



Crathes Drumoak & Durris Community Council Monthly Meeting

Wednesday 11th October 2023

APPROVED OCT MEETING MINUTES

1. INTRODUCTIONS & APOLOGIES

Present:

Community and Aberdeenshire Councillors:

David Morrish (DM) – Crathes rep
Anne Shearer (AS) - Drumoak rep
Les Oliver (LO)
Jules Wood (JW) – Drumoak rep.
Shaun Falcus (SF) – Durris rep
Mark Ansell (MA) – Treasurer and Durris rep.
Lynn Coull (LC) – Drumoak rep
Joanna Prystupa – not present

Not present:-

David Edgar (DE)– Chair and Durris rep. – apologies sent.

Councillors:

Cllr Alan Turner (in person)
Cllr Wendy Agnew (in person – arrived 7.50pm)
Cllr Ann Ross (in person)
Cllr Yi-Pei Turvey (on-line – stayed until 8.45pm)
Cllr Dawn Black (on-line)

Not present:

Cllr Sarah Dickinson (apologies given at last meeting)
Cllr Eileen Durno (on annual leave)

Minutes:-

Sharon Hauxwell (SH)

The meeting was declared quorate (minimum, at current CC membership is 3).

2. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

a) Approval of Minute of Meeting (Sept 2023)



3rd bullet point on Park Bridge – “not possible due to width of bridge” – delete this.
Once above change made, AS proposed, LO seconded.

b) Actions & Matters Arising from Sept meeting not mentioned below

Grass cutting Drumoak – Cllr Black confirmed that she had received an email from Ken Reagan. He had explained that because of timings of budget cuts (50% reduction) the department didn't have time to plan effectively, and operatives literally did what was essentially required (from a safety perspective).

She had been advised that in the future, there will be 3 or so options for the Council to decide upon and adopt. These options offer varying degrees of verge and green space cutting/leaving wild etc. Once the options are clarified communities could, together with AC, plan and agree what level of cutting and where can be achieved within the newly allocated reduced budgets.

All of these options will be discussed by AC in next few months and when a decision is made, they will let Cllr Black know.

Cllr Anne Ross mentioned that the cutting of the grass verges has been transferred to landscape service instead of roads.

Cllr Black suggested that if there were specific areas that Drumoak residents want to plant wildflowers and keep wild spaces we should detail this to landscape services.

LC/JW/SF

LC and JW will look at a map of Drumoak with help of SF and contact either Neil West or Ken Reagan (Ewan Wallace – their manager) to discuss the possibility of leaving some areas to become wild. Alexander Scott is the contact for Crathes.

Bulb Planting – Tatjana – waiting on clarification on this.

3) SECRETARY'S REPORT and CORRESPONDENCE

Nothing from document discussed.

4) Police Reports

Cllr Ross – reported been a diesel theft in Drumoak and house break in's in Newton Hill. Also reported there has been an increase in graffiti at the bridge in Milton and unpleasant activities been reported.

5) COMMUNITY UPDATES

a) Road Safety Subgroup

DE not present at meeting but sent an email update in advance confirming: -

Email sent today 10/10 to Tim and Ross, with the updated document, noting issues with regards to mud / stones on the road and overgrown vegetation. Also requested some dates for our next meeting ahead of Christmas.

Suggest we look at setting up a subgroup meeting before our November meeting to regroup and discuss items from last month's meeting and the ongoing spreadsheet that Tim and Ross are working from.



LC received a generic letter from Andrew Bowie regarding road safety in Drumoak. Asking for residents to share. LC will let him know what the CC has been working on. **LC**

Cllr Ross has also reported to the police about speeding contractors' vans on the 50K.

b) Park Quarry/Nether Park Quarry

Nothing to report at this stage.

c) The Glebe

MA met with Fiona Banks on 25th Sept and landscape services – hopefully BBQ stands x 4, 2 Interpretation boards and more signage will all be going up in the next couple of weeks. They suggested we could plant more bulbs down in this area too. Now also have 2 x bins at the riverside.

d) Park Bridge

AS confirmed that she had written to Donald with key points and he has come back with a reply.

An updated report had been reissued today with a more positive outlook.

AS confirmed that we have now had confirmation that the £750,000.000 that was allocated to Park Bridge is still in the budget. There was a lot of discussion as to what this money is for and where it comes from. Cllr Turner understands this money was allocated for 'Active Travel'. This was not the understanding of Cllr Agnew and Cllr Ross. Cllr Black will take this forward to get clarity on what the £750,00.00 has been allocated.

Cllr Black

AS asked Cllr Turner what he can do to ensure we get Park Bridge open again. He confirmed that it is not that he doesn't want this to happen, it just he cannot commit to anything now. He needs to fully understand what the new report that has been issued is advising. It was also discussed that Aberdeenshire Council are currently reviewing budgets hence the sensitivity with respect to the £750K budget. Budgets will be set between now and February and made public in March.

It was agreed that AS will write to MP and MSP to make sure they are supporting the reopening of Park Bridge. She will ask them to write to Aberdeenshire Council to make sure the money that was allocated to Park Bridge remains there.

AS

AS will also push for a meeting with Donald to not only look at the report but also budgets.

AS

MA confirmed that we can offer use of Kirkton of Durris hall for an in-person meeting.

The Community Council is asking that all our councillors including Cllr Turner support us in the re-opening of Park Bridge to traffic.

e) Community Path Network. Kirkton of Durris – Woodlands of Durris Core Path Connection.

DE was not present in person but did send the following update by email:-

Action for DE / MA to arrange a meeting with Fiona Robertson from Forest Land Scotland, Murray Swapp from Aberdeenshire Council and Deryck Forbes to look at moving the path forward.

DE/MA

Agreements need to be made on what kind of path we want to run between the forests, as this will allow FLS to advise on what level of responsibility / maintenance they will take.



Responding to community needs

In the short term, whilst things are agreed Deryck, I think we could look to arrange a couple of volunteer days, using hand tools to cut back trees and open up paths in both Kirkton and Woodlands wood.

Local Access Officer Updates (26th Sept) -

Cedar Avenue, Woodlands – Fiona Chapman conducted a site visit on 26th July and a further one is planned, this is still a live case that she is working on. No further information shared.

Hill of Fare, Car Parking – Fiona has received several enquiries relating to parking at Raemoir House, however the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003, does not include motorised access and therefore this issue is out with her remit and would be a civil matter.

Milton of Crathes Football Pitches – For Fiona to look into this matter (locked gate / access between to estates), if we want her to, an access issue form needs to be completed and submitted.

LO – will take onboard to find out where football club are in terms of path.

LO

Suggested Action DM / LO to take a look at path and form and see what if anything we need to raise?

MA will contact Derek Forbes again.

MA

Cllr Black meeting with Dunecht estates on Thursday. Not our contact but will give them a nudge on our behalf.

Cllr Black

f) Proposed Hill of Fare Windfarm

Have seen banners in the community. DM has 2 x banners to put up. Looking for areas in Crathes. Keen to put it at the end of the South Deeside Road at junction with Slug Road – Cllr Yei Pei suggested you go through the Aberdeenshire website to request this. DM will look into this.

DM

Ruth Liddicoat email – saying need to wait for planning application before being able to put formal objections to this. Due anytime. Will get hard copies first which will go into The Bancjory and Alford libraries for the public to view. RES has been asked to supply 6 hard copies to be lodged with the various CCs. No response has been received to that request,

g) Proposed new 400KV Overhead Line SSEN

Email came into today. General update. What they have done so far.

6) FINANCE

a) Applications

Update on finance was circulated by email.

MA got confirmation on money received – included admin costs and costs for BBQ stands.

MA believes this was too much so will go back again to query

MA

2 x applications from Midhill funds – Drumoak School for garden shed and materials, to construct a sheltered area in outdoor learning space and Drumoak and Durris Warm Space for hire of bowling club. All agreed to support them both. Just need to know how much we are going to get until we can make a final decision on these. MA will also contact both applicants them re the K & M fund

MA



2 further applications this week. Banchory Trampoline Club and Durris. Although the trampoline club are based in Banchory they have a lot of Drumoak and Crathes children attending. Looking for funds to replace run up carpet.

7) PLANNING & PLANNING APPLICATIONS

a) Planning in our Community (Organic Growth etc.)

Paul Macari meeting – didn't happen due to Jury duty commitments. MA has requested more meeting date suggestions.

b) *Validated*

Reference	APP/2023/1708
Alternative Reference	100637312-003
Application Received	Tue 12 Sep 2023
Application Validated	Tue 19 Sep 2023
Address	Store At Mosside Drumoak Aberdeenshire
Proposal	Change of Use from Class 6 (Storage and Distribution) to Class 5 (General Industrial)
Status	Awaiting decision
Appeal Status	Unknown
Appeal Decision	Not Available
Local Review Body Status	Not Available
Local Review Body Decision	Not Available

Reference	APP/2023/1809
Alternative Reference	100632020-003
Application Received	Tue 26 Sep 2023
Application Validated	Tue 03 Oct 2023
Address	Bogenraith Equestrian Ltd Durris Banchory Aberdeenshire AB31 6DS
Proposal	Erection of 5 Modular Units for Short Term Letting Accommodation
Status	Awaiting decision
Appeal Status	Unknown
Appeal Decision	Not Available
Local Review Body Status	Not Available
Local Review Body Decision	Not Available

Both had been discussed before. May be worth making a comment regarding the industrial unit at Mosside. AS will do this.

AS



Approved

Alterations and Extension to Dwellinghouse

Aspen Villa Durris Banchory Aberdeenshire AB31 6BX

Ref. No: APP/2023/1525 | Received: Tue 15 Aug 2023 | Validated: Mon 21 Aug 2023 | Status: Decided

Erection of 5 Modular Units for Short Term Letting Accommodation

Bogenraith Durris Banchory Aberdeenshire AB31 6DS

Ref. No: APP/2023/1116 | Received: Tue 13 Jun 2023 | Validated: Tue 20 Jun 2023 | Status: Decided

Nothing major to comment on

c) LDP 2027 / Place Plans / Place Plan Meeting

LC will look at Aboyne CC. DM will speak to the Aboyne CC contact there Andrew Fyfe.

LM/DM

8) Aberdeenshire Council Updates

Cllr Yi-Pei Turvey - reminder regarding budget feedback email – please share with as many as possible. Has also sent another email this evening re Banchory Town centre. Please read and action.

Cllr Anne Ross wanted to give notice that Aberdeenshire Council are reviewing the single person Council Tax discount. Done periodically. Letters will be going to those people involved (i.e. those claiming it but have more than one person registered to that address). Just to make sure the right people are receiving it.

Cllr Turner update – he advised that he has not asked for a scope for Park Bridge but has actually asked for a full study to be completed in order to find out exactly what is required. He does not want to promise anything he cannot deliver. Does not want to get our hopes up – trying to do what he can within reason.

9) Strategic initiatives

a) Green Initiatives

Nothing more on this.

b) Vacant Positions, Recruitment and Communications

LO completed the induction training on-line. E-learning available through ALDO.

Aberdeenshire Council – form needs to be completed and returned. Do not currently have a Vice Chair at the moment. Nobody came forward to volunteer. Secretary role – may be



Responding to community needs

changing. AC form to be completed with CC officer contact details. DM to email DE with form.

DM

Friday 27th October – Drumoak and Durris newsletter – be good to have an article in this.

10) AOB

a) Nov meeting – Wed 8th Nov Drumoak Bowling Club

All agreed

b) Bike Shelters – update SF.

Application for funding gone in yesterday. Looking 4 locations with 3 shelters each.

c) Kirkton of Durris Soakaway

DE was not present in person at this meeting but provided the following update:-

Following the extreme amount of rain over the weekend, it was noted that ‘water’ was over flowing from the concrete access hatch in the field and subsequently flowing in to the field. The suggestion is that the rain water drains from Peggy’s Garden’s may also be directed to the same soak-away as the sewage and it can’t cope. Photos and comments passed to Cllr Agnew to discuss with Peter Fowler. Would be good to understand if there is any update?

d) Public consultation paper – Support for Learning

LC advised that Aberdeenshire Council had recently completed a survey of support for learning in Primary schools. There was an indication that there will be no additional support for Primary 1 due to future cuts. Cllr Ross advised we can put in a community council response as individuals or as a group – can write to the Chair of the Education – David Keating – probably best option. LC will also speak to Head Teacher at Drumoak School to get their views. **LC**

DM thanked the group for his long service award.

Group thanked DM for Chairing the meeting.

Meeting closed at 21.33 hrs.