



Crathes Drumoak & Durris Community Council Monthly Meeting

Wednesday 8th November 2023

APPROVED NOV MEETING MINUTES

1. INTRODUCTIONS & APOLOGIES

Present:

Community and Aberdeenshire Councillors:

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

Not present:-

Jules Wood (JW) – Drumoak rep – apologies unwell
Joanna Prystupa – not present

Councillors:

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

Not present:

Cllr Eileen Durno - apologies sent

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 (Oct 2023)

DM proposed, AS seconded.

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

Grass Cutting - Cllr Black not had anything further since last meeting. SF has put a map together. Needs input from LC and JW for Drumoak areas that are happy to be used as wild flower area. He still needs a contact for Crathes. The big bulb plant covers all areas. The complaints about the grass cutting have only been received from the Drumoak residents Don't have a contact at all for Durris. DE will contact who he knows in the Durris area through the paths network and put them in touch with SF.

LC/JW

DE

Cllr Ross also recommended it would be worth making contact with the greenkeeper at Banchory Golf Club for advice on how to develop and maintain wild flowered areas.

3) SECRETARY'S REPORT and CORRESPONDENCE

11/10 email - Town Centre Health Check – DE suggested anyone could complete this. It was then noted that it closed on 3rd Nov.

Olympic Rings – MA advised that he is awaiting on confirmation from the mother of the Simpson brothers for the wording of the plaque.

Green space at woodlands school – MA will make contact again and see if they need assistance

MA

Woodlands of Durris noticeboards – a member of the public after the storms suggested a community notice board by the school would be a good idea. MA will get a quote and circulate it as may also want to consider one for Drumoak. Nobody objected to it. Cllr Turner confirmed there is still £7500 left in area budget.

MA

Warren Wood – AS dog had found carcass of the deer from the culling – contacted Forestry and Land Scotland and was advised that as long as not 30 meters from the track or water source.

De-fib training – SF contacted Durris school regarding using the school for training and making it part of parent council meeting. Cllr Turvey will bring it up as a parent at the next Parent Council meeting rather than councillor – SF to email her details.

4) Police Reports

Received just before meeting. Cllr Ross – will chase to get a report for Crathes itself. Cllr Turner advised he has also chased the late reports.

Cllr Ross

5) COMMUNITY UPDATES

a) Road Safety Subgroup

No update from Sub Committee meeting. Update re effect of the storms - Cllr Black – Slug road in middle of being fixed. Nothing received re: South Deeside. Cllr Turvey – advised that Scottish Water also involved due to burst water pipe.

Cllrs recommended taking photos and reporting any potholes – esp. photos, will help them to get fixed. Will also depend on which road it appears on.

Drain covers from Milton to Tesco – Cllr Ross will chase this, but it is responsibility of Scottish Water.

Cllr Ross



Cllr Ross will chase the works that was meant to be done in Crathes – Lighting, pavement widening etc

Cllr Ross

DE to try and get a date for next meeting. LC to request up-to-date data on speed camera in Durris.

DE/LC

b) Park Quarry/Nether Park Quarry

AS not managed to get in touch yet.

c) The Glebe

4 stands are now in place and the display panels. If we get any bulbs will also try and get them planted down there.

Area for sales down at the Glebe – LC will check what the closing date is.

LC/DE will put a FB post about this to the community and asking if they would be interested in purchasing this. DM has a contact who has done this at Mary Culter – happy to contact him to come speak to us.

LC

LC/DE

DM

d) Park Bridge

Cllr Black had emailed the Community Council today information that she had been passed from Philip Mackay. The email quoted:-

There is an indicative allocation of £750k for conservation works at Park Bridge within the Structures Workbank. The purpose of that allocation was to allow conservation works on the bridge to be compared and prioritised against other competing demands across the bridges network. The workbank was created prior to significant cost escalations across the construction sector in recent years and projects within the workbank require to be reviewed from time to time.

It should be note that the workbank is indicative and provided a mechanism for providing a prioritised list as a snapshot in time. As the bridge network is inspected and assessed the relative priorities of projects can change.

It is also important to note that the workbank assumed a certain budget allocation from the Capital Plan and the Infrastructure Investment Funds. During the 2023/24 budget setting process only a single year budget was approved for these funding sources. The Capital Plan and Infrastructure Investment Fund were to undergo an affordability and deliverability review as part of the 2024/25 budget process. Therefore, at this time, there is essentially no approved funds beyond this year.

Cllr Black would read this as it is in the budget until end of March 2024.

Cllr Turner advised that there is a bridge prioritisation across whole of the Shire. This targets the highest priority first. The second part is the council's ability to borrow capital.

Everything is up for review based on what we can afford. It will all be part of the Capital Plan.

Cllr Agnew reconfirmed that Park Bridge it is a listed building and Aberdeenshire should not have taken it on unless they were willing and able to invest in it in order to maintain it.

AS noted that Park Bridge is one of the few bridges that can remain open during storms/flooding because of its height. Also, the Council did not maintain the bridge for at



least 10 years and so did not meet their statutory duty. She truly believes that if the work had been done over the years, we would not be in the position that we are in.

Cllr Ross advised that because Park Bridge is a listed structure, the council could apply to Historic Scotland for a percentage of the repair.

Cllr Turner advised that he is still working with Aberdeenshire Council to get more up-to-date accurate numbers/figures. They are obviously extremely busy dealing with the effects of the storms. The costs to get these figures come out of revenue in which there is none and is not included in the £750K budget. He had hoped to try and get this done by the end of the year but it is not looking likely.

AS asked the Councillor if they are willing to support the opening of Park Bridge to traffic. Cllr Dickinson confirmed yes if it can be done safely and if it can be funded. Cllr Agnew confirmed she will support. Cllr Ross confirmed she would support. Cllr Turner advised that he does support but is in the same position as Cllr Dickinson – does not want to give false hope – other factors need to be considered especially budgets and if the necessary repairs will be possible.

Cllr Turner confirmed to DE that Aberdeenshire will have applied for a governmental fund for the damage to other bridges caused by storm but it has to be proven that it has been fully caused by the storms and that there were no faults there prior to the storms in order to get this.

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

MA reported that on the day of the meeting he had received a phone call from Derek Forbes - he has agreed to a further meeting with other land owners to progress. Stuart Young has also requested a phone call regarding the link the Clune.

f) Proposed Hill of Fare Windfarm

DM reported that we are expecting planning application to be in imminently. 6 community councils will meet as soon as they have seen it. Cllr Dickinson will check how long we will have to respond to this. Believe it will be 4 weeks.

**Cllr
Dickinson**

g) Proposed new 400KV Overhead Line SSEN

Nothing on this at the moment.

6) FINANCE

a) Applications

Email sent. We have £12569.71 to last until this time next year. (excludes £845 Durris SWI) We have £6561.78 in the CC account **Approved for support by CDDCC at September-October Meetings**

60 Durris Scottish Womens Institute awarded £845, now paid in full.

61. Drumoak Primary, Outdoor Space Shed Project; requested £5366. They have also applied to another 2 sources (Meikle Carewe windfarm fund, and K&M Fund) for funding so all agreed to fund an initial £1000 until they see if they are successful with other applications

62 Drumoak and Durris Warm Space in Bowling Club; hire/refreshments for 2023/24 £3448. They have also applied to K&M Area Fund for the full amount. MA advised that we should



know if they get this funding. We will wait to see if they do before we offer them half of the funds to go towards it.

New Applications received for consideration.

63 Durris Kirkton Hall, Curtain completions Entrance/Meeting Room £2011, and Power Washer £2599; total £4610. Agreed to fund £1000 towards this but also make them aware of other sources for funding for future requests.

64 Banchory Gymnastics Club, Trampoline Run-Up Carpet £967, (club serves members from Drumoak, Durris) All agreed to pay half of requested amount. We will let them know about other funding sources. Cllr Dickinson also suggested Tesco Stronger Starts Grants. Cllr Black also suggested looking at AVAShore.org.uk –for funding sources.

7) PLANNING & PLANNING APPLICATIONS

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

b) *Validated*

Reference	APP/2023/1910
Alternative Reference	100647718-001
Application Received	Wed 11 Oct 2023
Application Validated	Tue 17 Oct 2023
Address	Land To The South Of Lochwood Cottage Drumoak Aberdeenshire AB31 5HE
Proposal	Change of Use of Agricultural Land to Domestic Garden Curtilage Including Installation Of Ground Based Solar Panels
Status	Awaiting decision
Appeal Status	Unknown
Appeal Decision	Not Available
Local Review Body Status	Not Available
Local Review Body Decision	Not Available

Reference	APP/2023/2014
Alternative Reference	100641564-001
Application Received	Mon 30 Oct 2023
Application Validated	Tue 31 Oct 2023
Address	12 Keithmuir Road Drumoak Aberdeenshire AB31 5EB
Proposal	Alterations and Extension to Dwellinghouse
Status	Awaiting decision
Appeal Status	Unknown
Appeal Decision	Not Available
Local Review Body Status	Not Available
Local Review Body Decision	Not Available

AS looked at both of these. Nothing to respond on.



Approved

Reference	APP/2023/1583
Alternative Reference	100639868-001
Application Received	Wed 23 Aug 2023
Application Validated	Thu 31 Aug 2023
Address	Toll House Park Bridge Drumoak Aberdeenshire AB31 5AX
Proposal	Erection of Replacement Garage
Status	Decided
Decision	Approved
Decision Issued Date	Tue 17 Oct 2023
Appeal Status	Unknown
Appeal Decision	Not Available
Local Review Body Status	Not Available
Local Review Body Decision	Not Available

Reference	APP/2023/0761
Alternative Reference	100624775-002
Application Received	Fri 21 Apr 2023
Application Validated	Wed 17 May 2023
Address	Oakwood Drumoak Banchory Aberdeenshire AB31 5HR
Proposal	Erection of Garage, Formation of Manege and Installation of Flood Lights and Erection of Stables
Status	Decided
Decision	Approved
Decision Issued Date	Tue 31 Oct 2023
Appeal Status	Unknown
Appeal Decision	Not Available
Local Review Body Status	Not Available
Local Review Body Decision	Not Available

MA will chase Paul Macari – copy Cllr Turner on this

MA

c) LDP 2027 / Place Plans / Place Plan Meeting

DM sent some information from Aboyne. Nicola has an interest in place plans. DM was given what Aboyne have used – 14 categories. Circulated around the room. Thinks we could borrow and use what Aboyne have used. We are around a year behind where Aboyne are. Mon 20th Nov at 10 am – DE has a meeting arranged. To add Nicola to this call and DM Finzean CC – Cllr Ross suggested we get in touch with them too. Stonehaven Local Place Plan – FB Page – Cllr Dickinson suggested looking at this. Need to set up a sub-group – can use WhatsApp group and add to newsletter section. Cllr Dickinson will forward a press release she found with guidance on this.

DE

DE

Cllr

Dickinson

8) Aberdeenshire Council Updates

Cllr Dickinson – advised that area bus forums will no longer happen in person. They will be on-line from now on and the next one will take place on the 7th December. Cllr Agnew advised that the soakaway has been emptied but the overspill and smell is still there. She will instruct the Environmental officer to get samples. She is also pushing for road at Durris village hall to be fixed.



9) Strategic initiatives

a) Green Initiatives

No time to discuss this evening

b) Vacant Positions, Recruitment and Communications

No time to discuss this evening

10) AOB

a) Dec meeting – all agreed to have dinner instead of formal meeting. Email document will still be produced. January meeting will be on the 10th at Durris Hall.

b) Bike Shelters – update SF.

Waiting for contact to return from holiday. Application in, will soon find out if successful or not.

c) Kirkton of Durris Soakaway

Covered by Cllr WA

d) Nicola – Attended a climate meeting. Wanted to mention summary points disseminated from the meeting. She will send the list of these to everyone.

Meeting closed at 21.42 hrs.