



Crathes Drumoak & Durriss Community Council Monthly Meeting

Wednesday 11th February 2026

APPROVED FEB MEETING MINUTES

1. INTRODUCTIONS & APOLOGIES

Community and Aberdeenshire Councillors:

David Edgar (DE)– Chair and Durriss rep – apologies sent
Eveline Crossan (EC) – Drumoak rep
Mark Ansell (MA) – Treasurer and Durriss rep – on-line
Les Oliver (LO) – Crathes rep
Jules Wood (JW) – Drumoak rep – on-line
Ewan Reid (ER) – Crathes Rep
Anne Shearer (AS) - Drumoak rep
David Morrish (DM) – Crathes rep and Chair of this meeting
Shaun Falcus (SF) – Durriss rep – apologies sent
Joe Barns – Drumoak Rep – on-line

Councillors:

Cllr Alan Turner – apologies sent
Cllr Wendy Agnew – on-line
Cllr Sarah Dickinson – on-line
Cllr Dawn Black – apologies sent
Cllr Ann Ross – on-line
Cllr Yi-Pei Turvey – on-line
Cllr Eileen Durno – apologies sent

Others: James Buchan (Drumoak resident)
Thomas Barter and Daniel Harrington, Churchill Homes

Minutes:-

Sharon Hauxwell (SH) on-line

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

2. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES AND CC UPDATES

a) Approval of Minute of Meeting (Jan 2026)

EC – proposed, LO - seconded.

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

Cllr Dickinson has written to Cameron Forbes after Jan meeting but has not heard back from him. She will try and chase again.

**Cllr
Dickinson**



3) SECRETARY'S REPORT and CORRESPONDENCE

Cllr Ross researched the lights in Crathes and provided a response in the Gmail. She has asked DM to reply to her email she can then forward it onto the officers to see what they can do. **DM**

Glyphosates – Cllr Dickinson followed up on this. The email confirmed that they do use this, and the email confirmed that they will be trying to use a communication plan so that the public know where and when it has been used. Cllr Dickinson will follow this up to see how they are getting on with this. **Cllr Dickinson**

4) Police Reports

Nothing to report/discuss at this meeting

5) COMMUNITY UPDATES

a) Road Safety

i) Kirkton of Durriss 40mph

Nothing to report at this meeting. This will be followed up at the next meeting.

ii) A93 Park & A93 / A957 Crathes request

DM has re-written the objection paperwork. Cllr Ross suggested that if it has been written now, this could be submitted. DM will first share with Cllr Ross before submitting. **DM**

b) Park Quarry/Nether Park Quarry

Email came in from MA's FOI request. Documents were attached but they only dated back to 2003. MA has responded to see if this is the earliest date they have this information from.

c) Park Bridge

AS wrote to Philip MacKay and asked for a copy of the report of the inspection that was carried out in November. She is waiting on a reply.

DM suggested everyone looks at the email link that EC sent into the Gmail on the 3rd Feb, which highlights the long term reality for bridge maintenance and the potential wider implications. **ALL**

d) Community Path Network. Kirkton of Durriss – Woodlands of Durriss Core Path Connection.

MA has chased quotes but has still not received them – he will chase again. **MA**

e) Energy projects / Committees

i) Convention of North East Community Councils

There is a meeting at Holyrood on the 24th February – email received into Gmail today. Jonty Rose would like to attend but would need to be co-opted onto the



Community Council. It was agreed to co-opt Jonty Rose onto the CC. AS/MA would also be keen to attend. DM will go back to Jonty and also inform the NECCC (Peter Argyle) that JR, AS & MA will attend the Holyrood event. SH sent NECCC email to AS/MA

ii) Proposed Hill of Fare Windfarm

It is currently estimated that the report will be submitted by the end of February 2026.

iii) Proposed Hurlie Substation

A meeting of Aberdeenshire Council's Infrastructure Services Committee took place. After a long and thorough discussion, including passionate representations from local residents, campaigning groups, and community councils, the proposal for a new 400 kV substation in Fetteresso Forest was refused.

AS/MA expressed their surprise that Cllr Black had voted to approve (or supported approval with conditions) at the meeting. Cllr Black was not at the meeting tonight but will be welcome to speak when at the next meeting. Cllr Ann Ross expressed her discomfort that the matter was discussed in the absence of Cllr Dawn Black and that potentially political aspects had been introduced. The chair (DM) stated that as Cllr Dawn Black had made public her reason for her voting the way she did, that it was acceptable to discuss the matter in her absence but accepted that any unanswered questions or positions can be covered when Cllr Dawn Black is present.

Councillors present at tonight's meeting wanted to re-iterate that planning is a quasi-judicial process, and councillors are not allowed to take a position prior to the meeting at which the application is being considered with all the information before them for their consideration. If they do take a position, they must declare an interest and cannot take part in the decision. For the same reason, councillors cannot be mandated or required to take a position on an application because, if they could, they would not be impartial and would have to declare an interest and could not take part.

Councillors must consider all the information before them which will also include representations based on valid material planning considerations from the community - whether that be for or against - and then consider on balance how they will vote. When they reach this decision, it must be based on valid planning considerations, and it might not always agree with the community.

iv) Proposed 400kV Overhead Line

Nothing to report at this meeting.

v) Proposed Glenskinnan Energy Park

ER sent an email out last week with a summary of what is happening. An action group has been set up and FB page created. AS is going to an ornithology section for them. They are looking for some help to complete some questionnaires and are looking for a venue 24th - 27th March to host an event in this area.



vi) Glendye overhead line

Nothing to report at this meeting.

f) The Glebe

MA/AS Plan to try and meet with Fiona Banks and Tajana in the Spring to see what plants are growing and look to make a plan. **MA/AS**

MA/AS will agree between then what signage they would like and go back to Fiona with suggestions. **MA/AS**

g) Flooding in Drumoak

James Buchan (local resident) came to the meeting. He brought some videos to show the problem. He advised that they have had problems since the houses were built in 1997. He believes that there is a manhole was built to try and help but this is now blocked, and water is coming back up through the pipes into his and neighbour's gardens. He reported that the Council are advising that there is no manhole.

It was suggested that he email the videos and a plan of where the manhole is located to Cllr Agnew and she will try and deal with this.

Cllr WA

h) Bike Shelters

SF not present at meeting to report.

6) FINANCE

a) Update

Our account balance stands at £31969.86.

CDDCC funds are £2405.96

Our 3-year Mid Hill fund stands at £29563.90 (Paid Application 91 Crossroads Nursery Resources, £706)

Continued incompetence from RBS, in attempting to get Joe access to our account earned us £100 compensation and a considerable amount of wasted time on the phone, email, texts and WhatsApp would you believe. Sadly it would appear that each media channel is operated by a different department!

Still no confirmation that Joe can access account.

MIDHILL COMMUNITY FUND

b) Applications

93 Durriss/Drumoak Schools and Nursery PTA £720



Changes to transporting guidelines means that parents can now only transport their own children to events. Transport costs are huge due to rural locations. Drumoak and Durriss Schools for rural schools' transition events, and Theatre Science Centre Stonehaven, 4 trips one for each class including nursery is £720, between March and July. Quotes from coach firms supplied. **All agreed this.**

7) PLANNING & PLANNING APPLICATIONS

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

Churchill Homes attended the meeting to discuss their future planning application to build bungalows on the site where the old pub used to be in Drumoak. They recognise the desire for a local pub/social space that is detailed in the local place plan but highlighted the decline in the hospitality trade and believes it would unlikely that anyone would consider trying to establish/build such a facility. He believes that the development of bungalows would address an issue in the local place plan, in providing affordable homes that would allow residents to remain in the village as they age and provides accommodation for those with mobility issues. They are anticipating in the region of 4 - 6 bungalows. MA asked about development contributions - this would depend on how this development impacts the area. They addressed the reasons why they are not considering the old school land – for various reasons this was not viable, but the main point is that these houses are designed for those with mobility issues and the old school property, which is on a hill, 750m away from bus stop. They highlighted that once the application has been submitted, they are happy to come along and speak at the meeting again.

b) Applications

Validated

None

Decided

Week beginning 26.1.26

Reference	TRE/2025/0129
Alternative Reference	100735158-001
Application Received	Thu 04 Dec 2025
Application Validated	Mon 08 Dec 2025
Address	Pinebrae 6 Woodlands Park Durriss Banchory AB31 6BF
Proposal	Tree Works
Status	Decided
Decision	Approved
Decision Issued Date	Fri 30 Jan 2026
Appeal Status	
Appeal Decision	
Local Review Body Status	
Local Review Body Decision	



Week beginning 2.2.26

Reference	APP/2025/2042
Alternative Reference	100736063-001
Application Received	Thu 11 Dec 2025
Application Validated	Tue 16 Dec 2025
Address	Crathes Castle Crathes Banchory AB31 5QJ
Proposal	Internal Alterations, Installation of Ventilation System and SVP
Status	Decided
Decision	Approved
Decision Issued Date	Fri 06 Feb 2026
Appeal Status	
Appeal Decision	
Local Review Body Status	
Local Review Body Decision	

c) Local Place Plans

EC sent an email earlier today. It was a second version of the Deeside Sustainable Development Charter. It was felt that the new version is friendlier and more accessible in tone and language. Some significant changes have come about since the original draft, mainly due to Aboyne CC, Birse and Ballogie CC and Finzean CC becoming more involved in the last two weeks.

EC believes that a Community Trust would be a great contribution in the future.

EC also looking for some help with the collaboration of the call for papers document that was issued before the full thing can be submitted in March.

8) Aberdeenshire Councillor Updates

No further updates at this meeting.

9) Strategic initiatives/Fundraising

10) AOB

a) February Meeting – Wed 11th March - Durriss Hall

Meeting closed at 21.34hrs.