



Crathes Drumoak & Durris Community Council Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 14th October 2020 – Virtual Meeting Via Google

MINUTES

1) Attendees and Apologies

Present:

Community Councillors:

- Peter Renwick – Chair & Crathes rep.
- Mark Ansell – Treasurer & Durris rep.
- Anne Shearer – Drumoak rep.
- Joyce Scott – Durris rep.
- David Morrish – Crathes rep.
- Phillippa Jensen- Crathes rep.
- Lynn Coull – Drumoak rep.

Councillors:

Banchory & Mid-Deeside - Marr Area, Ward 16:

- Cllr Ann Ross

Stonehaven & Lower Deeside – K&M Area, Ward 18:

- Cllr Sarah Dickinson
- Cllr Wendy Agnew

Other:

Kenneth Gordon – member of public

Apologies notified:

- Cllr Dennis Robertson
- Cllr Rosemary Bruce
- Cllr Sandy Wallace
- Emma Storey, ASC Committee Officer

With 6 community councillors present, the meeting was declared quorate.

2) Annual Report- Chair

Peter Renwick presented his Report at this AGM in October 2020, 4 months after the intended date. The delay was due to the Covid-19 pandemic restrictions. Several aspects of this AGM have been relaxed. e.g. there will be no elections, but we may co-opt additional councillors (up to 4 more).

Peter gave a summary of the year's activities including those relating to COVID -19, Park Bridge, Planning & Park Quarry and Environmental issues.



He welcomed Anne Shearer, Joyce Scott and Philippa Jenson as new elected Councillors and also Lynn Coull who was co-opted to join the team.

Following his choice to stand down as Secretary, he thanked Chris Charnley for all his efforts and also the Aberdeenshire Councillors and officials for all their help during the year.

3) Financial Report- Treasurer

Mark Ansell presented the Financial report for the period 1st April 2019 – 31st March 2020.

He pointed out that apparent deficit of £673.50 was due to the timing of payments in and out and that the actual closing balance was £4.112.21.

4) Nominations for Community Councillors

Due to COVID-19, no elections are to be held this year.

No nominations have been received to date for people to be co-opted on to the Community Council.

5) Appointment of Office Bearers

Peter Renwick agreed to continue as Chair. Proposed by David Morrish, seconded by Mark Ansell.

Mark Ansell agreed to continue as Treasurer. Proposed by David Morrish, seconded by Lynn Coull.

There were no nominations for Secretary so this position remains vacant.

All other existing Community Councillors have agreed to remain.

6) AOB

Kenneth Gordon has accepted the position of Minutes Secretary on a 3-month trial basis. His appointment was proposed by David Morrish and seconded by Philippa Jensen.



Chairperson's Report 2019-2020

This report is written for our AGM in October 2020, 4 months after the intended date. The delay was due to the Covid-19 pandemic restrictions. Several aspects of this AGM have been relaxed. e.g. there will be no elections, but we may co-opt additional councillors (up to 4 more).

In this very eventful year, I would like to take you back to our last AGM in June 2019, where we failed to retain sufficient community councillors to form a valid community council. However with the help of Emma Storey from the K&M office we re-advertised and were able to gain 3 new elected community councillors and co-opt one more. So we welcome Anne Shearer, Joyce Scott, Philippa Jenson and Lynn Coull who was co-opted to join our team. My thanks go to Mark Ansell, David Morrish and Chris Charnley for their continued support and stepping up to help me by filling the official positions.

Our CC was re-formed and held its first meeting in September 2019. The face to face meetings were very useful to help the new councillors become familiar and we set about addressing some of the major topics we faced.

Park Bridge

This had become a major issue with its closure in the spring of 2019. One of the first events was the public discussions organised by Aberdeenshire's Bridge Engineers in Durris and Drumoak. This set the case for a series of exchanges where overwhelmingly the community wished the bridge to be repaired to allow light vehicles to cross but Aberdeenshire Council appeared to favour closing it to all vehicles. At the time of writing this is still unresolved. There have been delays initially due to extreme flooding impacting 6 bridges in the King Edward area, then in March we faced the Covid-19 lockdown.

Covid-19

Like all communities, we had to completely alter our way of life to react to the threat of Covid-19. Fortunately, the health of our community was not severely impacted and we all became familiar at communicating with online tools such as Skype and Google.

What the pandemic forced us to do was to engage more with our communities – and in particular stronger ties were made with the Drumoak & Durris Group and the various networks in all 3 areas were used to a) signpost messages about help that was available to address Covid-19, b) share information and c) enhance our sense of community.

Our website and Facebook pages were more frequently updated and the number of visitors is increasing.

We created our first Community Resilience Plan to respond to emergencies, which has been documented and lodged with Aberdeenshire Council.

One negative impact of Covid-19 was the behaviour of people in and around the Glebe and the River Dee after lockdown restrictions were lifted. We hope that what happened this year was a one-off and will not be repeated. However it did trigger several actions to improve parking restrictions and signage at the Glebe to prevent antisocial parking and overnight camping and wild fires.



Co-ordination of Covid measures by Aberdeenshire Council was excellent and the setting up of the Grampian hub was a good success. CDD CC saw its role primarily to signpost information and to co-ordinate requests for help or offers of help.

Planning & Park Quarry

In 2020 the LDP for 2021-2025 was concluded, with a modest increase in housing noted in Drumoak but no further developments in Durris or Crathes which had seen some major developments, which were not without issues, in the last planning periods. We hope that that remains the case.

The owners of Park Quarry continue to attempt to find alternative uses for their facility despite assurances at the beginning of the life of the quarry that a commitment was given to return it to agricultural land. The owners again attempted to propose a housing development which was again “not preferred” in the LDP review. Furthermore, in April 2020, we received notice of a proposal to site a bottom ash processing plant next door to the quarry on quarry land, which would process ash from the household waste incinerator being built at East Tullos. We had several meetings on this topic and pointed out how important the River Dee is ecologically, and also the impending closure of Park Quarry. Whilst acknowledging that such a facility is needed, the proposed location is entirely unsuitable in our views.

Strategic Focus Areas - Environmental Aspects

Before Covid, the biggest threat to us and indeed the world, was environmental and this was one of our intended focus areas. The last 3 years have seen record temperatures and long dry spells, followed by extreme events such as the flash floods last autumn (and this year with Storm Alex). We endeavoured to support green initiatives such as tree planting, flower planting, reducing use of plastic, reducing litter / dog poo bags etc.. It is my hope that we renew these in the coming year and build on one of the few benefits of the lockdown where people used their vehicles less and walked/cycled more.

To conclude, I would like to thank our elected Councillors for their input, particularly those who regularly attended our meetings, to Aberdeenshire officials for their support and help in areas where we are not so familiar and to the community councillors who have stepped up to the plate and contributed enormously. It is with regret that Chris Chamley chose to step down and I would like to thank him for his efforts as Secretary and representing Crathes.

Peter Renwick
Chair CDD CC
10.10.2020



CRATHES, DRUMOAK & DURRIS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 1ST APRIL 2019 TIL 31 MARCH 2020

INCOME	Note	Line	To 3/2020	To 3/2019
Administration grant		1	£1,165.00	£556.00
Other grants		2	£0.00	£0.00
Windfarm Funds received	i	3	£9,479.50	£14,610.00
Other income	ii	4	£0.00	£759.00
Bank interest		5	£0.00	£0.00
Total			£10,644.50	£15,925.00
EXPENDITURE				
Advertising		10	£0.00	£0.00
Hire of halls		11	£128.00	£100.00
Other expenditure (Min sec)		12	£0.00	£140.00
Memberships		13	£0.00	£0.00
Windfarm funds dispersed	i	14	£11,150.00	£12,513.00
IT, Postage, photocopy etc	iii	15	£0.00	£93.89
Fees (Legal, consultancy)		16	£0.00	£0.00
Sundries		17	£0.00	£0.00
Data Protection	iv	18	£40.00	£0.00
Total			£11,318.00	£12,846.89
Surplus / Deficit			-£673.50	£3,078.11

REPRESENTED BY

Cash in bank	31 March 20 statement	21	£4,120.21	£4,785.71
Amounts falling due		22	£0.00	£0.00
Balance			£4,120.21	£4,785.71

ASSETS

Accumulated funds				
Opening balance		31	£4,785.71	£1,707.60
Surplus / Deficit for period		32	-£673.50	£3,078.11
Inventory		33	£0.00	£0.00
Closing balance			£4,112.21	£4,785.71

Notes

- i Funds received (and dispersed) from windfarm operators or Aberdeenshire Council for community projects (£2100 received 2018/19; dispersed 2019/20)
- ii Fees received by CDOCC for administering the windfarm funding process (2019/20 fee will be received in year 2020/21)
- iii Includes website, social media, printing, postage
- iv Data Protection Registration Department, annual fee

I verify that the above accounts have been compiled from the available books and records and explanations for the stated period:

Signed Mark Ansell 10 Oct 20
Mark Ansell (Treasurer) Date

Peter Rerwick (Chair person) Date

Signed John Smith 10 Oct 20
Date

Designation

Organisation

Address

Telephone