



## Crathes Drumoak & Durriss Community Council Monthly Meeting

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> August 2024

### APPROVED AUG MEETING MINUTES

#### 1. INTRODUCTIONS & APOLOGIES

**Present:**

Community and Aberdeenshire Councillors:

Mark Ansell (MA) – Treasurer and Durriss rep.  
Lynn Coull (LC) – Drumoak rep  
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 – Chair for this meeting  
Shaun Falcus (SF) – Durriss rep

**Not present:-**

David Edgar (DE)– Chair and Durriss rep – apologies sent  
Nicola Chambury (NC) – Crathes Rep - apologies sent  
Eveline Crossan (EC) – Drumoak Rep – apologies sent

Councillors:

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

**Not present:**

Others:

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 (July 2024)**

AS emailed Gillian Martin – did not phone her- correct and then approved.  
MA – proposed LO - seconded.

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

None

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

AS reported that Deeside against pylons have access to a Bio-security protocol – and would encourage anyone who has SSEN visiting their land to use it.

MA reported that he had a meeting with Neil West – Landscape services – Olympic structure will be installed in the next 2 weeks

Meeting with Paul Macari – will go ahead with the Monday 28<sup>th</sup> Oct at 2pm. MA will email tomorrow to confirm. MA advised that anyone is welcome to attend this. **MA**

DM noted that there were several items referring to funding and proposed that we look at funding overall to get a better overview of what may be available to the CC area from all the different sources. We will put this on the next agenda. **DE**

**4) Police Reports**

Received on 13.8.24 and circulated ahead of the meeting. General feeling is that the report could be more specific to our area – not an actual amount of crime in our area being reported on. There is a lot of good advice included in this. DM will make the point about providing specificity for our CC area to our Police rep.. **DM**

**5) COMMUNITY UPDATES**

**a) Road Safety**

DE not present to report back on last month’s action point.

AS brought up the subject of motorbikes and the speed, noise and dangerous driving that has been occurring in the area. Another point to mention to Police when speaking to them about the report. **DM**

DM will speak to the workmen at Crathes regarding the lights as there was an error this evening resulting in a lot of big delays trying to leave Banchory.

LC reported that they are waiting on a meeting – MA will remind them that they need to come back with dates and also request for the most up-to-date data from the speed camera’s in Drumoak. **MA**

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

MA has emailed the new general manager. He will give them a couple of weeks and then chase by phone as AS mentioned that her emails were not getting through. **MA**

Nether Park Quarry – AS reported that although it has been partly re-instated to agricultural land but there is still activity going on (trucks going in and piles of gravel visible). To be investigated/clarified. **DM**

**c) Park Bridge**

Still waiting on the scoping document – this is not due till beginning of September.



AS still requesting a copy of the most recent inspection report of the bridge. Cllr Turner will see what he can get. He thought these happened annually – he has since found out it is bi-annually.

**Cllr  
Turner**

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

MA reported that they had a successful meeting last week. Scott McCredie (Historic Scotland) full report arrived into the gmail account today. Cameron Forbes (Derek's son – owner of the land) attended and is on board with progressing. Cllr Black will nudge Dunecht estates to respond.

**Cllr Black**

**e) Proposed Hill of Fare Windfarm**

Aberdeenshire Council have published their document and have recommended objection. We will cover the K&M Area Committee meeting – papers are not out yet. We cannot request to speak at the meeting until these have been released. DM assumes HoF application will be covered at the meeting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> September.

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

19<sup>th</sup> Aug – SSEN will publish the report on the consultation processes. See what this report mentions, as AS advised that in some previous reports they have mentioned that they have been speaking community representatives. Would like to find out who they are?

AS/MA reported on this from the Deeside Against Pylons (DAP) DAP are focussing on the health aspects – EMF - can cause cancers/leukaemia. Have a letter signed by 37 doctors – agreeing that these should not go ahead unless proper research is completed.

28<sup>th</sup> Aug – on-line session with SSEN.

DAP – all agreed will wait until after the report before setting up a meeting with the MP's/MSP's.

LC reported that they now have a signed joint letter from the 13 Community Councils affected along the proposed line to say that they all object. Are waiting to see what the report on the 19<sup>th</sup> says before sending this out.

**LC**

**g) The Glebe**

LC visited the site on Saturday night (10<sup>th</sup> Aug) and there were 13 tents on-site and 5 fire pits been dug out on the grass. One fire (although in a basket) was set up inside the trees – very dangerous.

One gentleman also had an air gun there with a target positioned on the tree (which had the Deeside way just behind it). There were air gun pellets embedded in the tree trunk. Will send photo's to the police of the gentleman and the damage. One resident tried to call 101 but was told it would be a 20-minute wait so gave up. Advice given back is that this should have been a 999 call.

DM will also follow this up with the police and will send photo's to police as well.

**DM**

Also an issue with locks not being locked again after bins been collected – means that cars can actually access the grounds themselves.

There is no funding for seasonal rangers anymore – this funding used to be provided by Nature Scot. Cllr Dickinson suggested that it might be worth us contacting them as a Community Council to highlight the effect of this. Also message the ranger services themselves and ask why they cannot arrange rota's to cover weekend as well – when these



areas are at their most busy. Cllr Dickinson will try and find out a relevant person to contact.

LC/AS also suggested it might be worth trying to arrange a meeting with Fiona Banks.

Cllr Black also mentioned there is an on-line police report that can be completed if you do not wish to wait on hold for a telephone call.

**Cllr  
Dickinson  
LC/AS**

**6) FINANCE**  
**CDDCC Finance Update**

Approx £3K in the account.

Still considering purchasing a laptop. MA will speak to DE on this.

De-fib – invoice received. MA advised this can be paid but as this is an annual charge we will need to look into funding options for this.

**MA/SF**

**a) Applications**

One received yesterday – Finzean under 5's. MA will report further on this at next meeting.

**7) PLANNING & PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

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

**b) Applications**

**Validated**

**Week beginning 5/8/24**



**Alterations and Extension to Dwellinghouse**

5 Reidford Gardens Drumoak AB31 5AW

Ref. No: APP/2024/1289 | Received: Fri 02 Aug 2024 | Validated: Mon 05 Aug 2024 | Status: Awaiting decision

**Installation of Free Standing Bike Storage Facilities**

Drum Castle Drumoak AB31 5EY

Ref. No: APP/2024/1283 | Received: Thu 01 Aug 2024 | Validated: Fri 09 Aug 2024 | Status: Awaiting decision

**Installation of Free Standing Bike Storage Facilities**

Crathes Castle Crathes Banchory AB31 5QJ

Ref. No: APP/2024/1282 | Received: Thu 01 Aug 2024 | Validated: Fri 09 Aug 2024 | Status: Awaiting decision

**Erection of Dog Boarding Kennels**

Bush Farmhouse Crathes Banchory AB31 5QQ

Ref. No: APP/2024/1223 | Received: Tue 23 Jul 2024 | Validated: Wed 07 Aug 2024 | Status: Awaiting decision

**Approved**  
**None**

No Comments to make

**c) Place Plans**

Email received from EC.

LC will send the flyer to everyone once she has added the QR code and everyone should complete this questionnaire.

**LC/ALL**

**8) Aberdeenshire Council Updates**

Nothing urgent at the moment that has not already been covered in the meeting.

**9) Strategic initiatives**

**Community Council Elections**

All been sent an email from DE. Forms are in the link in the email. All need to complete.

**ALL**

**10) AOB**

**a) Sept Meeting – Wed 11<sup>th</sup> Sept -Drumoak Bowling Club.**

LC will book. Cllr Black sends her apologies now.

**LC**



**b) Resilience Plan -**

Will wait until NC present

**c) Telephone Boxes**

BT been trying to remove one in Drumoak. AS would like to try and find out how much this is used (esp in emergencies) before agreeing to this.

**d) Bike Shelters**

Funding that we have applied for - had no response back on this. SF to email details to Cllr Turner and he will try and find out where it is at and who is dealing with in her absence.

**SF/Cllr  
Turner**

**e) Flooding in Drumoak**

Cllr Black still chasing this. Nothing to report back at the moment. Was told that the investigations would happen once the work had gone out to tender. Cllr Turner will also ask what is happening. LC to email Cllr Turner what she got from Ken Hood. He doesn't think that he can get the plans – if we want these need to purchase these from Asset section of Scottish Water.

**LC/Cllr  
Turner**

**f) Event Regs and Drumoak & Durriss Community Group**

AS mentioned how community events are being affected by the strict rules and regulations that are in place to allow these to happen (requirements for food hygiene certificates/first aiders/traffic wardens etc etc) and these are affecting the ability to hold such events. She asked the councillors if they could investigate why things have changed so much and is there any way of making it simpler?

**Cllr's**

*Meeting closed at 21.41 hrs.*