



Crathes Drumoak & Durriss Community Council Monthly Meeting

Wednesday 8th April 2026

APPROVED APR MEETING MINUTES

1. INTRODUCTIONS & APOLOGIES

Community and Aberdeenshire Councillors:

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

Councillors:

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

Others:

Minutes:

Sharon Hauxwell (SH) apologies sent
Eveline Crossan (EC)

The meeting was declared quorate (minimum, at current CC membership is 3).
The meeting offered condolences and sympathy to Sharon Hauxwell on her bereavement.

2. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES AND CC UPDATES

- a) Approval of Minute of Meeting (Mar 2026)**
AS proposed, MA seconded.



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

There was no further update on Council use of glyphosate. AS raised its suspected use at Kingswells by Aberdeen City, where unverified information reported one dog had died and 5 others were affected. AT was awaiting further paperwork on the use of glyphosate, confirmed that he had not received any information about an incident at Kingswells and was curious to know the Aberdeen City policy on glyphosate use.

3) SECRETARY'S REPORT and CORRESPONDENCE

It was noted that all work by **SSEN contractors** on and around Coupers Road in Drumoak had ceased. All temporary signage and diversions had been removed. During the March CDDCC meeting, JR had intimated that an FOI had been requested to explain permission for this work to be carried out, when planning permission for the project had not been granted.

New powers for Scottish Community Councils: EC had previously circulated a document comparing the powers of English Parish Councils and Scottish Community Councils, produced by Banchory CC. There was now opportunity to complete a consultative questionnaire, email in CDDCC inbox.

To be followed up.

Action JB

Noted the **Aberdeenshire Community Hospitals Review**, which was entering Phase 2. The status quo was being maintained. Concern was expressed that this review might position Glen o' Dee Community Hospital for closure. EC reported that she and DM had attended the consultation day in Banchory in October 2025, where staff were clear that they sought workable ideas to enhance the hospital's services to the community.

University of Aberdeen: Better Giving and Better Living event for Older People, information in CDDCC inbox.

Noted new **ALDO modules:** training for Community Councillors.

Home Energy Scotland: request for community engagement, agreed to pass to Warm Space.

Action DE

SSEN Grant Funding: application process closes 21st May. Two themes – Resilience and Low Carbon Technology – presently deemed not relevant to CDDCC objectives. Also noted Thistle Wind Partners (owned by JP Morgan Asset Management) Community fund on email dated 7/4/26.

AS queried potential for funding from Craigneil Windfarm, an extension to Meikle Carewe at Rickarton. Although approved, construction had not started yet; the applicant had subsequently reduced the number of, and increased the height of the turbines, and was subject to further approval, but technically construction could go ahead for the approved specifications.



Fees for Weebly (management of CDDCC website) will be increasing. DE noted the need to update and upgrade the website, and to use the time before renewal to evaluate costs, efficiency and potential for modernisation of the site. **Action DE/JB**

- 4) **Police Reports:** No Issues. DE noted that David Charnley, Community Liaison Officer, would attend CC meetings in future. AT questioned how many meetings DC would be able to attend, given the number of CCs in the area. Once quarterly was suggested and DE would contact DC. **Action DE**

DE noted a further email from DC regarding potential collaborative work. Agreed to ask for more information. **Action DE**

- 5) **PLANNING & PLANNING APPLICATIONS – To be moved to number 1 for next meeting** **SH**

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

No further meeting with Paul Macari, so MA has requested a meeting in May.

- b) **Applications**

Validated

Week beginning 23/3/26

Reference	APP/2026/0515
Alternative Reference	100748864-001
Application Received	Wed 25 Mar 2026
Application Validated	Wed 25 Mar 2026
Address	Nether Sunnyside Cottage Drumoak Aberdeenshire AB31 5AG
Proposal	Alterations and Extension to Dwellinghouse
Status	Awaiting decision
Appeal Status	
Appeal Decision	
Local Review Body Status	
Local Review Body Decision	

Decided No issues or comments

Week beginning 16.3.26



Reference	APP/2025/1405
Alternative Reference	100721460-001
Application Received	Tue 26 Aug 2025
Application Validated	Tue 26 Aug 2025
Address	Burnhead Cottage Raemoir Banchory Aberdeenshire AB31 4EB
Proposal	Conversion and Extension of Derelict Building to form Dwellinghouse, Erection of Garage and Summerhouse and Change of Use of Land to Domestic Garden Ground (Amendment to Previous Planning Permission Reference APP/2023/0921)
Status	Decided
Decision	Approved
Decision Issued Date	Mon 23 Mar 2026
Appeal Status	
Appeal Decision	
Local Review Body Status	
Local Review Body Decision	

No comments on the above.

c) Local Place Plans

EC reported that the LPP, Settlement Statements and Call for Ideas forms had been submitted on time on 16th March. The LPP was now in the registration process. She thanked everyone for their contributions to the final documents. The LPP for our area reflected the views expressed by residents. There were strong similarities on outcomes with other CCs in the area, however CDDCC was also strong on community and social care. Communication and information for the community, value placed on community events like the Crathes Fly and Warm Space and strongly in Drumoak, the standout need for a functional, accessible community hub. AS reported that the newsletter would be discussed at the DDCG AGM in May. She noted that costs spiralled, although supported by advertising, and the newsletter was becoming unviable. Additionally, closure of local printers and the church, partnering in production, placed further obstacles to continuation. Other approaches were discussed and it was agreed that this should be revisited in a future meeting.

Deeside Development Group: The 8 CCs in Mid and Lower Deeside, recognising many common areas of concern, agreed a “Deeside Development Charter” which was submitted alongside, and in support of, the Call for Ideas and Settlement Statements. No further meeting had taken place.

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a) Road Safety

i) Kirkton of Durriss 40mph

This issue had not been on the agenda for the K&M area committee in March, nor the Ward meeting. AT to follow up. **Action AT**

AS queried the number of speeding tickets issued from speed traps locally in Drumoak. Agreed to ask David Charnley. **Action AS**

ii) A93 Park & A93 / A957 Crathes request

No further information. It was understood that DM had compiled an up-to-date document. David to speak to Stuart Andrew regarding the A93 park statement. **Action DE/DM**



b) Park Quarry

MA was still pursuing JKR and the Council Planning team for an original copy of the planning application; a site meeting as offered by the owners previously has been arranged for May. Concerns were expressed about the lack of Council resources to impose planning conditions, resulting in failure to reinstate the site, and the Kincluney Village re-emerging as a possibility, which the LPP reported as the community firmly against such a development.

c) Park Bridge

AS had requested the inspection report at the end of January and has not received a copy. AT will follow up. **Action AT**

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

DE and MA reported a successful application, awarded £5000. Local company CRC will bid and have already provided a quote which will enable further applications. DE will chase Adam Bunce once more for the consultation feedback. Local businesses may provide support, to be confirmed. Next step planning applications and funding applications. AT advised to contact Active Travel, Murray Swapp, Sally Weightman, as this project seems to fit Active Travel criteria. Also, Paul Finch or Adam Kinch of NESTRANS. AT to enquire. **Action AT**

Several access issues present re: Dunecht Estates. A meeting is planned with DE, MA, DM and Stuart Young of Dunecht Estates.

e) Energy projects / Committees

i) *Convention of Northeast Community Councils:* AS had previously circulated an email from Steve Allen, outlining concerns about the Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party manifesto on infrastructure which mirrors the CNCC document. It transpires that both have been written by Highland Councillor Helen Crawford (HC). Hugely concerning as CCs must be apolitical and opinion that HC should stand aside as Chair. At its first meeting, the Convention laboured the point about being apolitical. If nothing changes, we will need to make decisions in the light of what has happened. Concern at the potential loss of the Convention. After discussion, it was agreed that AS would contact Peter Argyle CNCC and on AT's suggestion, challenge MSP Alexander Burnett as well. **Action AS**

ii) *Proposed Hill of Fare Windfarm:* AS intimated that the Reporter has sought comments on the Raeshaw Farm case (i.e. salami-slicing approach to the application). A response will be prepared on our behalf and from other interested parties. There will be a public enquiry in June and she has started preparation, signing CDDCC up for participation. A written statement on the need for OHL, agriculture & farming, pylon size, Raeshaw Farms, landscape and visual impact is in preparation.



Donation of £100 had been previously agreed by CDDCC to contribute to KC fees via email and ratified in the meeting. It was agreed to be cautious about future such donations.

- iii) Fetteresso Forest (Hurlie Substation/Bowden/Bellrock) :** There will be no public inquiry on this issue; now awaiting feedback from Scottish Ministers.
- iv) Proposed 400kV Overhead Line:** AS has signed up to speak at the public hearing on this issue on 17th June in Banchory. Originally three dates, lobbying was successful for the 4th date in Banchory. AS suggests that we show up in force. NOTKUP has engaged a KC and a landscape architect. An excellent document has been produced.
- v) Proposed Glenskinnan Energy Park:** ER reported that, following two open meetings featuring well-researched, good presentations and well-supported by verifiable statistics demonstrating vast over capacity in electricity, further consultation was planned.
- f) The Glebe**
MA was still working with Fiona Banks, Ranger Service. He had told her of the intention to plant some trees. She had advised to get permission from the landowner, so he has asked that she consult the lease to identify the landowner. Following discussion at the last meeting about content of signs, AS had previously circulated a photo of a sign at Balmedie Beach which encompasses everything CDDCC has been requesting for the Glebe. MA will send it to Fiona Banks.
Action MA
AS also reported that the bins had been returned. Further discussed that wilding the Glebe may be a solution to the problems there.
- g) Flooding in Drumoak**
AT said that there had been an update at the last Ward meeting. Large boulders had been removed from the culvert pipe. James Buchan, resident, had attended last month's meeting and told the meeting that a manhole, concealed by undergrowth, was the source of the water affecting his home. AT would speak to Cllr Dawn Black to progress the issue.
Action AT
EC noted that there were many flashpoints around the area regarding localised flooding, and one suggestion in the Call for Ideas was to produce a map of the area with those flashpoints from a consultation with the community. **Action CDDCC**
- h) Bike Shelters**
No further information



7) FINANCE

a) Update

Still awaiting change of Treasurer paperwork from RBS.

JB outlined his plan to circulate bank payments on a rolling spreadsheet to ensure that everyone is aware of the latest financial situation. DE suggested that each pot of money has its own column; CC funding, grant held for Durriss Paths and Midhill. Columns would be added for future projects. An interest-paying account will be necessary as a condition of Grant from Fred.Olsen (Midhill).

MIDHILL COMMUNITY FUND

b) Applications

MA had previously circulated a spreadsheet detailing all payments from the Midhill Fund from Feb 22 to date. It drew positive comment, showing repeat applicants.

JB had circulated two applications; Woodlands of Durriss Community BBQ (£1233) and Crathes Village Hall for replacement tables (£3000). Following discussion, it was agreed to grant £500 to Durriss Community BBQ. The application from Crathes Hall was refused with the caveat that, should fewer applications be received in the next few months, the application would be revisited if funds become available. Members wanted funding to be available throughout the year. EC suggested a resource sheet for applicants containing information on local/regional trusts where they can apply for further or match funding. Also suggested that JB contact Aberdeenshire Voluntary Action to run a funding search on behalf of CDDCC to identify other potential sources of grant funding.

8) Aberdeenshire Councillor Updates

No further updates at this meeting.

9) Strategic initiatives/Fundraising

Nothing at this stage.

10) AOB

a) May Meeting – Wed 13th - Durriss Hall

b) EC had circulated an email from Sue Paterson, BCC regarding a proposal to increase the Banchory Academy school roll, from 980 to 1080 and seeking support from the Academy catchment area to challenge the proposal. BCC had worked with schoolchildren and teachers during the Local Place Plan process and were calling for the school to be replaced, which has been planned for as early as 2012. Feedback from their LPP workshops showed that the school had increased in size from 780 to 980 when portacabins were installed and class sizes increased. However, the school feels overcrowded and over capacity because the internal infrastructure – corridors, gym, and canteen, etc – have not increased in relative size. EC would resend the email for information. **Action EC**



Responding to community needs

Following brief discussion, it was agreed to support the challenge. EC to contact BCC. **Action EC**

Meeting closed at 2250hrs.