



Crathes Drumoak & Durris Community Council Monthly Meeting
Wednesday 10th March 2021 – Google Video Conference
MEETING MINUTES

1) INTRODUCTIONS & APOLOGIES

Present:

Community Councillors:

Peter Renwick – Chair & Crathes rep.
Mark Ansell – Treasurer & Durris rep
Anne Shearer – Drumoak rep.
Joyce Scott – Durris rep.
David Morrish – Crathes rep.
Phillippa Jensen- Crathes rep.
David Edgar- Durris rep.
Lynn Coull- Drumoak rep.

Councillors:

Banchory & Mid-Deeside - Marr Area, Ward 16:

Cllr Ann Ross
Cllr Rosemary Bruce

Stonehaven & Lower Deeside – K&M Area, Ward 18:

Cllr Sarah Dickinson
Cllr Wendy Agnew
Cllr Dennis Robertson

Visitors –Ken Duncan (Durris), Fergus Mutch (SNP Candidate), Mike Greaves, David Millar, Deryck Forbes (Mains of Drum Garden Centre), Niki Hare-Scott

Minutes- Poppy Diamond

Apologies notified:

Police Liaison : Marc Camus (*PT*)

The meeting was declared quorate.

2) COVID UPDATE (PR)

- not much to report
- no deaths in grampian for last 5 days
- 17 cases in the last 5 days (tier one category)
- 1 person in intensive care
- North East / Grampian is doing well
- ease of restrictions now
- proposed ease of rules in April
- vaccines - 65s - 70 done, waiting for 60-65s

3) REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Anne shearer to propose
Phillipa Jensen seconds them

a) Actions & Matters Arising from February

- **Kirkton of Durris speed limit (DE)**
Multiple emails have been received in the last few months, evidence has been submitted to the K&M Ward Meeting; It was raised that diagrams were askew and DE agreed to amend if necessary. Cllr Agnew is waiting for a response from officers ACTION - Cllr Agnew and Cllr Dickinson will follow up on this matter.
- **Minute Secretary (PR)**
The previous minute secretary was unable to continue in the role due to personal reasons, Poppy Diamond has been invited to fill the role, and accepted.
- **Drumoak Post Office (MA)**
Since the previous postlady at the Drumoak post office retired, there has been a temporary part time post office service held at the Drumoak Bowling Club, this has been unpopular and therefore it has been suggested that a post office service could be opened in the Mains of Drum Garden Centre. Deryck Forbes said that he was willing to pursue the idea, but there are concerns regarding insurance, security, and the location within the store where this service would be positioned. ACTION - AS will forward DF's phone number to the retired post lady in order for them to establish clearer information on how to proceed. MA will gather information from other post offices in the area to establish how this service could be set up.
- **Park Bridge/ISC Meeting - clarify methodology (Cllr Agnew)**
It has been established that the methodology of the assessment of the bridge is unclear, Cllr Agnew reports that there were no outside consultants hired to look at the bridge, rather it was officers of Aberdeenshire Council. The primary



concern for the bridge is the integrity of the wood deck, it currently seems to be in good condition, but there are drainage issues on the main deck of the bridge that need to be addressed. ACTION - Cllr Agnew should prioritise finding the information on the methodology, and information on the public consultation regarding the methodology should be posted on the CDD CC Facebook page to garner attention.

4) SECRETARY'S REPORT and CORRESPONDENCE

a) Reports

- Circular economy - PR
- **Community / Town Centre Development webinar**

The turnout for this event was very large - Aberdeenshire town centres have been doing a lot to improve in order to stay viable, with small businesses in need of footfall on highstreets in order to maintain business there is approximately £250 million in funding for these projects across the country. ACTION - PR will look into engaging with a consultant E.g KDP who could help secure necessary funding.
- **CC forum (AS)**

It has been made apparent that there will be a lack of grass cutting in the summer due to COVID-19, the main focus of the biodiversity plan will be in Crathes, with a smaller effort in Drumoak. The Glebe was discussed - Ian Welsh was contacted in regards to this, in order to establish Council Management Rules covering open spaces that can be enforced, and visible to the public. CDDCC are very keen to progress the necessary signage. Food larders have been seen as a success, although there are some families that are becoming dependent on them meaning that the sustainability of these are at risk. LDP has been delayed due to an overwhelming level of response. AS and DM raised unsafe major pot holes on the South Deeside Road, encouraging people to report them on the MyAberdeenshire App in hopes of them being fixed despite the small budget for road repairs annually.

b) Correspondence

- Zurich insurance organised and paid for by the council to be deducted from the CC funding.

- AS received correspondence from Hugh Craigie of Chap to inform the sale of all Chap quarries to JKR. JKR will keep current Chap employees in work, JKR should be contacted about management, but Chap will still own the land. Current planning permission is valid until October 2022 - an extension to this can be applied for JKR will review this over the coming year. Hugh Craigie has forwarded a contact with JKR and wants to have a meeting to introduce Kevin Taylor of JKR to CDDCC.
- Scottish water (MA) Woodlands of Durriss Waste Treatment system is over capacity during periods of heavy rainfall. MA has asked what will be done in the future regarding the existing new houses and those applying for the next LDP allocation. ACTION - MA to continue dialogue with Scottish Water
- 22 Feb PR received community council guidance list of members, holding AGM in June (held in November last year due to covid) getting back into the cycle with Aberdeenshire Council, there are spaces for more community councillors in Drumoak - this should be advertised on Facebook. Reports should also be gathered for the end of the year.
- 24th Feb Aberdeenshire council saying that public transport should be booked online rather than following a timetable A93 is the only regular bus route - not accessible to those south of the river.
- River dee salmon trust webinar discussing issues around non native invasive species on 13th of March.
- Emma Storey survey
- Phillipa Jensen went through the whole survey. The survey couldn't be completed on behalf of the community council. focus groups will be held at a later date, and would be happy to contribute. Will give more information if more is heard.
- Request from PC Mark Camus for locations of AEDs in our area - Police don't have a complete list and don't know where they are - emergency services should know where External AEDs are. Looking for AEDs registered with the Scottish Ambulance Service. ACTION PR - find more info and forward it to the police.

5) POLICE REPORTS

- a) Lower Deeside report received 24th Feb and 9 March. Marr report 5 March



- Stonehaven report - January was very quiet, Stonehaven and Banchory had a few minor thefts, driving issues Stonehaven had 2 arrests from drug related issues.
- b) NE crime reduction briefing
 - Information on their website, on securing their outdoor buildings, sheds etc looking at bikes - expensive mountain bikes are being targeted PR created a flyer that is on the website and will be linked into the facebook page
 - AR - Banchory and Kingswells vets have received reports of dog thefts in the area - alleged white van stopping and asking people if their dogs are actually theirs.
 - Deryck Forbes raised Upper Balfour fly tipping issues - combination lock for farmers new gates to prevent fly tipping will be installed, preventing children from playing on stacked hay bales to prevent injuries. Thefts of diesel and damages being reported - gates and locks are being broken in order for this to happen - reported to police but there has been little action.
 - Bonfire and BBQs in woodlands of durriss - fire hazard. Alcohol bottles and cans are also being left. Park estate has locked some gates to deter people from entering due to fly tipping etc. Report fly tipping to the council to be picked up (only if it is in the public) ACTION - PR to make a facebook post regarding these issues.

6) COMMUNITY UPDATES

- a) **Crathes Hall (PR)**

Fundraising for the renovation of the Crathes hall has begun. In order to develop closer ties with the Crathes hall team, PR has joined their communications committee. Payment for booking meetings in the hall was discussed, looking at whether making a larger donation to the fundraising to establish a positive relationship and possibly not have to pay booking fees for using the hall for meetings was discussed but this was dismissed due to the lack of a formal agreement with the people that run the bookings. It was decided that it would be better to pay the rental fee as the agreement associated with the donation may be forgotten over time.
- b) **Place plans (PR)**

Pending further info from Aberdeenshire Council?

- c) **Durriss post facility (JS)**

JS has been in contact with the post office and has received a form to fill in to apply for post box upgrades, although there may be a cost implication for this. ACTION - JS will put in the application and give details when a response is received.

- d) **Drumoak Glebe / preparing for the summer (Cllr Agnew, AS, LC)**

There was discussion regarding large gatherings, littering and bonfires, with mention of asking the Aberdeenshire council to put management roles in place in order to prevent this and allow people to enforce the rules and prevent these issues from reoccurring. Due to the current COVID-19 rules, there is concern that these issues will be worsened in the summer as people will be unable to travel abroad. AR mentioned reminding people about the country access code, DF and NH-S mentioned people entering fields with livestock without farmers permission, putting them, and the animals at risk. ACTION LC will contact the Drumoak Primary School regarding pupils making signs to deter littering and fires in the area. ACTION Cllr Agnew will gather information regarding applying for permission to put signs up in the area. There was also discussion regarding people parking on the Deeside way near the caravan park - ACTION Cllr Agnew will contact roads dept to discuss no parking signage.

7) FINANCE

- a) **Bank account activity / balance / switch (MA)**

CDDCC account currently £4400; the switch incentive will not be possible as the deadline was missed, but research into switching to Metro will continue. Issues with signing cheques are a continued issue with RBS.

Midhill Windfarm funding
There is currently around £19,000 in the fund, any community projects should visit the website.

8) PLANNING & PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- a) **Decisions**
 - Mostly for single house development upgrades, extensions etc
 - 6 properties were approved including 13 deevie gardens despite concerns.



b) **Applications from Jan - Feb 21**

- 9 applications: alterations to dwelling house and decking at Todholes farmhouse - DM asked whether neighbours should be made aware ACTION PR will contact DM regarding this issue
- The only application that was objected was Plot 2 East of Cedar Avenue, Durris, due to the land being unsuitable for soakaways, causing flooding in the surrounding residential area. ACTION - MA will look at the application and speak to PR.

9) **AOB**

a) **CC Liason**

b) **Google password change**

As members who previously had access to the Google account have left, the password to the Google account will be changed to ensure security.

c) **Completion of Stuart Milne houses in Crathes (DM)**

Stuart Milne homes are almost finished, DM proposed celebration for the completion of the building works, and to celebrate the kind and welcoming community coming together to integrate those who lived there previously and those that have moved into the new housing estate. ACTION DM will ask around to gather the community's opinion on the idea.

- Next meeting April 14th

The meeting closed at **21.26hrs**