



## Crathes Drumoak & Durriss Community Council Monthly Meeting

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2024

### **APPROVED NOV MEETING MINUTES**

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

**Present:**

Community and Aberdeenshire Councillors:

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

**Not present:-**

Councillors:

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

**Not present:**

Others: Anne Malcolm – representing Drumoak and Durriss Warm Space.

Minutes:-

Sharon Hauxwell (SH)

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 (Oct 2024)**

AS – proposed MA- seconded.

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

Anne Simpson – still waiting for a launch event date. MA has contacted Piper and P & J and not had a response. Might be better to organise own photo shoot with the brothers and send to the paper/do own marketing.

Peterculter medical practice – EC brought it up at the warm space and nobody had any issues with the practice. Has another couple of contacts to talk too before contacting the surgery if necessary.

Mini orchard – hoping JW will pick up on this. Orchard email to be sent to her. The Glebe is a possibility for location or Keith Muir or Drumoak School. **SH/JS**

JW will chase Sheila re the ordering of plants. **JW**

**3) SECRETARY’S REPORT and CORRESPONDENCE**

DE has been very busy – reiterated that everyone should check the in-box and the document to ensure nothing is being missed.

DE did reply to Eric Insch about the path section beside Drum Garden Centre. One part of the work will happen in Feb and the second part will be later. Cllr Dickinson has suggested to Council it would be beneficial to complete the work at the same time.

SSEN electricity consultation – we need to feed into this. Would be good for a response on this individually as well as a CC. AS will send round a paper a friend has completed that helps to simplify it. AS will ensure that we do not miss the deadline. **AS**  
**AS**

SSEN community benefit fund – what is our stance on this? It is from work that has already been completed not to do with the Pylons. MA will investigate it further and report back at next meeting. **MA**

**4) Police Reports**

Report came in today. Will now use this section to see if there is anything we need to report back to the police.

DM has details on a Council refuse truck that was speeding through Crathes – Cllr Turner will take it and re-enforce back to the relevant team the importance of safe driving and sticking to speed limits. **Cllr Turner**

Speeding checks being done at Drumoak Bowling Club recently (hand gun) – would like to see the data from this.

EC was speaking to residents of Drumoak at the warm space and they felt they would like to see more involvement from the Police – felt more visible community policing would have been helpful.

ER would like to see police presence doing speed checks in Crathes (as they have done above in Drumoak).

**5) COMMUNITY UPDATES**

**a) Road Safety**

Issues raised above under Police reports.



There is already a small sub group who meet with the council. Recognise it might also be worth establishing a larger group to organise a public consultation in the future when other projects calm down. Cllr Ross requested to be included if such a group is created and kept in the loop on what they are working on.

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

JKR – have a meeting on Friday at 12noon with Lee Mavers. AS would like to look at the North East section again.

**c) Park Bridge**

Draft scoping report is now written but it is nowhere near ready. Cllr Turner will chase again. **Cllr Turner**

AS read the inspection report. Sje was not surprising but disappointed to read that the bridge is corroding, and timbers are getting soft. AS highlighted that this needs to be looked at sooner rather than later otherwise the steel might need to be replaced completely which will be much more expensive.

AS/SF requested to know what process Council use to decide when to intervene (with levels of corrosion etc) from the inspection report. Cllr Turner will ask. **Cllr Turner**

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

MA is emailing with Mark. Requesting an OS map from him.

Worth completing a questionnaire in the new year – need to think how this is worded correctly/promoted.

Dr Robert Moss, current owner of Crathes Station House and the Crathes Platform buildings which include the old signal box, had reported to the CC that he had received complaints from members of the public that he had fenced off the direct access between the Crathes Hall and the Deeside Way. The route appears on Strava giving the impression of access. Dr Moss had communicated with Aberdeenshire's Fiona Chapman who has replied in writing agreeing to his premise that the land was private and part of the garden associated with the platform buildings and therefore no public right of access applied.

**e) Proposed Hill of Fare Windfarm**

Expecting it to be at least 2 – 3 months before a decision from the ECU.

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

Updates from the Deeside against pylons group include:-

Have had some issues with landowners – unplanned visits from SSEN – requesting visits to complete work on the same day. AS sent a formal email with evidence to this extent.

MA highlighted that deadline for feedback questionnaire is the 21<sup>st</sup> Nov.

3 consultation meetings took place – Banchory, Drumoak School and Echt.

This Sunday there will be a photo opportunity in Echt at 2pm. Bring people/children/banners.

SSEN have podcasts released – there is a lot of miss truths in these. Think we should write a letter or email to complain about this as a CC so we have evidence this has been done.

Panorama have been investigating and researching. AS thinks the CC should have a voice from the CC on this – she will pass this on.



Cllr Turner will pick up and investigate if communication can happen with the ISC.

**Cllr Turner**

CC feedback included:-

Looking to get a joint CC meeting in December.

Waiting on the report to come out from consultation – this should have the route included in this. Feel need to know what it is we are fighting against before we plan our next moves.

Need to target people to object to the sub-station planning application when it comes in.

Have had 300 questionnaires completed and 98.3% are objecting to the pylons. Need to work on our own formal objection to submit to include these results.

An email should be sent out to the database to say that the questionnaire is closing on Fri.

**LC/DE/DM**

**g) The Glebe**

Fiona gave a report. MA will chase to see if anything been done. Unlikely to meet again until Spring.

**h) Flooding in Drumoak**

Keith Muir Gardens Culvert – Confirmed there is a blockage. Work needs to be designed as to how to try and remove it and no timeline on this now – potentially Spring 2025 or later.

No timeline for Sunnyside work either due to financial constraints.

Cllr Turner will speak to Tim Steven to see what if anything can be done in the meantime to help those affected by the flooding.

**Cllr Turner**

**i) Bike Shelters**

SF has an on-site meeting with Sally from the Council and rep from Leys Estate at Crathes on Friday. Also meeting with Drumoak Bowling Club as a potential option. Community Hall have confirmed they do not want any more shelters at the hall. DM and SF will speak and potentially try and approach Crathes Hall again.

DE also suggested Mains of Drum might be worth looking at.

**DM/SF**

There are 12 shelters in total to find locations for.

**6) FINANCE**

**a) Applications**

No applications to approve at this meeting.

**b) Update**

**We have £6079.57 in our bank account currently.**

£1500 is waiting to be paid to Mid Hill 76 Drumoak School Sensory Room.

We have received £1250 for re-imbusement for the Defibs *Annual* Maintenance, our Mid Hill 72 application.

We have received £1217 for our Mid Hill 75 application for CC Laptops, TV, MS OS software and virus protection.

We have now paid £1535 to Drumoak Durriss Warm Space Mid Hill 74 application.



**Net figure for CC bank account after Mid Hill transfers and CDDCC IT spend. is £2112.57**

**COMMUNITY COUNCILS' IT SPEND**

David M raised a good point based on info received from Inchmarlo, Brathens, and Glassel Community Council, in that they currently spend £595 annually on IT alone (this may be due to the fact that they still only meet remotely). CDDCC spend is detailed below;

**CDDCC current IT annual spend:**

Weebly Personal Website Plan £98.49

**CDDCC planned IT annual spend will additionally include:**

MS Teams License £71.88

MS 365 Personal £59.99 (covers 2 laptops?)

Macafee virus protection 2 laptops, £20

TOTAL additional £151.87

**TOTAL for next year £250.36**

Our income from Aberdeenshire Council was £727 for 2023/24, reduced slightly from 2022/23

DE highlighted that there are other cost to consider within the £727 including hall hire for meetings/admin fees. May have to consider own fund raising in future if the £727 is not enough to cover everything.

**7) PLANNING & PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

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

Meeting took place with Paul Macari – Notes from the meeting have been circulated in the Gmail but a few items to point out are:-

Application for the sub-station had come in but not adequate so it is now back at pre-application stage.

He wasn't aware of the Highland Council motion.

Paul meets regularly with SSEN.

Happy to meet with us as a CC but not to discuss Pylons. Landowners – if SSEN go through compulsory purchase order this can take 5 years which would not be in the timeline of SSEN.

Could present our concerns to the Area Committee.

**b) Applications**

***Validated***



**Week beginning 14.10.24**

Reference	APP/2024/1692
Alternative Reference	100688654-001
Application Received	Tue 15 Oct 2024
Application Validated	Tue 15 Oct 2024
Address	10 School Lane Drumoak AB31 5EA
Proposal	Alterations to Dwellinghouse
Status	Awaiting decision
Appeal Status	Unknown
Appeal Decision	Not Available
Local Review Body Status	Not Available
Local Review Body Decision	Not Available

**Week beginning 28.10.24**

Reference	APP/2024/1769
Alternative Reference	100690354-001
Application Received	Thu 31 Oct 2024
Application Validated	Fri 01 Nov 2024
Address	Land To The South West Of Upper Balfour Durrisc Banchory AB31 6BJ
Proposal	Formation of Access Road
Status	Awaiting decision
Appeal Status	Unknown
Appeal Decision	Not Available
Local Review Body Status	Not Available
Local Review Body Decision	Not Available

**Week beginning 4.11.24**

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[Installation Of Air Source Heat Pump](#)

Kennerty Toll Cottage Raemoir Banchory AB31 4DQ

Ref. No: APP/2024/1787 | Received: Mon 04 Nov 2024 | Validated: Tue 05 Nov 2024 | Status: Awaiting decision

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[Installation of Air Source Heat Pump](#)

Kennerty Toll Cottage Raemoir Banchory AB31 4DQ

Ref. No: APP/2024/1750 | Received: Mon 28 Oct 2024 | Validated: Mon 04 Nov 2024 | Status: Awaiting decision

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**Week beginning 11.11.24**

Reference	APP/2024/1838
Alternative Reference	100691544-001
Application Received	Tue 12 Nov 2024
Application Validated	Tue 12 Nov 2024
Address	Balbridie Turning Point Banchory Aberdeenshire
Proposal	Formation of Private Way
Status	Awaiting decision
Appeal Status	Unknown
Appeal Decision	Not Available
Local Review Body Status	Not Available
Local Review Body Decision	Not Available

No comments to make

***Approved***

**Week beginning 14.10.24**

Reference	APP/2024/1557
Alternative Reference	100684420-001
Application Received	Wed 18 Sep 2024
Application Validated	Thu 26 Sep 2024
Address	Site At Craigbeg South West Of A957 Slug Road Stonehaven Aberdeenshire
Proposal	Extension of Borrow Pit (For maintenance of existing forestry track)
Status	Decided
Decision	Prior Approval Not Required
Decision Issued Date	Mon 21 Oct 2024
Appeal Status	Unknown
Appeal Decision	Not Available
Local Review Body Status	Not Available
Local Review Body Decision	Not Available

No Comments to make

**c) Local Place Plans**

Have been given an extension to March/April but would like it to be completed by March. Report has been circulated in the Gmail but a few things to highlight included:-



## **Responding to community needs**

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EC and NC are planning community engagement events in the new year. MA – will message the Durriss WhatsApp group and see if there are any groups EC could attend to speak with. MA  
So far have had over 100 responses.

Issues being raised:-

- Park Bridge (both sides of the river)
- Speeding, speed limits, road safety (in each Community)
- Need for community transport and getting around
- Better public transport
- Need for better communication with communities
- Local recycling facilities
- Drumoak village hub
- More activity in Durriss hall
- Crathes highly valued, but concerns raised about future fit for purpose
- Suggestions for improvement Drumoak Bowling Club
- Community policing – greater visibility
- Pylons
- Hill of Fare
- Affordable housing and social housing
- Fewer new larger dwellings
- Charging points

Suggestions we may take forward:

- a monthly email “What’s on” sheet. Newsletter is valued and appreciated, however it is felt that a regular newssheet would complement it, to timeously publicise activities and events.
- Public event around road safety, as there are concerns about several issues in each community, especially excessive speeding on narrow roads
- Discussion with Drumoak Bowling Club re suggestions above.

### **8) Aberdeenshire Council Updates**

No updates not discussed already.

### **9) AOB**

#### **a) December arrangements**

All agreed to have a social meeting in Dec – Wed 11<sup>th</sup> December.

#### **b) Jan Meeting – 8<sup>th</sup> Jan – Drumoak Bowling Club – LC to book**

**LC**

#### **c) CC Email distribution list**

DM will write up some rules regarding this to be approved by the group.

**DM**

#### **d) Event Regs and Drumoak & Durriss Community Group**

Reply from Dawn in the Inbox.

*Meeting closed at 21.41 hrs.*