



## **Crathes Drumoak & Durris Community Council Monthly Meeting**

**Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2023**

### **FEBRUARY MEETING MINUTES**

#### **1. INTRODUCTIONS & APOLOGIES**

**Present:**

Community and Aberdeenshire Councillors:

Jules Wood (JW) – Drumoak rep.  
David Edgar (DE) – Chair and Durris rep.  
Mark Ansell (MA) – Treasurer and Durris rep.  
Lynn Coull (LC) – Drumoak rep.  
Shaun Falcus (SF) – Durris rep  
David Morrish (DM) – Crathes rep (virtually)  
Anne Shearer (AS) - Drumoak rep  
Les Oliver (LO)

Councillors:

Cllr Sarah Dickinson (virtually)  
Cllr Wendy Agnew (virtually)  
Cllr Dawn Black (virtually)  
Cllr Yi-Pei Turvey (in person)  
Cllr Alan Turner (in person)  
Cllr Ann Ross (in person)

Not present:

Joanna Prystupa – local resident  
Cllr Eileen Durno

Acknowledgement of Peter Renwick – David Edgar started the meeting with a short speech acknowledging how sad it was to hear of Peter's passing. He commented on how much work Peter had done for the Community Council in the past and how much he will be missed. He offered our help to his family if there was anything we could do.

David Morrish confirmed that he is to say a few words at the funeral service including information his role within the Community Council. If anyone has anything specific, they wish to be included please email David and he will try and include this in his speech.  
Minutes:-

**ALL**

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 (Jan 2023)**

Mark Ansell proposed them for approval, Anne Shearer seconded it. SH can now publish SH on website

### **b) Actions & Matters Arising from Jan meeting**

DM had offered to investigate the local development plan further but confirmed that he had not had time to do this. All agreed this would not be an issue.

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

Actionable correspondence.

The document email correspondence Jan 2023 – Feb 2023 had been circulated in advance of the meeting. This seemed to have been a particularly busy time with emails with the document reaching 7 pages. Rather than go through the entire document, it was agreed to just focus on certain emails where feedback/follow up action was required.

Banchory Community Council regarding retail plans – various emails went back on forth regarding this, but they never did give their thoughts/comment, so we submitted our own.

Bike Lockers – Cllr Yi-Pei Turvey suggested there may be an opportunity for sponsorship if these are to go ahead. Cllr Dickinson mentioned 'paths for all' a charity - might also be an option for funding if we are to progress with this. It was suggested SF to find out where resident that brought this topic up actually lives and invite them to attend a future meeting in person. **SF**

Cllr Ross updated on plans for Crathes area - there will be a pedestrian crossing with an island put in place near the bus stop near the crematorium. At the junction of the slug road and A957 there are also plans to widen the pavement between here and the hall. This will be done in stages. Streetlights will also need to be upgraded to modern standards along the A93. They are also wishing a consistent speed limit in the whole area – road sign as you come into Crathes and road speed limit to be reduced to 30mph from Crathes all the way to Milton.

## **4) Police Reports**

Nothing major within the report to discuss

## **5) COMMUNITY UPDATES**

### **a) Road Safety Subgroup**

DE reported that at the meeting he attended, Bruce had gone through spreadsheet which had timescales attached to each point. We are waiting for this to be sent back with updates to allow us to make this into a newsletter.

Road safety meeting – Crathes Hall - DM attended. Cllr Ann Ross left the room during this update.



DM reported that the Hall Committee are willing to work with the council project team to look at developing some form of park and ride facility and developing the junction, bus stops and crossings.

Secondly, there is suggestion that the council may look at re-aligning the Deeside way back to it's original path, to stop users having to go near the A93. The two routes being looked at, DM suggested were steep and one involved local residents' gardens.

Looking at routes from Hall carpark - One of the routes is continue with railway line – other route goes down the side of properties which is steeper. These are both still in discussions.

**b) Park Quarry/Nether Park Quarry**

Will wait until Spring before a visit is planned due to weather and underfoot conditions

**c) The Glebe**

Malcolm White had emailed looking for an update and MA responded. As previously discussed, we are still keen to pursue the bylaw but at the moment we will aim to gather evidence of problems over the summer and encourage the public to report these.

MA will chase a response from Malcolm White regarding costs for BBQ stands etc. Cllr Dickinson requested a copy of the email MA sent to Malcolm White – he will forward this.

**MA**

**d) Park Bridge**

Cllr Wendy Agnew reported the situation with Park Bridge could change after 9<sup>th</sup> March when a budgeting meeting will take place. Cllr Agnew will keep in touch with Philip McKay and Donald. AS confirmed that we have evidence that Aberdeenshire Council failed in its duties to maintain the bridge. Cllr Dickinson and Cllr Turner advised that they are waiting on the outcomes of the assessment and if it says it can be re-opened to light vehicles, they would be in support of this. Cllr Ross suggested that Cllr Turner and Cllr Agnew could take forward the information AS would like to communicate (what the use of the bridge would be for if re-opened) to the structural engineers on her behalf. They agreed to this.

**Cllr  
Turner/Cllr  
Agnew**

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

Malcolm White has put out an offer for this position and are awaiting a response – DE will contact at the end of March when hoping someone will be in position.

**DE**

**f) Hill of Fare Windfarm**

DM reported that the survey is now closed, and results published on our website.

He confirmed that the responses received are massively in objection to it. Not sure when planning application will come through. Community Councils around the Hill of Fare are working together, and they will all meet again soon – DM will also attend as our representative. DM confirmed that they may agree to do another questionnaire once the planning application actually come through however he understands that Andrew Bowie



is going to put out a questionnaire to his mailing list which is 5K plus so this may not be necessary. He already has a section on his website with responses being:-

- It should go ahead
- It should be stopped
- Don't know/I'm neutral

There is also a section asking for any additional comments.

DM explained that the results confirmed that the public are conflicted, as they understand the need for renewable energy, but the actual size and location of the turbines is what they are against.

We have not yet felt the need to say if we support or oppose as we were waiting to hear from our community itself – as we now have results of survey DM wanted to know what our opinion should be? Or do we want to wait until actual planning application is through and do some other community engagement to get further responses. DM confirmed we do not have to take a stance yet, but people may question why we haven't given the results of the survey have been published.

LC indicated that she has not heard much from the Drumoak residents and would not feel comfortable taking a stance until we have more feedback from them.

DE commented, do we need to take a stance at this point in time? Do we provide visualising with help of HOFWIG (independent) and run something at each of the halls and or run marketing campaign – using newsletter (**3<sup>rd</sup> March is deadline**) /flyer sent out to community. It was agreed DM will send what visualisations have already and work with Lynn to get vantage view points from Drumoak and add the visualisations into this. LC will then put a FB post out specifically targeting Drumoak residents.

DM/LC

LC

### g) **Recognition – The Simpson Brothers**

The post box will not go ahead so MA now looking at creating an Olympic Rings statue to be made. DE has asked Kirkton Hall if we can position this in the grounds and is waiting on a response

### **Defibs**

SF reported that he has already met at the 1<sup>st</sup> location and has managed to secure an electrician for free to install this.

He is meeting with the 2 schools on Tuesday and is taking an electrician with him.

He has still to meet with Sunnyside and discuss location.

Should get funding in next 4 weeks.

DE highlighted we need to promote the location of these and acknowledge those who have allowed them to be installed. A good marketing opportunity

### 6) **FINANCE**

Currently up to date for applications and funding.



CDDCC account £11,830.21 (**actual CDDCC £6790.21**)

Both Midhill Windfarm applications have been paid- Simpson Brothers Skis £4000, and 1st Drumoak Beavers Overnight Camp £1560. Tanya the Beavers leader was absolutely overjoyed by our help.

One enquiry for wind farm funding- Corrichie Community Committee, to help with cost of Battle of Corrichie re-enactment on the Hill of Fare, 6 August 2023.

£5040 is for the Defibrillator Project award from Meikle Carewe, and we are waiting the further award from K&M Area Committee Budget Award; I'm sure Shaun will give us an update on the project.

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

### **a) Planning Applications**

No further comments on these

**Validated**

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#### **Installation of Lead Coverings to Parapet Walkway and Crenellations Including Additional Hoppers and Downpipes**

Drum Castle Drumoak Banchory Aberdeenshire AB31 5EY

Ref. No: APP/2023/0187 | Received: Fri 03 Feb 2023 | Validated: Fri 03 Feb 2023 | Status: Awaiting decision

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#### **Commercial Development Comprising the Erection of Public House Including Staff Accommodation, Car Parking and Landscaping (Renewal of Planning Permission APP/2019/0302)**

Land To West Of Keithmuir Gardens Drumoak Aberdeenshire

Ref. No: APP/2023/0148 | Received: Mon 30 Jan 2023 | Validated: Mon 30 Jan 2023 | Status: Awaiting decision

**Approved**

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#### **Felling of Noble Fir Tree**

Durris Water 7 Woodlands Park Durris Banchory AB31 6BF

Ref. No: TRE/2022/0130 | Received: Tue 29 Nov 2022 | Validated: Thu 01 Dec 2022 | Status: Decided

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## Erection of Agricultural Building

Upper Balfour Durris Banchory Aberdeenshire AB31 6BJ

Ref. No: APP/2022/2682 | Received: Fri 23 Dec 2022 | Validated: Wed 04 Jan 2023 | Status: Decided

Reference	APP/2022/1366
Alternative Reference	100568401-001
Application Received	Mon 20 Jun 2022
Application Validated	Wed 22 Jun 2022
Address	Glashmore Steading Drumoak Aberdeenshire
Proposal	Erection of 3 Dwellinghouses (Change of House Type to Planning Permission Reference APP/2020/1674)
Status	Decided
Decision	Approved
Decision Issued Date	Tue 07 Feb 2023
Appeal Status	Unknown
Appeal Decision	Not Available

There are 41 documents associated with this application.

There are 4 cases associated with this application.

There is 1 property associated with this application.

Cllr Dickinson advised she was happy to raise the issue of Kirkton homes and green space at next meeting as so far this has not been completed and time is running out for contact to be honoured.

**Cllr  
Dickinson**

### 8) Aberdeenshire Council Updates

Cllr Ross – requested contact details for area in Crathes that is overgrown and needs cutting back. DE will send this

**DE**

Climate week - Cllr Dickinson – wanted to highlight this to us – Climate NE Facebook page – advertise this through our FB page. Keep Scotland Beautiful – community groups can organise litter picks – she will send links so that SH can add to our FB page  
She also mentioned you can get a strap for waste bin to stop debris falling out if bins fall over in the wind.

**SH**

Cllr Yi-Pei Turvey highlighted that for Landscaping services, there is a list of who to contact when you spot any overgrown greenery causing danger. She also noted that there is Yellow warning for wind tomorrow.

### Strategic initiatives

Vacant Positions (Drumoak and Crathes), Recruitment and Communications

Les Oliver – introduced himself. Has now retired and has some time on his hands. He would like to join and all were delighted to hear this> He will join as a Crathes rep.

### 9) AOB

#### a) March Meeting

Next meeting – date tbc – likely to be at Drumoak Bowling Club

**DE**



**b) Icy Conditions – Sunnyside and Drumoak school grounds**

LC reported that during the very cold spell before Christmas, the road conditions on the route to the school and in the school grounds themselves were completely treacherous – there was great danger with pedestrian crossings and cars sliding back down the road.

Cllr Dickinson and Cllr Black agreed to bring this to their next meeting and try and request this road is looked at as a priority route.

**Cllr  
Dickinson  
and Cllr  
Black**

**c) Microsoft Teams**

To be discussed at next meeting

**d) Bike Lockers**

Discussed earlier

**e) Church in Durris and Drumoak - update**

LC met with Marion McNeil to gain a better understanding of what the future plans are for the use of the halls and closure of the churches. She had confirmed that both Drumoak Church and Durris Church will be up for sale/potentially sold by 2025. The Church of Scotland has a lot of churches to sell so it won't all be done at once. Drumoak Hall will remain open and be used as their church for Sunday services. It will also continue to be available for community use but there is no hall keeper so at the moment it all falls on Marion McNeil's shoulders. All agreed we are happy to support the advertisement of a hall keeper position and put promotional material on our FB page.

The land that the church hall was built on was given to the Church of Scotland by way of a Gentleman's Agreement'. Marion said that the church hall and car park area are owned by the church but there was some discussion around what would happen to the land if the Church of Scotland ever decided to try to sell the church hall. Marion said that they have no plans to sell the church hall.

The graveyards are owned by Aberdeenshire Council.

**f) Potential appointment of Les Oliver**

Les agreed to join earlier in the meeting.

**g) Weebly**

Need to find out costs and pay this – all supportive of this as needs actioned before 14<sup>th</sup> March.

The meeting closed at 21.40 hrs