are encouraging rural communities to consider joining [Rural Watch Scotland](#)

4.2 It was reported by Cllr Ann Ross that crimes in Banchory were being flagged on FaceBook, but not reported to the police. The police have repeatedly requested that we report crime to them. The reason for this is so that they can log trends and respond to emerging threats, not just immediate emergencies. This to be highlighted on the CC website and FaceBook pages. **Action: Peter Renwick**

5) Community Updates

5.a Park Bridge

5.a.i. Review of survey results - During the council-led Park Bridge consultation meetings, the CC also surveyed the views of attendees from which there were 117 responses. Summary data:



5.a.ii. Working Group - It was agreed to setup a CC working group to pursue the Park Bridge issue. Anne Shearer, Joyce Scott, Lynn Coull and Chris Charley initially volunteered to join such a group. It was also agreed that others, out with the CC, would be co-opted as required. The group to come back to the CC at the next meeting having formed the group and drafted terms of reference. **Action: Anne Shearer, Joyce Scott, Lynn Coull and Chris Charnley**

It was recognised the K&M Area Committee meeting on 29th October, 2019 is an important milestone, having Park Bridge on the agenda. That meeting will most likely review and discuss output from the council's consultation meetings as well as the engineering report. There is also the possibility of the CC speaking at that meeting with a view to conveying the CC's overall stand, supported by their own survey data. The CC would need to request this more than one week in advance. If deemed necessary, **Action: Anne Shearer, Joyce Scott, Lynn Coull or Chris Charnley**

It was also recognised that the exact form and objective of that agenda item is unclear and Cllr Sarah Dickinson undertook to obtain more clarity on this and to feed that back to the CC. **Action: Cllr Sarah Dickinson**

Given the importance of the Park Bridge issue to the community and the fact that the work group, is just at the 'forming' stage, Peter Renwick agreed to



be the default CC attendee at the meeting. **Action: Peter Renwick**

Supported by the survey data, the CC agreed that it supported a Park Bridge with vehicular access.

6) Finance

6.1 Accounts - Nothing to Report

6.2 Wind farm fund allocation process - It was acknowledged that the administration process should be open, fair and robust enough to withstand scrutiny. To this end, Mark Ansell had made available an updated process flow.

Philippa Jensen suggested that more flexibility was introduced regarding the application windows. This to be considered. **Action: Mark Ansell**

Mark Ansell provided some background: We get funds from the Mid Hill and Meikle Carewe facilities of ca. £8000 & £4-5000 per annum respectively. The administration of applications and allocation of funds is currently carried out by the CC in the case of Mid Hill and by KDP for Meikle Carewe. While community councillor Mark Ansell administers for Mid Hill, the community is currently represented by Marion McNeil who sits on the KDP committee.

Two optional changes were presented:

1. The possibility of also handing Mid Hill administration to KDP. This would incur a significant fee. All were in favour of retaining the current situation.
2. David Morrish proposed that community representation on the KDP committee should move to the community council, most logically with Mark Ansell.

CC members voted 2 for this change and 3 against, 3 abstaining. So Marion McNeil continues to represent us.

Mark Ansell informed the meeting that there are currently 6 pending applications for funding and it was agreed that we would table these at the next meeting. **Action: Mark Ansell**

6.3 Crathes in Flower – Insurance

Peter Renwick asked if community councillors would support using the CC admin budget to pay CIF £25 annual insurance costs. This was agreed and

it will be added to the CDDCC insurance policy with Zurich. **Action: Chris Charnley**

7) Planning & Planning Apps

Upper Balfour – Mark Ansell expressed surprise at the approval APP/2019/1867 for Erection of 3 Dwelling houses and Formation of Access at Land To South West Of Upper Balfour, Durris. The application was received by the Planning Dept. on Thu 08 Aug 2019 and the decision to approve was made on Thu 19 Sep 2019. This constitutes some 17 houses at Upper Balfour which he considered to be well beyond the spirit of the policy on organics growth. The meeting was advised by councillors that, in the absence of an objection by the CC or 5 or more members of the public, the application had been determined under delegated powers and had therefore not come before them in a K&MAC meeting. In answer to the point that this was not compliant with the organic growth policy in the LDP 2021, it was pointed out that it would have been judged against the current LDP2017.

8) Any other competent business

8.1 Work groups - The relationship between the Drumoak Community Group and the Community Council came up while reviewing the September minutes earlier in the meeting. It was mooted that the Drumoak Community Group was initially set up as a community council work group, but was now working quite independently. This was in the context of the decision to set up the Park Bridge workgroup and agreeing the relationship of such groups with the CC.

Marion McNeil agreed to review the Drumoak Work Group constitution/terms of reference to check the intended relationship with the CC. **Action: Marion McNeil**

8.2 Traffic Lights - Marion McNeil asked our Ward 16 cllrs to request that the roads department check the 'traffic-light timing/sequencing' at the junction of the Raemoir and North Deeside Roads. It had been noticed that traffic travelling south on the Raemoir road and then turning west (right) to Banchory was often still on the junction when the North Deeside Road lights turned green. **Action: Cllr Ann Ross**

8.3 Gravitte North East – Simon Richards of GNE, in conversation with David Morrish, had intimated



that they were ready to provide an update of progress on the proposed MTB site at Durris whenever it would be useful for the CC. The current status is that GNE is in discussion with the Forestry Commission regarding land ownership/leasing.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 2145hrs.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 13th November 2019 at the Crathes Hall at 1930.