



## Crathes Drumoak & Durris Community Council Monthly Meeting

Wednesday 9th February

2022 – Google Video Conference

### DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

#### 1) INTRODUCTIONS & APOLOGIES

##### Present:

##### Community Councillors and Guests:

Peter Renwick – Chair and Crathes rep.  
 Jules Wood – Drumoak rep.  
 David Edgar – Durris rep.  
 Mark Ansell – Treasurer and Durris rep.  
 David Morrish – Crathes rep.  
 Philippa Jensen – Crathes rep.  
 Anne Shearer – Drumoak rep.  
 Lynn Coull – Drumoak rep.  
 Marc Camus – Police Scotland  
 Alan Turner- candidate Councillor

##### Councillors:

Cllr Wendy Agnew  
 Cllr Sarah Dickinson  
 Cllr Rosemary Bruce  
 Cllr Ann Ross

Minutes – Jules Wood

##### Apologies notified:

Cllr Dennis Robertson

The meeting was declared quorate.

##### 1) Introduction

PR welcomed everyone to the meeting.

#### 2) REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Mark Ansell proposed the December minutes for approval.

David Morrish seconded them.

##### a) Actions & Matters Arising from December

- **Glebe Park Signs**  
One sign is now in place. Further progress hampered by the weather; commitment still ongoing. **Action: LC**
- **Developer Obligations & Affordable Housing.** DM submitted a response on behalf of the CDDCC.
- **Durris School** issue with completion of green space behind school and developer

lack of action (Kirkwood Homes). No official response to queries from Cllr Robertson received to date. However, Yi-pei Chou communicated via Cllr Dickinson that some minor landscaping work has begun.

- **Park Quarry.** Invitation to attend online presentation. Refer to section 5d.
- **Fatal Traffic accident near Mains of Drum.** Request for further information. Information to be provided at next meeting. **ACTION PC CAMUS.**
- **Paths (DM/DE)** DE to contact Jo Duck re paths. ASC Matthew Watt having an onsite meeting to view Woodlands to Kirkton of Durris route. DM, DE walked the Kirkton to Crathes section to establish what would be needed to progress the path.
- **Feedback on triage system at Banchory Practise.** PJ reported that a patient participation group has been set up.
- **Mossie Farm** Planning Appl to convert steading to commercial storage unit. CC objected. Planning refused as there is no evidence to back up their claim that the premises has been used as such in the preceding 10 years.
- **Drumlea Residents Rewilding Project.** Approved and money has been received.

#### 3) SECRETARY'S REPORT and CORRESPONDENCE

##### Actionable Correspondence

- Multiple emails on Storms Arwen, Malik and Corrie. See 5a.
- Multiple emails on Queens Platinum Jubilee. See 5b
- **8<sup>th</sup> December** Keithmuir Park maintenance. The goal posts have been repaired/replaced. ASC did not initiate this repair and it remains unclear who did.
- **9<sup>th</sup> December** Paths Network email from James Davidson. **ACTION DE**



- **10<sup>th</sup> December** email re planning Midhill Windfarm extension. CC chose not to comment. Outcome unknown.
- **11<sup>th</sup> December** Dr Alum, a local resident emailed complaining about traffic on B9077. No acknowledgement re truck movements from Park Quarry. MA replied to his email but no further response.
- **11<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> December** Response to ASC re Developer Obligations and affordable housing. DM
- **13<sup>th</sup> December** Exchange with Jo Duck re paths along A93 corridor. **ACTION DE**
- **14<sup>th</sup> December.** Nov Police report for Lower Deeside received.
- **15<sup>th</sup> December** Application for funds from Drumlea Residents approved via email. Funds have been paid.
- **15<sup>th</sup> December** Email Ken Duncan re approved funding increases for infrastructure.
- **20<sup>th</sup> December** KDP notification of successful Mickle Carew applications. Drum otters, the only application from our area was partially funded. AS commented that we really need to push the availability of funding as we are lagging considerably behind other areas in applications.
- **20<sup>th</sup> December** Issue of Draft Minutes and Discussion on MS Teams Costs. Further discussion and investigation into costs is required.
- **31<sup>st</sup> December** K & M Planning RE Surface Water **W of D.** Still ongoing, no fault accepted by ASC planners. There appears to be a lack of rigorous assessment. MA referred the issue to the ombudsman and will feedback in due course. It would appear the three plots are contributing to the problems. **ACTION MA.**
- **1<sup>st</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> January and 2<sup>nd</sup> February.** Increase in officer powers for planning decisions and lack of community. Paul Davidson (Inverurie CC) highlighted a major change we should be aware of, the need for 10 individual objections to any small-scale Planning Application. In a rural setting this almost certainly won't be the case and as such the application will not be referred to area committee for further consideration. AR said that an individual with objections to a planning application should communicate this with the community council.
- **7<sup>th</sup> January** ASC re opportunity to plant more herbaceous flowers. Email forwarded to CIF.
- **10<sup>th</sup> January** PJ responded to Marr Storm Arwen resilience survey.
- **11<sup>th</sup> January** December Police report for lower Deeside received.
- **11<sup>th</sup> January** Piers Blaxter invite to comment on changes to LDP. We rely on main issues reports which will not be used in future. PR raised questions to ASC.
- **13<sup>th</sup> January** Durris cemetery upkeep. Email sent to ASC by DE.
- **13<sup>th</sup> January** DE email to MA & DM re continual problems with drainage in W of D. A blocked culvert is leading to surface water and erosion. Issue is ongoing.
- **14<sup>th</sup> January** First meeting re Park Bridge with Infrastructure Services Director Alan Wood. See 5c.
- **14<sup>th</sup> January** Roads Policy Consultation re EV charging and Tourism signs. Improvement needed, currently no EV charge points at the local large Tesco.
- **17<sup>th</sup> January** Payment of ICO GDPR fees.
- **20<sup>th</sup> January** Vacancies at ASC Outdoor Forum.
- **25<sup>th</sup> January** Letter from A. Burnett re Ofcon and R100 broadband initiative. Everyone in the area is to have access to high-speed broadband by 2023. The initiative was not widely reported in the press.
- **25<sup>th</sup> January** Invite to Park Quarry public consultation on 31<sup>st</sup> Jan. MA attended. 5d.
- **26<sup>th</sup> January** Chance for CC to write a piece for the DDCG. **ACTION PR.**
- **27<sup>th</sup> January** KDP board. A replacement is required for Marion McNeill. Robyn Campbell, a keen member of the DDCG is a potential for the role. DM suggested we co-opt her to the CC and request she report back to us once a quarter. **ACTION AS** will ask and feedback.
- **1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> February** Invite to vote for improved sport and leisure infrastructure in Stonehaven Participatory Budgeting Process £1.8 million available
- **3<sup>rd</sup> February** Notice of creation of a digital engagement team to support R100 initiative.
- **3<sup>rd</sup> February** Letter received from secretary of Andrew Bowie MP re response to recent storms.
- **4<sup>th</sup> February** police edition of business watch.
- **4<sup>th</sup> February** Agenda for K&M CC forum response to queries raised in last meeting.
- **7<sup>th</sup> February** RBS complaint registered by MA.
- **8<sup>th</sup> February** Lower Deeside Police report for January.



- **8<sup>th</sup> February** Request from Marr for a Resilience contact with an analogue phone. **ACTION PR.** Crathes exchange to be digital very shortly (AR). Concerns were expressed about the effects of this on the vulnerable and elderly especially in light of the recent issues with storms.
- **8<sup>th</sup> February** Letter from Lord Lieutenant of Aberdeenshire re Queens Platinum Jubilee. **CC to respond.**

#### 4) POLICE REPORTS

December and January Reports.

PC Camus provided a summary highlighting the main points. Anti-social behaviour reports in January were particularly high numbering 66, three times that seen in December. Thefts in the area included a quad bike and a caravan. There were 3 incidents of drunk driving and one report of careless driving. Several new locations of concern regarding speeding have been highlighted by the community. PC Camus asked that the CC communicate to the public that contacting the police should be via the email at the bottom of his report. This will achieve a much faster response.

[StonehavenLowerDeesideCPT@Scotland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:StonehavenLowerDeesideCPT@Scotland.pnn.police.uk)

Cllr Ross communicated that there had been two homes broken into, one in Banchory and one in Lumphanan. Banchory Police rarely send out bulletins and Cllr Ross asked if PC Camus could look into combining reports. PC Camus said he would look to see what could be done.

#### 5) COMMUNITY UPDATES

##### a) Storms

Following on from previous discussions both MA and DM are liaising with hall committees re looking into purchasing generators for both the Durris and Crathes halls respectively. Funds to aid this may be available through the area committee budget (fund in the order of £80,000). Cllr Dickenson said this fund usually requires matched funding but that things may have altered in the light of Covid which has prevented many groups from fund raising.

DM highlighted that the Banchory CC Resilience Plan is excellent and may have some ideas for us to take on board in terms of improving our

communication and rapidly identifying those who may need help.

##### b) Queens Jubilee

Beacons, garden parties and tree planting have been suggested as suitable means of marking the Queen's Jubilee. The DDCG are planning to have a bonfire though the details of where and when are yet to be established. Beacons were generally thought to be a good idea but difficulties would arise in deciding on locations, getting fuel to said location (particularly if it's up a hill), the need for liability insurance, the potential need for the fire brigade and the fact that its light till around 11pm in June.

PR has asked the hall committees if they are planning any events, as yet no response.

##### c) Park Bridge (AS)

Following on from meetings chaired by Alan Wood, Head of infrastructure services and attended by, amongst others, AS, Cllr Agnew, Cllr Dickenson and MA, AS reported that A. Wood will see if he can commission an independent structural assessment. Currently the council have budgeted 750,000 to refurbish the deck but intend to keep the bridge closed. An independent assessment which is then independently verified will settle the matter as to whether or not the bridge can take light traffic.

- d) **Park Quarry** MA attended an onsite meeting to discuss noise and traffic. No new information was forthcoming regarding truck movements. An assessment of noise, made prior to the new machinery being commissioned confirmed that the quarry is operating within the limits set. Reinstatement of the west side of the quarry to begin in spring. MA suggested we have a site visit then to observe the progress.

**Road Safety Survey** DM presented the survey results. 170 responses received. PR to close the survey within the next 2 days. The distribution of responses indicated that all three areas had input. PR will request a meeting with ASC roads department to discuss the results. Cllr Dickenson suggested we contact Area Manager Bruce Stewart to ensure he was up to speed on the concerns and to solicit his support but also to take the matter direct to Alan Wood as Director



given the priority this represented to the community.

## **6) FINANCE**

The Crathes Drumoak and Durriss Community Council bank balance remains very healthy at £6144.44

Evaluation sheets were circulated for 5 applications received in December and January for the Mid Hill Fund. All applications were considered worthy of support by all the community councillors and a unanimous vote was recorded. PR abstained from voting on the Crathes in Flower application as an interested party.

Summary of Applications:

40 Gravitate North East request to purchase hand tools and PPE for use by volunteers on track clearing on the Durriss forest project. **£2000**

41 Drumoak and Durriss Playgroup (Crossroads Nursery) to train 2 staff- risk/first aid- to enable playgroup to get going again, also 6months rent for nursery premises. **£1698**

42 Durriss School, purchase of iPad (4) and Chromebooks (5) to supplement unsupported examples they still use, and allow new apps to run. **£2175**

43 Crathes in Flower purchase and planting of Christmas Tree, and lights/batteries for 3 years. **£167**

44 Mesolithic Deeside; to test 2 organic samples excavated from Crathes dig. They have 3 samples for analyses and funding for 1, from Marr Area. **£756**

## **Total £6796**

The Midhill fund stands at £18,790, so with the above subtracted, we still have £11994 for the remainder of 2022.

MA commented that the flyer on the website for the windfarm fund remains accurate but that he intends to update it with some new factual information.

## **7) PLANNING & PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

### **a. Applications to 9<sup>th</sup> February 2022**

Approved and new applications were circulated in advance of the meeting. There was nothing of any concern and no objections were raised. DM declined to comment on his own application for the erecting of a garage.

The change of use from Agricultural building to Class 6 (storage and distribution) at Mosside Farm Drumoak was refused.

## **8) Strategic Initiatives**

PR had previously stated the CCs focus on the three strategies identified.

- a) **Green Initiatives/Climate Change**
- b) **Succession/Recruitment**
- c) **Living with Covid**

## **9) AOB**

- Next meeting Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> March 19.30

The meeting closed at 21.26 hrs