



Crathes Drumoak & Durriss Community Council Monthly Meeting
Wednesday 13th October 2021 – Google Video Conference
APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

1) INTRODUCTIONS & APOLOGIES

Present:

Community Councillors and Guests:

Lynn Coull - Drumoak rep.
Peter Renwick - chair and Crathes rep.
Jules Wood - Drumoak rep.
Anne Shearer – Drumoak rep
David Edgar - Durriss rep.
Mark Ansell- treasurer and Durriss rep.
David Morrish- Crathes rep.
Marc Camus- Police
Niki Hare-Scott

Councillors:

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

Minutes- David Morrish

Apologies notified:

Cllr Robertson
Philippa Jensen - Crathes rep.
Carmin Macdonald (Minute Secretary)

The meeting was declared quorate.

Introduction

PR welcomed all explaining that we will continue to focus on the 3 strategy areas.

2) REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Anne Shearer proposed them for approval.
David Edgar seconded them.

a) Actions & Matters Arising from September

- **Recent road accident at Park**
PR will contact Roads regarding the diversion signage. This item remains open.
Action: PR
- **Monitoring the situation at the Drumoak Glebe**
This item was discussed further under the main agenda. 5a

- **St. Ternan's Football Pitch**
This item was discussed further under the main agenda. 5d

3) SECRETARY'S REPORT and CORRESPONDENCE

Actionable Correspondence

- **4 Sept** Cllr Agnew informed us re Covid Recovery Fund, and individual claim ceiling of £2K. LC will look into claiming Glebe signage. **Remains Open, Action: LC** and discussed below under 5a
- **7&1 Sept** Details from ASC on organising an event/beacon for Queens Platinum Jubilee 2/6/22; discussion on CC getting involved; possibly on Cairn Mon Earn, PR will explore possibilities. **Remains Open, Action PR**
- **21 Sept** C Conaill Johnstone Poole & Bloomer re plans to instigate aggregate processing in Park Quarry (video session 2 Nov) – NB planning POAN already submitted. See below under 7b
- **23 Sept** E Storey – request to gauge interest in improving connectivity – broadband equipment and use of online tools. Deadline 8 Oct. Deadline missed, no further action planned.
- **24 Sept** Cllr S Dickinson – more speed data from Durriss & reply by MA
- **28 Sept** Banchory Town forum notice & agenda (no-one was able to attend)
- **4 Oct** Niki Hare Scott – copied us on sinkhole photos on her access road. See below under 5c
- **11 Oct** Discussion re Path network with Dunecht and Leys Estates. See below under 5d

4) POLICE REPORTS

a) September Reports

PC Camus provided a summary of both the K&M and Marr reports, highlighting the main points. There were usual or reduced levels of ASB, assaults, thefts but no break-ins, driving incidents and speeding. Each in single figures and mostly not in this CC area.

PC Camus reminded the meeting that the darker nights often attract opportunistic break-ins and that the public should consider lighting their properties well, using timers and fake TV mimics when away.



b) Speeding Problems

Lynn Coull reported that in supporting Josh Quigley's Guinness Book of Records achievement, the Drumoak community had spent quite a bit of time on the roadside within the village. This had highlighted the extent of speeding and dangerous driving which is a persistent problem for residents who feel unsafe using pavements and crossings. The situation is simply unacceptable and similar in many village communities. LC asked what our options were. PC Marc Camus said that the police were happy to return for spot checks and suggested that the council could also be requested to schedule a survey which would allow a more focussed police effort. The council's Roads dept. Ewan Smith would be the person to contact. **Action LC**

Cllr Sarah Dickenson said to let her know if the response was slow as there was a shortage of Roads staff.

Following on from September's meeting Niki Hare-Scott reported significant erosion of an access bridge within Woodlands Park. There is clear evidence of washed out bridge structure which will require remediation work with an estimated cost of ca. £20k. The excess water flow is thought to exacerbated by recent housing development close to the site. NH-S has complained to the council's planning department with respect to inadequate drainage at the housing development and feels that an appropriate response has not been forthcoming. It was agreed that the community council will request a site visit by AC's Planning Dept. and also SEPA. Prior to this action the CC will also visit the site to understand better the details. **Action: MA, DM & NH-S** to arrange time and date.

d) Paths and Access (including St Ternan's Pitches at The Milton) (DM)

DM is in email communication with Dunecht and Leys Estate Factors to establish the estate's policies with respect to new path proposals and problems with existing access. In the first instance it is clear that the estates have had significant issues with non-compliance with the Access Code, especially as footfall has increased over 'lock-down'. Also it is clear that there is increased problems associated with dogs.

DM will follow-up access at the Milton with Leys Estate. **Action: DM**

The CC will now get specific about the requirements for a path from KOD to Crathes and take these to Dunecht Estate for further discussion. The CC will need to consider how to mitigate non-compliance issues. **Action: DM & DE**

5) COMMUNITY UPDATES

a) Glebe Park Signs (LC)

LC provided an update on the progress of getting the signs erected at the Glebe and stressed the importance of doing so quickly as problems persist despite the approaching winter. Recently the community had had to remove broken glass bottles from the banks and water at a favourite swimming site.

Funding for the signs and help to create and erect them is being sought. **Action: LC**

Cllr Agnew is pursuing the possibility of using the Phoenix Fund **Action: Cllr Agnew**

Cllr Agnew is also pursuing the need for byelaws to be in place to permit police enforcement of rules.

b) Kirkton of Durris Speeding (DE)

Cllr Sarah Dickinson attended a Stonehaven and Lower Deeside Ward meeting and reported that Roads Dept. Ewan Smith had stated that there would be no change in the KOD speed limit resulting from analysis of the recent speed survey. Cllr Dickenson stated that she personally didn't agree with the result. The community Council will continue to lobby for a limit reduction. **Action: DE**

c) Drainage in Kirkton and Woodlands of Durris

6) FINANCE

a. Bank account activity / balance

MA stated the latest bank account figure of ca. £7,400. Surplus after CC admin can be used for the community, so please spread the word that the CC can help with funding.

MA provided an update on the RBS bank account. Online banking has now been established with MA & PR as signatories. We could use one or two more signatories. Consider/volunteer. **Action: All CC members.**

b. Midhill Wind Farm funding



The Drumoak Primary School Nursery and Crossroads Nursery applications have been paid.

The application received from the Crathes Hall Trust for £1,000 to fund a valuation of Station Wood is now in process.

New Applications for Funding
Crathes School Swimming Club - £1650
Durriss Scottish WI - £300

Both of the above were unanimously supported.

Action: MA

There was also a request for funding for a rewilding project for Drumoak. The amount required was unclear and a response will go back to Joanna Heath to get some more specifics following which it was proposed the amount could be funded directly from the CC budget or a formal application submitted for Wind Farm Funding. Either options were supported. **Action: PR**

7) PLANNING & PLANNING APPLICATIONS

a. Applications from September-October 2021

Approved and new Applications had been circulated in advance of the meeting.

No CC representations to any new applications were felt to be necessary with the exception of the Park Quarry POAN

b. Park Quarry POAN Reference ENQ/2021/1601

Processing of Inert Construction and Demolition Waste to Produce Recycled Sands and Aggregates.

It was agreed that this proposal is a game changer in terms of time frame. Instead of the quarry being reinstated within 2 years, which was the likely outcome following discussions with CHAP. Approval of this activity could continue operations at the quarry indefinitely. This is not what the community was promised and unlikely to be what the community expects or is prepared to support. However, it will be critical to gain community views within the timeframe of the planned POAN video consultations on the 2nd & 3rd November. It was agreed that these video consultations will be further publicised by the CC and a means to compile independent community views on the proposal established. **Action: PR & AS**

8) Strategies (not discussed but retained as reminder)

PR had previously stated the CCs focus on the three strategies identified.

a) Green Initiatives/Climate Change

b) Succession/Recruitment

PR reminded all CCs the need to think about recruitment for new councillors for all our areas, and also key positions becoming vacant.

c) Life Post Covid

All CC'ers were asked to consider impacts on our community with the prospect that we may have to live with Covid for the future, in particular with respect to the Resilience of our community.

9) AOB

a) Condition of A93

It was noted that the quality of repair was markedly different between the A93 and say the A96. It was pointed out by Cllr Rosemary Bruce that the A96 was a trunk road unlike the A93 which was maintained by Aberdeenshire Council rather than central government. This didn't explain the difference in quality but Cllr Rosemary Bruce went on to explain that an additional £3 million had recently been allocated to Aberdeenshire Roads budget. This was corroborated by Cllr Ann Ross. Cllr Sarah Dickenson mentioned that the money may be there but other resources such as manpower may not.

b) FaceBook

In the light of recent publicity, should the community council continue to use FaceBook? Discussion postponed to next month.

c) GP Surgeries

What does the community feel about the current level of service?

Discussion postponed to next month.

d) MS Teams

Should the CC switch to MS Teams for future meetings. It was noted Aberdeenshire Council is using MS Teams.

Discussion postponed to next month.

- Next meeting November 10th

The meeting closed at 21.50 hrs