



Crathes Drumoak & Durris Community Council Monthly Meeting

Wednesday 9th January 2019 – Drumoak School

MEETING MINUTES

1) Introductions & Apologies

Present: Peter Renwick (Acting Chair), Marion McNeil (Minutes), Mark Ansell, Chris Chamley
David Groundwater David Morrish, Emma Windle.

Apologies: David Reaich, James O'Flynn.

Councillors: Cllr S Dickinson.

Apologies: Cllr W Agnew, Cllr R Bruce, Cllr E Durno, Cllr A Ross, Cllr S Wallace.

Visitor: Alan Melrose.

Members of the public: Catriona Woodburn

Police: PC Matthew Dickinson, PC David Worthington.

The meeting was quorate.

2) Review & approval of previous meeting minutes.

Review & Business arising for items not covered below:

- a) It was reported there had been no further progress with KWH, although workers were now back on site. There was some confusion as to the status of the car park, which appeared to be almost finished. However, it was being used by the contractors. Cllr Dickinson agreed to make enquiries as to the status/delay in handing this facility over to the community in Durris. It is understood the paths and gate to the school are now being used. Peter Renwick commented on the poor condition of the roads around this area, and it is understood Cllr Wallace is dealing with this issue. It was noted new residents had moved in the KWH properties.
- b) Mark Ansell has been in contact with local residents regarding the ongoing problems with the sewage treatment for the new homes. A sizeable response to his enquiries has provided some very helpful information, and he will collate this and prepare a communication to Scottish Waters Gavin Steel, requesting responses on the residents' concerns. **ACTION: MARK ANSELL**
- c) It is understood SEPA has responsibility for resolving this issue, if it cannot be sorted by local representation. It was suggested contact should also be made with Peter Fowler, Senior Environmental Health Officer for Aberdeenshire Council. **ACTION: MARK ANSELL**
- d) It is understood that following its AGM, NETCO has been rebranded GRAVITY NORTH. Mark Ansell continues to receive updates from this group. **ACTION: MARK ANSELL**

Approval of the minutes was proposed by Mark Ansell and seconded by Emma Windle.

3) Secretary report

- a) Meetings & Events Attended – No report
- b) Communications Received – No report

4) Community Updates

- a) **Minute Secretary** - *This topic was agreed and minuted in December.* As there had been no response to the advertisement for a Minute Secretary, it was agreed this role be rotated



within the Community Council, and Marion McNeil was taking the minute for this meeting.

ACTION: MARION McNEIL

b) Status of Distribution Lists (In relation to Scottish Water & Existing Crathes homes,)

The lack of a current distribution contact list had been raised and discussed on previous occasions without resolution. Whilst it was agreed such a list would be helpful, the new Data Protection regulations need to be considered. Peter Renwick had previously reviewed the GDPR, but had received little feedback from the Community Councillors as to the distribution lists each had. As this matter had dropped off the agenda for meetings, there followed a lengthy discussion as to how this issue could be resolved. It was noted a Policy Statement was displayed on the CDDCC website, but efforts now need to urgently address this matter. It was agreed in the first instance, David Morrish would review the situation and prepare a report for the next Community Council meeting. **ACTION: DAVID MORRISH**

c) Request from Crathes in Flower to piggyback CDDCC Insurance – This topic was agreed and minuted in December. It was agreed to support this request.

d) Aberdeenshire Strategic Plan, main issues report – It had been agreed previously there were no objections to lodge, and it was noted the cut-off date had already passed.

5) Police Report

This item was dealt with at the start of the meeting. Reports were received from both Stonehaven (K&M) and Banchory (Mid Deeside) and are on the website.

The Police responded by email to various issues and this attached below.

Peter Renwick commented on the proactive response received from PC Nicola Lock and proposed we reply to her with thanks. **ACTION: P Renwick**

6) Finance

a) CDDCC Accounts – Peter Renwick advised two cheques for Durris Hall had been cashed, but the cheque issued to Crathes School (£2k) remains outstanding. The current balance is £4020.60.

b) Windfarm Funding –Peter Renwick reported an application for funding from Mid-Hill had been received earlier today. It was from Crathes in Flower and was for the purchase of planters. This application will be reviewed asap. **ACTION: MARK ANSELL**

c) Marion McNeil reported an award of £5k from the Meikle Carewe Windfarm Fund had been made to the Drumoak & Durris Community Group for the purchase of a marquee. There was some discussion as to whether a similar award had been made to Crathes Hall for the purchase of chairs. Clarification would be sought for the next CC meeting. **ACTION: PETER RENWICK**

d) In response to a query, it was stated there was no set limit for funding from the Mid-Hill Windfarm Fund, but an amount up to £2500.00 was preferred in order to offer a 'fair share' provision throughout the three eligible areas. It was also confirmed the Mid-Hill fund is open for applications all year, whereas the Meikle Carewe Fund operates a 'window' for applications. Other funding opportunities were briefly discussed. Cllr Sarah Dickinson spoke of the local authority 'top-up budget fund', and agencies such as KDP, AVA were also mentioned. It was noted CDDCC could also offer advice on sources of funding.

e) The Administration Fee for the Mid-Hill Fund will be requested. **ACTION: MARK ANSELL**

7) Planning applications

a) Crathes : - Signage on the A93 for Crathes Castle



- b) Drumoak : Nothing to report
- c) Durris : Nothing to report
- d) LDP : - The programme for this is on target, and a series of presentations is planned over the coming weeks for representation to be made on the content. It is understood David Reaich has full details of this, and he will be contacted by David Morrish. **ACTION: DAVID MORRISH**

8) Any other competent business

- a) David Morrish expressed the concern of some of the local residents of the deterioration of the buildings on the old Crathes Station and signal box, which is in private ownership. He requested the Community Council's agreement for him, in his role of a Community Councillor, making personal contact with the owner – in the first instance – to assess what could be done to improve this area, which had become very overgrown. His request was approved, and he will report back to the Community Council. **ACTION: DAVID MORRISH**
- b) Cllr Sarah Dickinson confirmed the LDP was scheduled for public consultation from 14th January, but meantime can viewed on the Aberdeenshire Council website. Any representations must be made by 8th April 2019. She confirmed a series of workshops was planned, and noted one in Banchory Town Hall on 7th March 2019 from 12-00noon until 7-00pm. Several Community Councillors noted their intention to attend.
- c) Cllr Sarah Dickinson expressed concern over the lack of information regarding this evening's meeting. Although an e-mail had been forwarded with copies of the agenda, and draft minute of the December meeting, not all eligible respondents had received this notification. As the venue had changed since the 2019 Calendar had been distributed, there was also a lack of information regarding this. The necessity of making the agenda/minutes available to everyone in advance of the meetings was also to ensure members of the public were aware of the dates, times and venues of the CC meetings.
ACTION P Renwick (as chair)
- d) Alan Melrose requested copies of agendas and draft minutes be sent to the K&M Area Manager's office. It was understood this was already happening, but it would appear this is not the case. When assured the minutes were regularly uploaded onto the CDDCC website, Mr Melrose had to inform those present this was not the case. A brief discussion followed as to the sensitivity of forwarding draft minutes, but it was felt this could be acceptable if only forwarded to the Area Manager's office. It was agreed this issue needs to be resolved as soon as possible. **ACTION Secretary**
- e) In response to a question, Alan Melrose went on to discuss his role within Aberdeenshire Council. He is a Community Planning Officer, but does not deal with planning applications. His role is to work with communities. It is very much a facilitation role of liaison with local communities, identifying what is required and engaging and supporting them in their endeavours and aspirations. It is difficult to be specific about it, as there is no 'one size fits all' to his work. He spoke of the benefit of attending the K&M Community Council Forums to learn more of his work, and to engage with other Community Councillors. He offered to come to a later Community Council meeting to offer a follow up presentation to the Play Standard Event held at Crathes Hall during 2017, and to outline the compilation of a Community Action Plan for each of the areas represented by CDDCC. This led to a brief discussion as to how the various community groups within the area could interact and thereby become a stronger force for building a more cohesive community. **ACTION: CARRY FORWARD**
- f) Chris Chamley raised an issue around building community cohesion recognising that the CC appears to perform a formal role in representing community related issues with the council (and other outside bodies, such as developers and organisations wanting to move into our area – such as Netco, wind farms etc.). He questioned if its role is looking out for



and trying to manage the boundary- a type of gate keeper? He noted in Crathes the Hall Committee administers the operations and upgrade of Crathes Hall, but there is no organisation, formal or informal, that aims specifically to build community cohesion and effectively help enhance residents' lives through getting people together doing things and helping each other. In Crathes we have the Fly and some great things that go on at the Hall, but is there more we could or should do? He went on to question whether there was any line of communication between the Community Council and the local farming community; if not, how could this be rectified. He noted farming is a major part of our local economy and the success of which is key to our communities. At present farming is not specifically represented on the Community Council, and this led to a lengthy informative discussion as to how the CC might engage with the farming community to positively help their businesses. He suggested, if this was not the CC's role, then perhaps a sub-group could be formed to take this forward. He expressed his willingness to join this group.

ACTION: CARRY FORWARD

- g) This led to a lengthy informative discussion in which Catriona Woodburn noted that several residents in Durris were keen to begin a programme of tree planting. She was assured contacts within the Woodlands Trust and Forestry Commission would be forwarded to her.

ACTION: Cllr DICKINSON; ALAN MELROSE & MARK ANSELL

- h) Catriona Woodburn asked if the Community Council had ever asked the community what it wanted. She was informed of a campaign some months ago. She suggested something could be included in the Drumoak Durris Community Newsletter, and she was asked to write a short article, which could be forwarded to the Editor.

ACTION: DAVID GROUNDWATER

- i) Following on from the above discussion, Peter Renwick noted the need to identify the issues which the Community Council should address during the coming year, bearing in mind the Annual General Meeting, scheduled for June. **ACTION: CARRY FORWARD**
- j) Peter Renwick read the following e-mail received earlier today:
'I write to you on behalf of the King George V Community Project Trustees. The Trust is managing a community fund with a donation from a local wind turbine owner. The trustees are forming a new grant panel to distribute the funds to local community groups and individuals. The panel will consist of Community Councillors from the AB31 area and/or community volunteers. I would like to invite you to recruit a member for the panel either from your CC or a local resident.

We propose to hold two panel meetings each year, though there may be more regular meetings initially to set the criteria and guidance for the fund. The first meeting of the panel will be early February. A trustee could attend your meeting if required to explain the fund.' Marion McNeil offered to contact the sender for more details and, if suitable, take on this role. **ACTION McNEIL**

(Since this meeting, the following response has been received from Jean Henretty:

- i) *The fund was negotiated some 5 years ago with a Farm business near Lumphanan. The income is up to £15,000 per year, with some kept for admin we propose to give 13/14k as grants to groups within the AB31 area.*
- ii) *The management of the fund is with King George V Community Projects - I am a trustee. The trustees would rather set up an independent fund panel comprising of members from the 5 CC's in the area. Propose to have 2 panel meetings a year, though there will be some extra meetings in coming months to agree the criteria and paperwork. I have suggested looking at the KDP funds for guidance and processes.*
- iii) *Looking to have a 1st meeting of prospective panel members in February with 1st grants during March/April)*

- 9) **Date of Next Meeting** – Wednesday, 13th February 2019 at 7-30pm in Crathes Hall



There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9-15pm

POLICE REPORTS – ITEM 5

Report received from Garry Garrow, NE Division, Banchory

Marr Policing Priority - Antisocial Behaviour, Violence and Disorder December brought the usual the build-up leading to the festive period at the end of the month, and the increase in people socialising throughout the Deeside area. There was not a huge jump in relation to Anti-Social crimes during this period, or calls to Police. There were a few vandalisms reported, but a couple of these appear to be targeted, rather than sporadic incidents. Enquiries are ongoing to detect those responsible.

As you can imagine, the local licenced premises were busy towards the end of the month, but overall, patrons were out to have a good time, and there were few incidents of violence and disorder. Officers maintain their connection with the licence holders, and continue to work with them to resolve matters before they become issues.

Hogmany saw an increase in relation to patrons attending the licenced premises, and a crowd gathered in the High Street to take in the Bells. This again was good natured, and Officers mingled with the crowd. There were no issues highlighted to us as a result.

Marr Policing Priority - Acquisitive Crime Acquisitive crimes, such as housebreaking and thefts remain low this month. Officers continue to patrol the area during the hours of darkness in a bid to deter criminals from targeting the Deeside area.

The Aberdeenshire area has seen a slight increase in high value thefts from Supermarkets. Police Scotland are working closely with retail premises, offering Crime Prevention advice where necessary in a bid to prevent similar incidents from happening.

Marr Policing Priority - Road Safety and Road Crime The weather has been favourable throughout December, apart from a few days where there were heavy frost, and a drop of snow on the higher routes, resulting in the first road closures of the season. Thankfully this did not last long, and they were open fairly quickly. The number of serious or fatal accidents within the area remain low.

December saw the introduction of our annual Drink Drive campaign which involved carrying out increased patrols and more roadside breath tests on drivers. The majority of those stopped provided negative tests, however there were a few who provided positive, and were arrested as a result. We continue to put the message out that if you are driving, you should not drink ANY alcohol. This is the safest option, and could prevent you losing your driving licence. We continue to receive reports of speeding vehicles in areas of Deeside. There was action taken during December, with the assistance of our Special Constables. A number of areas were visited and high vis patrols carried out with our speed detection equipment. This resulted in a number of drivers being educated, and one person being ticketed in relation to a speeding offence.

We continue to receive reports regarding 'Boy racers', and are continuing to engage with them, educating and dealing with offences on a case by case basis. We continue to issue warnings in respect of Anti-Social driving, and we will continue to target those who fail to desist.

Marr Policing Priority - Wildlife Crime Our wildlife liaison officers and divisional officers continue to carry out pro-active patrols when duties permit to prevent Wildlife crime.

We continue to encourage members of the community to report any activity deemed suspicious near to the river areas.



Other Policing Activity and information Overall December did not throw up any major issues from a Policing point of view. As we head into 2019, we look forward to continuing to serve the communities in the Deeside area, and will keep you posted with any initiatives in the area. You will have noticed the increased Police presence in the Banchory area, especially around Crathes during the missing person enquiry for Liam Smith. This was a testing time for a number of Officers who were working extended hours on the enquiry, and searching large areas of various terrain, in all sorts of weather. The local community are to be thanked for all the assistance provided towards the Officers, be it from the House to House enquiries, to the offer of assistance in the search process. It is often hard to turn offers of assistance away, but I hope it is understood that this was done in the best interests of the enquiry, as the Officers involved are specifically trained to perform this duty. To date, Liam Smith remains missing and there are still Officers working on the incident.

We will continue to engage with community members and offer advice on a number of issues, and encourage contact if anyone has any queries or questions that they think Police can assist with.

Members of the community are encouraged to report any activity that they believe to be suspicious, or 'Out of the ordinary'. This can be done via '101' for non-emergency incidents, or '999' if they consider it an emergency. There is also the Crime stoppers telephone number, 0800 555 111 if callers wish to remain anonymous. Members of the community are encouraged to report any activity that they believe to be suspicious, or 'Out of the ordinary'. This can be done via '101' for non-emergency incidents, or '999' if they consider it an emergency. There is also the Crime stoppers telephone number, 0800 555 111 if callers wish to remain anonymous.

Report received from PCs Matthew Dickinson, & David Worthington, NE Division, Stonehaven

It was reported there had been the usual festive patrols with few incidents other than minor theft and shoplifting; much of which has since been detected. Members of the public were made aware of the hazards of drink-driving, and only a few incidents occurred. There being nothing more to report, the constables asked for any feedback from the Community Council. It was noted there had been a follow up e-mail received following the Police Report at the December meeting. Appreciation of the e-mail forwarded from PC Nicola Lock regarding the issues raised at the December meeting was expressed and the following items noted:

Speed checks in Drumoak - I have sent an email to PC Mark Camus who spoke to you about this in your meeting prior. He has been on annual leave so hopefully he can provide an update soon.

Burnt out vehicle - Slug Road - I was asked at the meeting to look into the abandoned burnt out vehicle on the Slug Road as it had been sitting there for a few months. I have checked and there was an incident raised on 02/12/2018 for the council to uplift and they were contacted. The council should have this in hand. The burnt out vehicle on the Slug Road has since been removed.

Community Speedcheck Initiatives - I have liaised with the duty Inspector and have been informed that there is no such initiative in this council area. There is nothing to suggest that this will be available soon either. Our station though is getting new laser cameras and more officers will be getting trained on these, which will provide more opportunity to carry out speed checks.

Local residents remain concerned about the speeding throughout the 40mph zone at Park, and a request was made to follow up an earlier discussion with Mark Camus regarding a speed check in this area. The residents are seeking to have the area rezoned as a 30mph limit, and the speed check is a requirement for this. The constables agreed to follow up this on behalf of the Community Council.

An interest in a Community Speedwatch was discussed, and it was agreed enquiries would be made as to the contact person within Aberdeen, and forwarded to David Morrish.



Responding to community needs

In response to a query regarding an update on Liam Smith, the constables confirmed enquiries are ongoing, and the operation is the responsibility of CID Aberdeen. There being no further questions, the constables left the meeting.