



## Crathes Drumoak & Durris Community Council Monthly Meeting

Wednesday 12th May 2021 – Google Video Conference

### MEETING MINUTES

#### 1) INTRODUCTIONS & APOLOGIES

**Present:**

Community Councillors:

Lynn Coull - Drumoak rep.  
David Morrish - Crathes rep.  
Mark Ansell - treasurer and Durris rep.  
Peter Renwick - chair and Crathes rep.  
David Edgar - Durris rep.  
Philippa Jensen - Crathes rep.

Councillors:

Cllr Sarah Dickinson  
Cllr Wendy Agnew  
Cllr Ann Ross  
Cll Rosemary Bruce

Minutes- Poppy Diamond

**Apologies notified:**

Anne Shearer  
Joyce Scott  
Cllr Eileen Durno  
P.C Mark Camus  
Cllr Robertson  
Cllr Wallace

The meeting was declared quorate.

#### 2) REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

David Morrish proposed them for approval.  
Mark Ansell seconds them

##### a) Actions & Matters Arising from March

- **Kirkton of Durris speed limit (DE)**

As of April the council roads department stated that they were not going to change the speed limit unless there was a serious change in the area that would mean that all parameters for the change of speed limit would be met. The CC will continue to push for the change by going over documents and guidelines that can be submitted to Cllr Dickenson for review.  
**Action - AR** will forward any relevant information that she has.

- **Drumoak Post Office Facility (AS)**

AS was not present at the meeting, but has updated that Donald Forbes has engaged with the retired postmistress to get more information regarding running the post facility and what it may entail.

- **Park quarry – meet JKR (AS)**

Mr Taylor from JKR has a meeting planned with AS at the end of May to discuss the impacts of work at the quarry for the community following the queries discussed in previous meetings.

- **Potholes from Durris bridge to the Feugh**

Emails have been exchanged and signs have been put up to warn of poor road surface on the C36K from the Durris Bridge to the Feugh, but only a few potholes have been filled, which is not satisfactory. The Aberdeenshire Council has planned for this stretch of the road to be resurfaced in the near future.

- **Drumoak Glebe – (AS + PR)**

PR emailed Bruce Stewart regarding the police report that had been previously discussed. The police confirmed that they had been called out and the matter was resolved, but there is an ongoing issue with crowds at the Glebe, despite bad weather. Rangers and gillies are being more active in deterring people from the Glebe. Cllr Agnew suggested putting up a barrier to prevent people from driving to the entrance of the Glebe to prevent people from carrying heavier items such as tents or barbecues. This may cause issues with parking as the lane is used for parking, and concerns were raised that ambulances would not be able to respond to emergencies in time. The Aberdeenshire council is speaking to other councils regarding their management strategies for dealing with similar issues to collate evidence to support whatever solutions are suggested.

- **Speed/noisey bikes/cars on local roads (PC Camus to organize checks)**



PC Camus was unable to attend the meeting, but stated that he would organise some speed checks in the local area to attempt to prevent speeding in the area. PR noted that there was little on noise pollution and speeding in a recent survey by the strategic transport group. AR has stated that the Aberdeenshire Council has an app for reporting noise pollution in the area **ACTION AR** will send information regarding this app

- **Broadband (DE)**

DE has found that BT have not been updating service providers without sending Openreach engineers to assess internet issues. DE is now using a 4G system to get wifi at home as the internet provider is not working, with EE data being more effective than at the moment.

- **Elections (PR)**

Preparations have begun for the next CC election, Emma Storey is organising this. Nominations and information on the election are being distributed. An advert was published in the Deeside Piper by PR and information is also available on the CC website. We currently have one NEW application with the closing date for applications on Thursday the 20th of May.

problematic, Portlethen would be a more suitable area.

- **20/04/21** An email was received regarding posters about to parking issues and littering at the Drumoak Glebe. LC stated that there should be signs put up soon, a class at the Drumoak Primary School has been chosen to make posters to put up at the Glebe, the class teacher is planning to phone LC this week to organise these posters. It has been permitted for signs to be put up but LC would be keen to use the Deeside way logo - ?? Ross from the Aberdeenshire Council will make up proper signage once he has received artwork from the children. LC would like more information on the kind of sign that would be used before the posters are designed.
- **20/04/21** An email was received from the criminal justice department asking for jobs to give to young offenders who are doing volunteer work. The planned area to be improved is Keithmuir Park, it is planned for the volunteers to clean and paint the goal posts and to pick up litter at the Glebe. **£50 has been allocated to pay for the paint and brushes for the goal posts, there were no objections to the proposal of the use of this money.**
- **22/04/21** Emma Storey has had poor feedback on the CC forum and it is likely to be cancelled, there was an enquiry about local place plans and it was decided that it would be useful to discuss this at a community forum.
- **27/04/21** An email was exchanged regarding a group who have been keen to get flowers planted in Drumoak, but there are some streets that are opposed to this as they must be maintained more frequently, whereas grass is more easy to maintain. the CC will coordinate the distributions of flowers from the Aberdeenshire Council, and Crathes flower group will also work on this in their area.
- **29/04/21** Feedback from the Paul Macari NPF4 stated that they haven't managed to hit targets on land allocation and housing, despite the population in Aberdeenshire growing very quickly. LC may have something to say at the next meeting as she will listen to the recorded information on changing population and demographic changes. LC will give an update at the next meeting about population changes in the area.
- **03/05/21** There was an email exchange about recycling and the size of vehicles that can be

### 3) SECRETARY'S REPORT and CORRESPONDENCE

#### a) Reports

- None

#### b) Correspondence

- **14/04/21** PJ sent a link to engage Aberdeenshire regarding the bridges consultation - this site is used to find all information on reports and updates so that people can get email info on any reports etc.
- **15/04/21** Emails were exchanged with Ian Welsh and Bruce Stewart, giving 3 or 4 weeks to get feedback and status on information from other areas.
- **17/04/21** There was a short survey on strategic transport links, PR filled in information representing our area on behalf of the CC.
- **19/04/21** The Portlethen community council wanted to discuss the IBA incinerator bottom ash processing being moved into their area, but this is necessary as transport issues to the previous site adjacent to the banks of the Dee were too



taken to the Crow's Nest in Banchory. There are some inconsistencies but the council has said that they will allow all vehicles as long as they are domestic. AR stated that the Aberdeenshire Council has said that they want to help with the issue, the only query was whether a work van would be permitted for domestic use. It has been noted that the Council is not looking at the number of times that a specific vehicle attends the centre but rather, they are looking at the address of the vehicles attending meaning that people could take waste for others and it wouldn't be an issue, unless the same number plate comes up an unreasonable number of times.

- **04/05/21** An email was received from Les Bray regarding an email from October that wasn't responded to. Mr Bray was under the impression that he was permanently unable to attend CC meetings, but it was clarified that he would be allowed to attend meetings if he would like to.
- **11/05/21** An email was received regarding local place plans (LPPs) the Scottish government has published a paper with questions about LPPs, an email from Eileen Mcleod summarised this information on place plans was received also. A group should be formed after the AGM to work on local place plans as it is going around in circles at the moment, and there must also be a person within the Aberdeenshire council for this. MA, LC, PJ and DM have volunteered to work together in a focus group after the AGM to discuss the issue - there is no time pressure as this issue will be ongoing for a few years.

#### **4) POLICE REPORTS**

##### **a) Stonehaven, Banchory & Business Watch Reports**

Crime rates have calmed down significantly since April, with occasional speeding and other vehicular crimes reported and antisocial behaviour. PR has noted that there have been an increased number of scam emails etc that have caused large amounts of money to be stolen. PR would like to encourage a police notice on the issue. PR will upload police reports to the CC website and any specific issues on Facebook.

#### **5) COMMUNITY UPDATES**

##### **a) Durris Paths (DE)**

DE stated that the Durris paths project is designed to link the communities of Crathes and Durris together and encourage more business between the two areas. It is intended to revive old paths instead of making new ones, looking at paths from Woodlands of Durris through to Kirkton of Durris woods and then into Crathes. Using a combination of roads, tracks, and paths to connect these areas. Some places are currently so overgrown that they aren't usable and will need maintenance before it is possible to use them. There should be a focus group made to work on this and get it ready for use. It should be considered whether this should be a fully accessible path or just for walkers on foot. There are concerns regarding people not wanting increased footfall in these areas, the paths may not be supported by farmers, fishermen etc. **Action - Rosemary Bruce** will give DE information from Banchory about how to contact landowners - MA will have agreed to work and communicate link with Woodlands of Durris.

##### **b) Park Bridge**

An infrastructure and services meeting is going to be held on the 13th of May. AS will represent the CC at this meeting and has given feedback regarding the most important issues and discuss the bridges prioritisation model will take place in order to establish how the order in which the repairs take place is decided.

#### **FINANCE**

##### **a) Bank account activity / balance / switch**

There is currently £5,218 in the bank account, there has not been a lot of movement in the account at the moment. There is currently slow action on switching banks, MA will continue to work on this issue.

##### **b) Midhill Wind Farm funding**

There are currently no outstanding applications for funding

##### **c) AGM draft report**

MA sent the end of year accounts to be checked, there have not yet been any queries on this.

#### **6) PLANNING & PLANNING APPLICATIONS**



a) **Decisions/ Correspondence**

- The previous query regarding the retrospective permission at Clune Cottage is still being researched as to whether more trees were planted to replace those cut down. The Forestry Commission has also raised concern regarding planting trees also. We are currently waiting for a response on this query.
- The drainage issues at plot 3 of Cedar avenue are still affecting neighbouring properties, this issue has been raised and is awaiting action and response.

b) **Applications from April - May 21**

- There were no objections to planning permission applications in the last month.

**7) AOB**

a) **Health and Services & Patient Liason**

DM stated that econsult services for the GP are difficult to use, and phone calls were hard to get through, it has been noted that it is difficult to report specific issues concerns on the econsult website, and that those who have a hard time using the internet may be unable to access the GP or other health services. PJ stated that she hasn't been in contact with the patient participation group since the practice manager changed hands. DM wants to feed back to the local practice that it is hard to use these services. LC stated that multiple people have complained about the

Peterculter practice saying that it's impossible to contact the GP and people have been unable to speak to their GPs. AR stated that comments regarding GPs can be sent to the GP practice or the Aberdeenshire health and social care partnership locality manager. MA stated that although it is hard to get through on the phone, the E-Consult is relatively easy to use. PJ stated that the wait time for appointments is actually shorter than it was before covid, but it is harder to get physical appointments when people do need to see doctors in person. **Action - PJ will contact the new practice manager** regarding the liaison group and will go back to them to get more information on what's going on.

b) **AGM - Next meeting**

The next meeting has been scheduled for June 9th, this will be the 2021 AGM and will be a reduced normal meeting. nominations for formal positions have already begun, if there are too many applications there will be a ballot on the 20th of May. Nominees will be known before the AGM and will be approved at the meeting.

c) **Meeting in July**

PR has suggested that there will be an informal meeting in July to introduce new members attending.

- Next meeting June 9th

The meeting closed at 21.15 hrs