

## Chairpersons Report – AGM June 2019

This report covers the period from our last AGM in December 2017 until March 2019. The timing of this is caused by changing our constitution to fit in with the new Aberdeenshire scheme of establishment (SOE) for community councils, which required our financial year to end on 31 March and hold AGM's in June. Our community council has never had a full complement of councillors during my time and often struggled for numbers. To alleviate some issues, an interim modification was made to our long standing constitution in November 2017 to reduce the number required for a quorate meeting to 4 community councillors. This had a beneficial impact allowing us to make progress towards the SOE. In May 2018 we issued our new constitution according to the SOE template and we also agreed to defer the next AGM til June 2019.

During this period, we did manage to attract 2 new councillors in David Groundwater and Chris Charnley who both contributed. This was offset by work commitments to myself and others reducing perhaps the drive in some of the previous strategic initiatives such as road safety and communication.

In the spring of 2019 we launched our GDPR policy and initiated some actions to comply with this European legislation. Whilst we made progress to address on-going business we still need to address our historical contact lists and this is an outstanding action.

In this period, we were also involved with Aberdeenshire Council's strategic development plan for the next 10 years submitting our views on topics such as housing needs, economic development, infrastructure, renewable energy and social topics. We also fully involved our communities via social media on the next 5 year local development plans for both the Marr and K&M areas. This included participating in initial selections of preferred options and commenting on the main issues reports. I would like to thank Peter Renwick, David Morrish, Marion McNeil and Mark Ansell for their respective efforts.

A pleasing aspect of our activities was helping to award windfarm monies to local groups. In this session, we distributed funds to the following groups to benefit our communities:

Crathes Hall	Wall heaters
Durris Womens Institute	Operating costs
Maryculter Disabled Riding	Riding consumables
Crathes Castle	Defibrillator
Mesolithic Group	Geo devices
Parkrun	Start-up funding & defibrillator
Crathes Primary School	Fitness equipment / trim track

Thanks must go to Mark Ansell for managing this process and to MidHill ( Fred Olsen Renewables Ltd) for their donations to these causes and to their award of administration funds to CDD CC.

We had no major planning projects to deal with in this time, however the following were of concern.

In Durris the on-going saga of inadequate disposal of sewage was exacerbated by the new Kirkwood Homes development, when new occupiers overloaded the system. The situation created widespread local concern and needed the assistance of our local Councillors to escalate the situation to a government level to bring action on Scottish Water. The failing of the planning system to address the sewage issue at the planning stage is of concern and perhaps the wisdom of locating a new development in this location should be reviewed as the development is not selling well and has a number of other issues with the local community. We are also concerned about the number of additional planning consents awarded for this extremely rural location.

The sewage issue was also a criteria for the Stewart Milne development in Crathes, which was also misguided and prevented full development of the site in the Gardens at Crathes, which means local residents needing to

put up with disruption for more than 5 years. David Morrish organised a walk about to raise issues surrounding this development and road safety / speed inconsistencies in Crathes.

In early 2019 we were informed of the closure of the 100 year old listed Park Bridge. This is of great concern to the Drumoak and Durrus communities as it is an essential connector. The Post Office and Deeside Caravans have already noted a reduction in business. This too has been escalated to higher powers to try and create a better outcome.

We saw an improvement in broadband deployment in the area and especially in Durrus; we assisted in setting up and providing advice for using defibrillators in our area and we had a very successful turn-out for the “war is over” (100 year anniversary of the end of WW1) remembrance day on 11/11/18.

Whilst we await the outcome of the local development plans, we have been informed of proposals for a mountain bike/ outdoor activity centre in Durrus initiated by Netco / Gravitare and an extension to the Midhill windfarm and other onshore wind proposals along the neighbouring hills. Such developments will need community engagements as they generally create mixed viewpoints.

I am standing down after 2 and a half years as chair and I wish to thank the Aberdeenshire Councillors and fellow community councillors for their assistance and support, and I wish CDD CC the best for the future.

Attached Financial Summary

CRATHES, DRUMOAK & DURRIS COMMUNITY COUNCIL						
FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 1 NOVEMBER 2017 TIL 31 MARCH 2019 *						
		Note	Line	To 31/3/2019	2016/17	
INCOME						
Administration grant			1	£556.00	£556.00	
Other grants			2	£0.00	£203.26	
Windfarm Funds received	i		3	£14,610.00	£11,131.39	
Other income	ii		4	£759.00	£379.50	
Bank interest			5	£0.00	£0.00	
			Total	£15,925.00	£12,270.15	
EXPENDITURE						
Advertising			10	£0.00	£0.00	
Hire of halls			11	£100.00	£53.00	
Other expenditure(Min sec)			12	£140.00	£105.00	
Memberships			13	£0.00	£0.00	
Windfarm funds dispersed	i		14	£14,613.00	£11,131.39	
IT, Postage, photocopy etc	iii		15	£93.89	£128.84	
Fees (Legal, consultancy)			16	£0.00	£0.00	
Sundries			17	£0.00	£160.00	
			Total	£14,946.89	£11,578.23	
Surplus / Deficit				£978.11	£691.92	
REPRESENTED BY						
Cash in bank 31/3/19		26 April 19 statement	21	£4,785.71	£1,747.60	
Amounts falling due		iv	22	£2,100.00	£40.00	
Balance				£2,685.71	£1,707.60	
ASSETS						
Accumulated funds						
Opening balance			31	£1,707.60	£1,015.68	
Surplus / Deficit for period			32	£978.11	£691.92	
Inventory			33	£0.00		
Closing balance				£2,685.71	£1,707.60	
Notes						
*	The new Scheme for Community Councils required us to change financial year to end March.					
i	Funds received from windfarm operators and paid out.					
ii	Fees received by CDDCC for administering the windfarm funding process					
iii	Includes general admin, website, social media, printing, postage					
iv	£2100 funds received for Crathes in Flower. to be paid in April 19					