



Responding to community needs

**CRATHES, DRUMOAK & DURRIS COMMUNITY COUNCIL (CDDCC)
MINUTES OF MEETING
WEDNESDAY, 6 APRIL 2016 19:30 – KIRTON OF DURRIS HALL**

1. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Community Councillors: David Reaich (Acting Chair), Mike Taylor, Mark Ansell, Peter Renwick, Howard Scholey

Aberdeenshire Councillors: Wendy Agnew, Linda Clark, Graeme Clark, Peter Bellarby

Members of Public: David Morrish

Minute Secretary: Rhona Garry

Apologies: Marion McNeil, Cllr Raymond Christie, PC Stevenson

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES, 2nd MARCH 2016

The minutes had been circulated to the other community councillor members prior to the meeting. Howard Scholey enquired as to if the amendments he had suggested were changed in the final document. David Reaich assured that the edits had been made.

Actions from the previous meeting were reviewed to discuss their progress. Beginning with the signage heights in Crathes that Howard Scholey had taken on. He reported that he had attempted to find any public information on the matter, specifically on the Scottish government website. He could not find any references to heights of 30mph signs. With no further information, it was decided that the topic was closed.

There was mention of Mark Ansell's contact with Maxine to attempt and issue an action tracker regarding road safety. It was decided however that no further action would be taken. Additionally, Mark Ansell had hoped to discuss the reduction of the 50mph zone 40mph in the Kirkton of Durris with Sgt Neil McHattie, but as he was not present this would be continued at a later date. Any further road safety information was covered later in the meeting under Mark Ansell's report.

The questions regarding the reason for cancellation of the pre-determination meeting for the CHAPS Park Quarry Application (Kinclunty), Howard Scholey had contacted Willie Munro. This would be separately discussed under the subsection in Planning.

Lastly, Mike Taylor took on board the issue of water running down Sunnyside. He made contact with Steward Milne and Roads department about having a meeting on site and as the problem had not arisen since then no further action had been done.

After discussion of all the actions from previous meeting, Howard Scholey proposed the approval of the minutes and Mark Ansell seconded.

3. MATTERS ARISING

a. Safe Access to School Update

The community councillors had received an email from Campbell Crockatt with pictures of the current developments with two of the crossings installed. Additionally all beacons had been installed but not all of them were currently working. The hope was that all beacons would be functioning correctly after the school holidays. David Reaich mentioned that he had a request from parents for his contact details for information concerning the crossings. There was an additional concern expressed that the placing of the railings would reduce the footpath width so that disabled access would be difficult or not possible. The general consensus was to follow the current progress of the crossings, and when Marion McNeil returned an update could be given as she regularly attends the school meetings.

b. Funding of Community Projects (Windfarms)

Mark Ansell reported that he had been emailed applications but these would be discussed under AOB.

There had also been a report circulated for the Meakhill Carewe Windfarm fund that is administered by KDP. There was a favourable outcome for the community with a total of 15 applications of a variety of different groups.

David Reaich commented that they should continue to encourage groups to apply for funding. Howard Scholey remarked that the flyer for the Windfarm funds had been very useful. It was decided that David Reaich would add the flyer to the Facebook and website pages.

c. Community Action Plans

There was little to report on as the Drumoak action plan had been largely driven by Maxine Smith. With her absence, it was thought that Marion McNeil would be taking over, aided by the Drumoak Community Group. David Reaich proposed for the issue to be kept on the agenda for the next meeting and further discussed.

d. Road Safety Update

There was continued discussion about the Kirkton of Durris speed limit especially with the recent planning application for two houses in the area.

It was agreed to continue to discuss with Alan Burns and the Roads Department.

Regarding the Road Safety meeting previously held, Mark Ansell reported that he had received positive feedback from Philip Leiper and Sgt. McHattie continued to be aware of the progress. There had also been no further recruitment of volunteers from the survey participants following the meeting. It was decided that Mark Ansell would reissue the email for volunteers and David Reaich would add the notice to the website and Facebook.

David Morrish brought to the attention of the Community Council that the Steward Milne Crathes work had stopped recently and as a result was affecting the Crathes speed limit as the road traffic calming, safe crossing to Deeside way and traffic island were not installed. It was believed that these would not be put into place in till construction was completely finished as the works entrance interfered with the Deeside way. Peter Renwick also commented that he had received complaints from residents that rubbish was blowing over from the works area. David Reaich and Cllr. Wendy Agnew asked if the application specified a timescale. David Morrish was unsure but believed that it had not specified that the requirements had to be fulfilled before completion of building, and that this had been fine while works were still proceeding. However, with the current stalled works it was causing some complaints and comments. Cllr. Linda Clark requested that David Morrish forward her the email with these complaints.

Following discussion of Steward Milne David Morrish agreed to continue to be a community representative with them.

e. Bus Update

Mike Taylor reported that there were currently four newer buses on the route with three more to come. This would be a total of seven newer buses on the Deeside route. He had attended two bus forums recently in which there were many common issues including late, missing and passing buses. Mike Taylor said that he had raised the problem of the often confusing bus timetables to which Stagecoach addressed. There are two timetables posted on the internet, one is that of traveline which is not correct. The more accurate one is from stagecoach. Concerning the issue of buses passing stops, Mike Taylor said that Stagecoach requested detailed information about the incidents such as date, time and location. David Morrish enquired as to who this information should be sent to. Mike Taylor replied that if an email was sent to him then he would forward it to the appropriate people.

In addition, Mike Taylor commented that the bus timetables were being updated so if there were requests or comments for particular times to send

those to him. Stagecoaches also have a website with live bus times and track. However, not all of the buses can be tracked.

As a point of information, Howard Scholey wondered if there was a policy for flagging down buses in between stops. Mike Taylor offered to seek clarification on this matter.

4. POLICE REPORT

David Reaich commented that he had not yet seen the report in the admin inbox. However he had received two other matters to mention. The deputy chief constable Iain Livingstone after the incidents in Belgium wished to reassure communities and to emphasize that there is no toleration for hate crimes.

Mike Taylor also brought to the attention of the community council attempted break ins on James Gregory Road on the past Sunday night-Monday morning. Garages had been targeted with one car stolen. It was stressed the need to be vigilant and lock doors. Mark Ansell also highlighted that garages in particular can be targeted if they have integral doors that lead into the house, as this allows an opportunity for keys to be stolen. David Reaich commented that he would make a point of this on the social media sites to remind people to lock all doors.

5. FINANCE

Peter Renwick reported that there had recently been little activity. At the current moment there was a budget of £1746, but there were some cheques that were to be cashed shortly. After these cheques the working budget would be roughly £1586.

Marion and Maxine had been the only other signatories but currently with Marion's absence and Maxine's departure it was causing some logistical problems. Peter Renwick enquired if there were other Community Councillors who would be willing to become signatories. CDDCC resolved to change the authorised signatories to the mandates on the account SORT 83-28-46 AC NO 00109792 with the inclusion of David Reaich, Mark Ansell and Michael Taylor, and to remove Maxine Smith.

6. PLANNING ISSUES

a. Park Quarry

Last meeting there had been discussion on requesting an explanation for the cancellation of the pre-determination meeting from **Willie Munro** and his team. After a reply from Karen McWilliam, the decision was deferred till this meeting if the Community council wished for someone to attend the meeting for further explanation. Peter Renwick commented that he did not currently see an overwhelming reason for someone to attend. David Reaich concurred with this. As a result, it was decided that the Community Council would not request attendance. Clarification of the meeting process

for the overall Kincluny application was asked for as there was some confusion following the cancellation. Wendy Agnew replied that the process follows as the pre-determination, area meeting for comments and then the full council meeting. The right for representation could be requested for the pre-determination meeting and/or the full council. Councillors mentioned that to address the full council they must just be sure that they have asked in writing. Regarding the pre-determination meeting, set for the 1st of June, Mike Robertson informed one of the Community Council members that he would not be available. He asked if someone could speak on his behalf, which David Reaich volunteered for. David Morrish commented that he would be willing to help speak at the pre-determination meeting if necessary. Peter Renwick replied that the information and speakers had been organized prior to previous cancelled pre-determination so at the moment it was not needed for him to speak. It was determined that the pre-determination meeting was going to be held the same night as the Community Council's June meeting. It was decided to attempt to reschedule the meeting, possibly for the prior Wednesday (25th May).

There was discussion surrounding the recent application for mineral extraction rights and a 3 year license extension. Howard Scholey expressed concern at the fact there was two contradictory applications and the perception the community would have on what was occurring. Cllr. Wendy Agnew commented that the current license ends in September. David Morrish believed that currently they were behind the reinstatement of agricultural land under the stipulations for the original application. He urged for the Community Council to object. After some discussion, it was decided that Peter Renwick would put together a small statement to object. This would include some comments concerning the delay of the reinstatement of the land.

The CC learned that the Aberdeenshire Council introduced a Valued View category to protect sites against unwanted exploitation to the detriment of the landscape. This clause was being used in the Sandlaw Farm application which impacts the view from Scolty Hill. It may be relevant for the Park Quarry application as well.

b. Relevant March Applications

There were applications for a total of three houses within the Kirkton of Durris. Two of these houses were discussed about under road safety as there construction should affect the surrounding speed limit. It was decided that Mark Ansell for the Community Council would place a comment in support but mentioning the speed limit.

David Reaich also commented that the old school had been under offer, but had proved unsuccessful.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

There was discussion of the Aberdeenshire local development plan, as there was an outline of related works for the next 12 months.

David Reaich had received interest for recruitment from gentlemen, who was currently away at the time so was not available for the meeting.

Another point was raised as David Reaich had received a request for the December and January minutes. He was to continue to search for the files so they could be added to the website.

8. COMMUNITY COUNCIL RECRUITMENT

There was a lengthy discussion about the next steps to encourage volunteers. Howard Scholey stated that after the public announcement there would be a minimum of 14 days and maximum of 28 days for nominations. The plan was to place the announcement in the Deeside Piper for the last week of April as this would finish the period for nominations to the 21st of May. This would also leave 7 days to allow people to retract any nominations. A rough draft of the announcement was handed out to the community councillors for any comments. There was general agreement on the timetable outlined. David Reaich also mentioned that he could put the nomination forms on the website. Howard Scholey mentioned that the forms could also be found annexed onto the Aberdeenshire council's website in the establishment of community council section.

The topic of the need to appoint a returning officer was also discussed. It was commented that it is usually a councillor. Cllr Linda Clark said she would be willing but that it was the Community Council's choice.

9. AOB

Mark Ansell reported on the Windfarm funds. Discussions on the Mid Hill fund applications was in the past done in private however for the sake of transparency it was decided they could be discussed during the meeting. There were two applications discussed. One of these was from the Kirkton of Durris hall for £1400 that would pay for broadband, wifi, laptop, and other equipment. An evaluation form for allocation had already been sent and filled out by the applicants. David Reaich enquired about if there would be ongoing funding for the wifi. Mark Ansell replied that the Hall was aware of this and prepared for the costs. Mark Ansell proposed and there was a unanimous agreement. A copy of the minutes would then be sent to Fred Olson so that the payment could be processed.

Another application was received the previous night from Crathes Hall for £350 that would fund a table tennis and some bats. Mark Ansell believed that they aimed to set up a table tennis group. The evaluation was still to be filled out and sent in, but there were no objections from the community council for its funding.

David Reaich mentioned that he had received requests from various groups such as the yoga lessons and toddler groups for ads on the website. He was encouraging for the ads to first be placed onto the Facebook page. Peter Renwick commented that many other community councils advertise local businesses and groups on their websites. Following this David Reaich said he would formally reply to the requests he had and add the advertisements onto website.

Regarding the community council's website Howard Scholey remarked on the out of date community councillors profiles. David Reaich replied that he would organize the section and add the new members.

Cllr. Linda Clark mentioned a Scotland Stronger in Europe meeting held by Peter Young the following night at 7 o'clock in the Strachan Hall. It was just about information and Q & As.

David Morrish offered to send out some flyers for the community council in the new houses in his area. David Reaich commented that there was a blurb on the website that could be used as a flyer. In addition, Howard Scholey said there may be an old flyer that if it was still appropriate could be used.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9:30pm.