



Crathes Drumoak & Durris Community Council Monthly Meeting

Wednesday 13th September 2023

DRAFT SEPT 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)
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

Councillors:

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

Not present:

Cllr Dawn Black (sent apologies)

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 (Aug 2023)



Shaun proposed the minute – Jules approved.

b) Actions & Matters Arising from Aug meeting

3) SECRETARY'S REPORT and CORRESPONDENCE

Bulb planting – keep it in mind - need volunteers to plant them.

Grass cutting – Drumoak – update from Cllr Dawn Black via DE. Will continue to push Aberdeenshire Council to cut affected areas but they are limited with budgets. LC and DE to go back to Cllr Black and query the rationale of the current grass cutting. Cllr Alan Turner explained he has also queried this already (it is all to do with budget cuts). He cannot find out the reasoning either. He said he can take forward again if Cllr Black does not get anywhere.

LC/DE

Green space officer for Drumoak – Cllr Dickinson will send the contact details to us.

**Cllr
Dickinson**

Festive Lighting – AS confirmed it is all in hand

Community Council Forums – attended by Tim Steven (area manager) 2 items were focus of meeting - exemption report and communication. It had been noted that there is a problem with poor responses from council officer. Topics for future meeting – road safety. It was noted that there were a few community council members missing. Cllr Dickinson advised that the rule is 5 working days for a response from council officer, 20 working days allowed to receive full response. If this is not happening should contact Tim Steven to advise.

Community resilience conference – date for diary for those who want to attend

Station Wood – committee informed us going direct to Mikeile Crew for funding

Community champions – DE asked people to consider anyone we may wish to nominate.

4) Police Reports

Received day after Aug meeting – nothing in particular to report on for our area.

5) COMMUNITY UPDATES

a) Road Safety Subgroup

Meeting with Tim Steven – DE needs to put another date in the diary.

DE

LC/DE reported they had attended a meeting recently. During the meeting, they went through spreadsheet and marked off things that have been actioned, for example poles in for speed signs – waiting for power to them. Temp speed monitor will be moved to Park – still using these for data.

LC – to contact Ross Anderson about getting data from the camera outside Drumoak Woodlands – plans are ready to go. Gateway signs are ready to go.

LC

Flashing signs for school – going to pull it back to include new houses at Durris.

During the meeting, they did flag disappointment about speed limit not being reduced in Crathes

Durris – gorse bushes need to be cut back

DE needs to send additional spreadsheet to Ross Anderson

DE

DM – attended meeting (on-line) where the campaign to reduce Crathes area to a full 30mph speed limit was discussed. He explained that Cllr A Ross had provided a full explanation of the reasoning for reducing the speed limit to 30mph. His understanding was everyone understood the reasons for it and all the local councillors in ward 16 supported it. It was rejected due to being against policy.



Cllr Anne Ross believes the reason it was rejected are due to internal political reasons. She confirmed she is extremely disappointed with the outcome. Cllr Ross wanted it noted at the meeting that she did not go to the Press and Journal with the outcome – they used the transcript of the meeting to generate the article and photo from a previous piece during lockdown.

Cllr Ross advised that as a community council we can raise a petition.

b) Park Quarry/Nether Park Quarry

Nothing to report at the moment

c) The Glebe

MA reported that the BBQ stands are ready to be installed. Interpretation panels and bbq stands will hopefully be installed next week. Barrier – new padlock is now in place. Contact number been given to report bins overflowing.

d) Park Bridge

AS started conversation by firstly commenting how she had not picked up at a previous meeting that Cllr Alan Turner is actually the Chair of infrastructure. She acknowledged how delighted we are that this is the case given he is one of our strongest allies on the reopening of Park Bridge, having spent considerable time talking to AS about it prior to his election in 2022 and this being a key pledge of his campaign to be elected. AS stated it was great that all our councillors have recently declared their support for the re-opening of Park Bridge.

It was noted that the long-awaited structural engineers report had finally been received. AS mentioned that she has issued the report to 2 or 3 bridge engineers herself in order to get feedback. Having reviewed the report herself, AS believes we are finally looking a lot more positive than it has for some time. She is hopeful it could re-open with a 3 tonne weight limit.

AS recognised that an assessment of the lateral stability of the structure, a concern raised by WSP (deck that was installed in 1987) **must be done**.

Cllr Alan Turner confirmed that he is waiting on clarifications from the report. He advised that this has been delayed greatly due to annual leave of various individuals. He confirmed that he did attend a meeting with some of fellow councillors and Donald Macpherson (Bridges Manager) in order to discuss the report and the outcome was that as it stands right now the bridge cannot be opened for vehicle access. He agreed that further meetings are essential once Donald has answers on clarifications.

AS expressed her concern at the change in Cllr Turner's stance on re-opening Park Bridge.

AS highlighted some areas of interest extracted from the report:-

- It was assessed for speed limit on 60 mph – unlikely to ever happen given the nature, location and width of the bridge.
- The surface condition was to be considered as poor – this is questionable but can certainly be managed
- It has been assessed with a calculation of 2 cars passing side by side – can also be managed with traffic lights and handrails



- Following strengthening (to deal with the lateral stability) the structure could potentially be opened to vehicular traffic

AS confirmed that she would like a guarantee that a decision on the bridge will not be taken without meeting with the community council – Cllr Dickinson confirmed that she had flagged this yesterday at the meeting and agreed that this will be required.

Cllr Turner confirmed that he will only support the re-opening of the bridge if it is safe. He confirmed that he is an engineer and thinks in this manner, therefore although he supports the re-opening in will, does not know what it is going to take to make it safe not to mention how much it is going to cost.

Cllr Dickinson – confirmed that AS had highlighted various elements that she had not been aware of. She confirmed that she would like to be in meeting when AS is also present with Donald. She also confirmed that if bridge is safe to open she will support it but it also not sure of what costs will be involved in order to make it safe and to ensure there is budget available.

Cllr Agnew also wanted it noted that the bridge is a listed structure, and the council should be maintaining it as part of its responsibilities.

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

DE advised he had had a meeting with the forest planner (Ewan) and Fiona Robertson (paths access officer). They confirmed that they have stopped felling as still a lot to clear up from storms. DE commented that we now seem to have the right people who want to work with us. Potential of the woods beside Crossroads nursery to become a community asset.

MA has chased up Dunecht – no response yet will chase again

DM – will chase up Leys

MA
DM

f) Proposed Hill of Fare Windfarm

DM sent out email with results of all 6 community councils and all stand behind the objection to this when the application comes in. Only people not reported to yet are the press. Have ordered 3 banners to put in the area. Try and get prominent locations where you can see the Hill of Fare.

g) Defibs - update

Getting dates in the diary for training. FB post has generated a good positive response.

h) Proposed new 400KV Overhead Line SSEN

No major update. Likely to be a lull until planning application comes in – likely to Spring next year.

6) FINANCE

a) Applications

Midhill – £2354 still in the fund for applications



Responding to community needs

Scottish Women's institute – help with hall rental and project working on. £845 applied for.

Sheila Duthie – £220 – transport for school to visit test pitting. MA recommended we pay for this out our own funds – all agreed

Drumoak Primary – details will follow next month (wanting an outbuilding)

Our own account stands at over £10K – have received an amount from Aberdeenshire Council which is almost double compared to last year.

7) PLANNING & PLANNING APPLICATIONS

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

b) Validated

Reference	APP/2023/1525
Alternative Reference	Not Available
Application Received	Tue 15 Aug 2023
Application Validated	Mon 21 Aug 2023
Address	Aspen Villa Durris Banchory Aberdeenshire AB31 6BX
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

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	Awaiting decision
Appeal Status	Unknown
Appeal Decision	Not Available
Local Review Body Status	Not Available
Local Review Body Decision	Not Available

Nothing major to comment on



Approved

Reference	APP/2023/1260
Alternative Reference	100442225-002
Application Received	Wed 05 Jul 2023
Application Validated	Thu 06 Jul 2023
Address	Cressbrook Drumoak Aberdeenshire AB31 5AG
Proposal	Erection of Garage
Status	Decided
Decision	Approved
Decision Issued Date	Tue 15 Aug 2023
Appeal Status	Unknown
Appeal Decision	Not Available
Local Review Body Status	Not Available
Local Review Body Decision	Not Available

Conversion and Extension of Derelict Building to form Dwellinghouse, Erection of Garage and Summerhouse and Change of Use of Land to Domestic Garden Ground

Burnhead Cottage Raemoir Banchory AB31 4EB

Ref. No: APP/2023/0921 | Received: Mon 15 May 2023 | Validated: Wed 24 May 2023 | Status: Decided

Erection of 14 Dwellings (Change to House Position for Plot 15 & Plot 24 and Subdivision of Plots 25-32 to Create an Additional 4 Dwellinghouses of Planning Permission APP/2019/1306)

Land To East Of Woodend Barn Arts Centre Banchory AB31 5QA

Ref. No: APP/2022/2529 | Received: Mon 05 Dec 2022 | Validated: Mon 12 Dec 2022 | Status: Decided

Nothing major to comment on

DE reminded everyone that we have a meeting in place with Paul Macari – 25th Sept 10am ALL via Teams. Reminder so as many as possible can attend.

c) LDP 2027 / Place Plans / Place Plan Meeting

DE had meeting with Hillary English yesterday. Marr Community Planning officer. Discussed we could do:-

Local place plan – physical assets. Could be a registered document. What do we want this to achieve? How do we get the community involved – (success event? – can use some of the funds we have already) Plans should be measurable. All would need to be involved in this – not one person.



Local action plan – resilience – dog poo/care for elderly.
Hillary happy to come to one of our meetings to discuss further.
DE recommended meeting as a group to start planning before inviting Hillary to our meeting.
Cllr Durno completed one in the past for Banchory – recommended for us to look at this.
Banchory Community Action Plan.

8) Aberdeenshire Council Updates

Cllr Yi-Pei Turvey – advised she had spoken to Coridiners and advised that their lorries would not be impacted by a reduced speed limit on the Durris Bridge when heading up the Slug Road to Stonehaven.

Cllr Dickinson clarified the funding amount Crathes Drumoak and Durris CC received from Aberdeenshire Council and advised that this information and how the grant was calculated could be found under item 6 of the June 6th Kincardine and Mearns Area Committee papers [Agenda for Kincardine and Mearns Area Committee on Tuesday, 6th June, 2023, 9.30 am - Aberdeenshire Council \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

Cllr Anne Ross – reported that there is an action group starting to campaign for new Academy – she will support this.

9) Strategic initiatives

a) Green Initiatives

Put on agenda for next month.

b) Vacant Positions, Recruitment and Communications

Covered earlier on.

10) AOB

a) Oct meeting – Wed 11th Oct

All agreed – Kirkton of Durris

b) Bike Shelters – update SF.

Had a meeting with Cycling Scotland and Council. Looking at funding and type of shelters – looking at electric bike options. Cycling Scotland will fund this. Has had discussion with Leys estate – happy and excited about this. Bowling club also happy. Community engagement – looking for suggestions on how to get feedback. FB post – do as a paid post so we target the correct people. Application needs to be in next month.

c) Kirkton of Durris Soakaway

Cllr Agnew been in touch with Peter Fowler – DE to keep in touch with her

DE

d) Station Wood

Covered earlier on in meeting

e) Millie Thomson



Responding to community needs

LC reported that a local school pupil - Millie Thomson had recently represented GB in youth Commonwealth Games — won a silver and bronze. Would like this to be recognised in some way. Do a FB initially.

LC

Meeting closed at 2135 hrs.