



## Crathes Drumoak & Durriss Community Council Monthly Meeting

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2024

### **APPROVED JAN MEETING MINUTES**

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

**Present:**

Community and Aberdeenshire Councillors:

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

**Not present:-**

Joanna Prystupa – not present

Councillors:

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

Not present:

Cllr Eileen Durno

Other guests:-

Mike and Carol Taylor  
Carlone Cruickshank  
Graeme Thomson  
Ewan Reid

Minutes:-

Sharon Hauxwell (SH)



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

**New Item on the Agenda – Flooding in Drumoak**

Residents and guests Caroline and Grame from Drumoak had met recently at Ketihmuir with Cllr Black – water coming from fields at the back and into gardens/houses causing water damage. Caroline advised that she had never seen so much water and has lived there for 25 years. She described it like waterfalls. The amount has caused fences to come down/ creating potholes/flooding etc – needs to be looked at.

Cllr Black confirmed that after their walkabout on 5<sup>th</sup> Jan she got in touch with various teams/officers to try and get any additional information. Flooding team could do a CCTV survey to see if any issues underneath ground – would not be possible until April (new financial year as no budget). Still doesn't determine the route cause. Cllr Black will push further along with photos taken, videos etc.

She has been waiting for the officer to get back to her before she would approach the farmer. It was suggested it might be worth the residents/community councillors speaking to Duncan Wight (farmer) directly, so it is maybe not quite as confrontational. Cllr Black will send a copy of the report she has sent to the officers to the community council so we can see exactly where it is.

**Cllr Black**

Pipe and the culvert potentially being blocked are the 2 main issues however the source of all of this water is really the main issue.

LC or another Drumoak rep agreed to look at report and then have a walkabout also, then potentially speak to Duncan Wight.

Resident showed Cllr Turner where the issues are on a map on his iPad so he could establish if it was street drains causing the issue. Cllr Black advised she would send him the report as well.

**Cllr Black**

**2. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

**a) Approval of Minute of Meeting (Nov and Dec 2023)**

Nov – LO proposed, SF seconded.

Dec – MA proposed, EC seconded.

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

Nov meeting – Cllr Black – LC/SF – Cllr Black advised that she is expecting an update from Landscape services this week so it would be good to get the updated map from SF for this.

**SF**

Olympic Rings – MA advised he is just waiting on plaque made and then will get it installed outside

Woodland of Durriss Noticeboards – MA advised he has identified appropriate board so is still in progress.



## **Responding to community needs**

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Dec – Forest Rd – MA advised he has contacted the correct CC to raise this as a potential issue – they are not concerned with it.

DM advised that he responded to the email and the person concerned has replied to say thank you for response

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

Alexander Burnett – 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec – re ATM's – anyone who wishes to reply please do DE to give EC and NC access to the email account

**All  
DE**

### **4) Police Reports**

Nothing major to comment on.

### **5) COMMUNITY UPDATES**

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

Need to get next meeting in diary – DE to action

**DE**

LC needs to request from Ross the data from the speed camera

**LC**

SF to email info to Cllr Dickinson re: Slug road – video's and map

**SF**

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

Nether Park – predominately reinstated as agricultural land. Probably not much to discuss on this apart from access.

MA to drop Park Quarry – invite to public meeting as well as to check if been contacted by SSEN as route runs through this.

**MA**

#### **c) The Glebe**

Can take off the agenda for just now. May need to go back on after the summer period.

**SH**

#### **d) Park Bridge**

AS advised that she has re-written to Donald Macpherson to request a meeting.

AS asked if the budget that there for Park Bridge is still there. Cllr Turner could not confirm this. He explained that bad weather has hampered getting the information on what the costs would be to be able to re-open Park Bridge. His understanding is the money that was in budget was for heritage and to make it safe to open as a pedestrian bridge. He is really hopeful that it might be available for the end of the month.

Cllr Turner advised that there is no multiple year capital plan.

Cllr Agnew voiced concerns now that if the £750K that was allocated to Park Bridge is reallocated she will be objecting now.

It was agreed that Cllr Turner will do everything in his power to arrange a meeting with the Community Council and Donald Macpherson as well and try and get the full report progressed before our next meeting date.

**Cllr  
Turner**

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

MA and DE to schedule a meeting on-site to meet with access officers

**MA/DE**

#### **f) Proposed Hill of Fare Windfarm**



DM been working on objection letter. LC asked for an additional point about viewpoints to be included. All in agreement with the letter. It will be submitted to ECU, MSP, MP, Planning, our Councillors as well as Aberdeenshire Planning itself.

A vote was taken amongst the group – show of hands for those who objected – 10 in total. Full majority.

AS also recommended that we must also put our own objections and partners and any other family members who are able to object. This will generate more impact.

FB post – can boost this and make it clear that all individuals eligible to within a household should put their objections in.

**DM/LC**

**g) Proposed new 400KV Overhead Line SSEN**

CC have reached out to SSEN, local councillors, MSP and MP to arrange a public consultation meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> February.

CC have also contacted Visit Aberdeenshire and Aberdeen Chamber of Commerce. Chamber of Commerce are pro sub zero so not supportive to the objection. Visit Aberdeenshire have not come back with any further comments.

DE reported that a meeting with Alexander Burnett went ahead last night

On Friday there is a meeting with Andrew Bowie – hoping he may have good connections in parliament itself.

It was agreed that we need to reinvigorate questionnaire and get this out to the general public before the meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> Feb – this date is not flexible as SSEN, AB and AB available then. Waiting to hear from Drumoak School if they can hire the hall but will book Durriss Hall meantime just in case the school cannot provide a hire.

There is a closed meeting with SSEN on 23<sup>rd</sup> Jan – to discuss the public meeting. Will be in the room upstairs in Durriss Hall.

Action Group met in person on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan. Approx 15 people present – a lot of knowledge and experience within the group. A lot of chat in the WhatsApp group – approx. 100 people joined but only one offered to join the action group. Letter going out to politicians, STV tonight keen to do a programme on it. Mike Taylor advised that he has requested a FOI with national grid ESO. The Action Group are also looking at a group in Suffolk who are also objecting to Pylons. They have contacted RSPB and Scottish Wildlife Trust.

DE to send AS a National Trust email address to contact.

**DE**

AS has reached out to see if we could get a celebrity to create a video like that made for the Suffolk campaign.

The Public Meeting - how do we play this?? The CC manages the situation, the Action Group can do the contentious bit. MA suggested need to think about how the action group have a loud voice at the meeting. Suggestion that SSEN presentation time is shorter this time so more time for Q & A. IT equipment – need to think about this. CC and Action group should each have their own table and questionnaires on hand.

DE recommended that we do not offer on-line attendance. All agreed to this.

DM suggested we somehow allow the map that has been created be accessible through a QR code so people can look at this on their phones during the meeting – may need to check if a license required for use of the map.

It was noted that Stephen Kerr MSP – has started a petition against the Pylons – may be worth inviting him to the meeting also.



Gillian Martin email – agreed AS could send email on behalf of CC.  
Will confirm in next couple of days if meeting will take place at Durriss Hall or Drumoak School.

**6) FINANCE**

Only bill still expecting is for the plaque.

**a) Applications**

None at present

**7) PLANNING & PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

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

**b) Validated**

None for this meeting

**Approved**

None for this meeting

**c) LDP 2027 / Place Plans / Place Plan Meeting**

DE asked NC and EC if they might wish to take this on as a sub-group.

DE will give them the contacts they currently have. DM will also pass on the contact details of his contact in Aboyne. Ginelle Clark – can apply for a small fund through her to use for hire of halls, printing of materials etc. They have agreed to this.

**DE/DM**

**8) Aberdeenshire Council Updates**

Cllr Yi-Pei Turvey Yei advised that pothole on South Deeside road is being fixed tomorrow.  
Cllr Dickinson – dealing with quite a lot of runoff water issues causing flooding on roads etc.  
Cllr Yi-Pei Turvey Yei – trying to find out why there is no lighting at Crathes – LO and Cllr Ross advised that they do not think that these have been adopted by Aberdeenshire Council and are still under the builders responsibility – Stewart Milne who have just gone into administration.

Cllr Ross advised residents can report any street lights that are out through Aberdeenshire Council website

**9) Strategic initiatives**

**a) Green Initiatives**

No time for this as this meeting

**b) Vacant Positions, Recruitment and Communications**

Ewan Reid advised happy to join. All agreed that he was welcome to join.

**10) AOB**



## **Responding to community needs**

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- a) **Feb meeting** – Will not happen on the 14<sup>th</sup> as public meeting will be on the 15<sup>th</sup>. A round robin of email updates can be circulated instead. March meeting would be Wed 13<sup>th</sup> March or Wed 6<sup>th</sup> March - tbc
- b) **Bike Shelters – update SF.**  
Nothing back at the moment. SF will chase again in February.
- c) **Kirkton of Durrisc Soakaway**  
Cllr Agnew has not had anything back. DE will speak to Bill and ask him to let him know when the smell reappears so she can travel over and experience it. With any luck can get an officer to come too. **DE**
- d) **Drumoak Icy Roads**  
LC reported again how the road up to Drumoak School – Sunnyside Drive is a nightmare when there is ice and snow – it is on a hill and has 2 pedestrian crossings.  
Cllr Dickinson has been dealing with this and confirmed that this road is now being treated as a secondary route but James Gregory Road (where actual school is located) has not been adopted by Aberdeenshire Council – it falls under Stewart Milne responsibility. Cllr Dickinson asked LC to record when the gritters are coming up the road. Will continue to push to try and push it up to Primary route. **LC/Cllr Dickinson**
- e) **Banchory Group Practice – meeting next week**  
MA advised meeting next week – if anyone has feedback, please let him know. **ALL**

*Meeting closed at 21.45 hrs.*