



Crathes Drumoak & Durris Community Council Monthly Meeting

Wednesday 13 November 2019 – Crathes Hall

MEETING MINUTES

1) Introductions & Apologies

Present:

Community Councillors:

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

Councillors:

Cllr Rosemary Bruce - Marr Area Ward 16
Cllr Ann Ross – Marr Area Ward 16
Cllr Wendy Agnew – K&M Area Ward 18

Council Officers:

Emma Storey, ASC Committee Officer

CDDCC Representatives

Marion McNeil – KDP rep.

Robert Moss – NTS Tree Mgt Plan rep.

Residents

Brian Jensen – Crathes

Apologies:

Cllr Dickinson, Cllr Durno, Cllr Robertson

2) Review and Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

The previous minutes were approved being proposed by Mark Ansell and seconded by Lynn Coull.

Outstanding Actions from the October Minutes:

Notice board for the Park Shop. The shop will be closing for winter. The Drumoak notice board has been located and is ready for collection. **Action: Peter Renwick**

3.2 VE Day. It was suggested that a piper play the Battle's O'er at 3pm for VE Day 75. The piper who played at the 2018 Remembrance event could be contacted to see if they are available. **Action: Peter Renwick to arrange with James O'Flynn**

Joyce suggested we could plant a tree at Durris War Memorial. **Action: Joyce Scott**

It was agreed that a final decision will be taken at the December CDDCC meeting. **Action: all**

3.3 Banchory PPG. Meeting scheduled for 12 November was cancelled, a new date will be rearranged.

3.5 Crown Estate. Cllr Ann Ross to follow up. **Action: Cllr Ann Ross.**

4.2 Reporting Crime. Peter highlighted the importance of reporting crime to the Police Scotland on the CDDCC Facebook page.

8.1 Drumoak & Durris Community Group Constitution. It was confirmed that there is no formal relationship between the CDDCC and Community Group.

8.2 Traffic lights. Cllr Ann Ross has reported the issue to the Roads Department.

Business Arising:

2.a.i NTS Crathes Tree Management Plan. Robert Moss, Crathes resident and ecologist attended for this item.

Chris Wardle from NTS had shared a consultation on a 10 year plan for forestry management in Crathes. Robert felt that more detail was required and agreed to follow up with Chris Wardle on behalf of the CDDCC. It was noted that under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, bird's nests are protected and rooks use their nests all year round. **Action: Robert Moss**

2.a.ii VE Day. See above.

2.a.iii Greener issues. Two groups cover the Marr & K&M area: Greener K&M and Deeside Can (an umbrella for several green organisations). David Morrish volunteered to be a rep/contact for the CDDCC in respect of green issues and agreed to find out what initiatives are ongoing. **Action: David Morrish**

Tree planting was discussed and the possibility of planting them on the Dunecht & Crathes estates

2.a.iv Drumoak & Durris Community Group Constitution. See above



2.a.v Gravitare Update Planning. Gravitare offered to attend a CDDCC meeting and it was agreed that they should do this once their plans are more developed. They are presently discussing land ownership with the Forestry Commission.

3) Secretary's Report and Correspondence

The report was circulated prior to the meeting. The following items were highlighted:

- Chap Quarry Planning Permission clarification. Cllr Dickinson is progressing this matter with the Planning Enforcement Officer.
- Housing to 2040 – Community Council engagement. Conferences on how to achieve carbon neutrality are taking place in Peterhead & Dundee if members would like to attend.
- Bancon – Lochside of Leys Masterplan. It was agreed that Bancon can keep us informed and are not required to attend a CC meeting.

4) Police Reports

A report was received from Kincardine & Mearns and is to be published on the CDDCC website.

5) Community Updates

a. Park Bridge

- i. A written update was shared summarising the sub-committee meeting where the history of the bridge and its maintenance was discussed. Local MPs, MSPs and election candidates have been communicated with to obtain their support.
- ii. Derek Mackay, MSP & Finance Secretary for Scotland confirmed that the matter of funding for Park Bridge is for Aberdeenshire Council to manage. The sub-group have written to Jim Savage, Chief Executive for Aberdeenshire Council and expect to receive a response by 14 November. The next step will be for members of the sub-committee to meet with Jim. If the Council works in partnership with the community, funding from Historic Environment Scotland could be applied for. **Action: Sub-Committee**
- iii. The Road Asset Management Plan for Aberdeenshire had been reviewed and it was noted that 500% of the available funding would be required to maintain roads and bridges to current levels. All other options in the plan would make overall maintenance more affordable by

excluding bridges on C class roads and those over 5 metres wide, such as Park Bridge, from being maintained.

- iv. Concerns exist about the timescales given that the bridge was closed in February and should not be closed for more than 18 months yet no decisions have been made as to how to proceed
- v. The Councillors present reminded the CC that decisions on funding were made based on the resources available which are limited.
- vi. Cllr Wendy Agnew wrote to Stephen Archer, Director of Infrastructure Services who clarified that opening the bridge to vehicular traffic remains an option depending on the available budget.

b. Vehicle access to recycling centres.

The new permit scheme comes into force in April 2020. A query was raised about towing a trailer as it is a 'type 2' vehicle & only one type 2 vehicle can be registered per household. If the household uses another type 2 vehicle to tow the trailer i.e. a van, pick-up truck or minibus it is not allowed in under the scheme. It was agreed that the Community Council would raise this anomaly with Aberdeenshire Council's infrastructure services.

Action: David Morrish.

c. Green Space Upkeep – Drumoak Weeds

An email was received by a Drumoak resident who felt the wild flowers planted this year were "like weeds". It was noted that wild flowers require a degree of maintenance and this was the first year the Council planted them. It was suggested that residents could take on the management of the planted areas. Anne to link in with the Drumoak Community Group to see if they will do this.

Action: Anne Shearer.

6) Finance

- a. There has been no activity in the bank account.
- b. Mid Hill Fund Applications
It was agreed that guidelines/criteria for awarding funding consistently should be updated and circulated. **Action: Mark Ansell**

The balance of the Fund is £16,749 and will not receive another deposit until September/October 2020.

The 6 outstanding applications were discussed and it was unanimously agreed to award the following:



- Maryculter Driving for the Disabled Group - £1000.
- Interactive Whiteboard replacement for Durris School's third classroom - £1911
- Repointing of External walls of Durris Hall - £3000.
- Deeside Rugby Club, Contribution to cost of planned new Clubhouse - £1000.

Total - £6,911

It was agreed not to award at this stage:

- Redecoration of the Durris Hall and other rooms: Preparation, paint and varnish. No award at this stage because Durris Hall is a beneficiary above.
- Publish a history book on Durris, authored by Robin Jackson of Drumoak. Assistance with printing costs requested. No award at this stage and request further information on costs and profit from author. **Action Mark Ansell**

7) Planning & Planning Applications

Mark Ansell contacted Bruce Stewart, Acting Area Manager for Kincardine & Mearns regarding the approval of planning applications at Upper Balfour in Durris. Bruce agreed to respond to Mark prior to the CDDCC meeting but the matter remains outstanding. **Action: Emma Storey to remind Bruce Stewart**

Planning applications were summarised. Crathes had 3 with none in either Durris or Drumoak. No issues identified.

8) AOB

David Morrish asked for an update on the proposed traffic island in the middle of the A93 between the bus stops near Crathes Hall. Cllrs Bruce and Ross thought that it may have been decided that a crossing did not meet criteria and Cllr Ross agreed to follow up to clarify. **Action: Cllr Ann Ross**

Emma Storey advised Community Councillors that the K&M CC Forum date has changed to 28 November, 19.00 at Mackie Academy.

There is a planning training session to be held on 21 November, 19.00 at Banchory Academy.

The Post Office at Drumoak will be closing temporarily from 8 December. A mobile Post Office will visit until the New Year.

Marr Area Committee voted to introduce a 40 mph limit on the A93 at Milton of Crathes. It was noted that the CC would like this limit to extend to the existing 40 mph area at Crathes junction. Councillors advised that the criteria was not met to do this but that the bends in the road should ensure that cars are travelling slower between the two speed limit areas.

Next Meeting: 1930hrs on Wednesday 11th December 2019 at the Durris Kirkton Hall.

The meeting closed at 21.35 hours

MOM DISTRIBUTION:

By email

- CDDCC Website: Peter Renwick
- CDDCC Members: email
- Councillors: email
- Police Liaison – Marr (Banchory): email 'BanchoryMidDeesideCPT@Scotland.pnn.police.uk'
- Police Liaison – K&M (Stonehaven): email to Donna Kelly
- Area Committee – Marr: email to Alison McLeod – Area Mgr Marr
- Area Committee – K&M: email to Emma Storey – Committee Officer K&M
- KDP Liaison: email to Marion McNeil
- DDCG Website: Anne Shearer

Hard Copy:

- Crathes Hall – Notice Board:
- Durris Kirkton Hall – Notice Board: Mark Ansell
- Drumoak Church Hall – Notice Board: via Marion McNeil
- Drumoak Post Office: Notice Board: via Marion McNeil
- Drumoak – Park Shop: closed