



Crathes Drumoak & Durris Community Council Monthly Meeting

Wednesday 8th September 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.
Philippa Jensen - Crathes rep.
Jules Wood - Drumoak rep.
Anne Shearer – Drumoak rep
David Edgar - Durris rep.
Mark Ansell- treasurer and Durris rep.
David Morrish- Crathes rep.
Marc Camus- Police
Moira Hamilton- Crathes Hall Trust

Councillors:

Cllr Wendy Agnew
Cllr Sarah Dickinson
Cllr Ann Ross

Minutes- Mark Ansell

Apologies notified:

Cllr R Bruce
Cllr Robertson

The meeting was declared quorate.

a) Introduction

PR welcomed all explaining that the Covid status prevented our planned meeting in Durris Hall; also we will continue to focus on the 3 strategy areas.

2) REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Lynn Coull proposed them for approval.
Jules Wood seconded them

a) Actions & Matters Arising from August

- **Recent road accident at Park**
PR will contact Roads regarding the diversion signage. (see Police Report below)
- **Monitoring the situation at the Drumoak Glebe**
This item was discussed further under the main agenda.
- **St. Ternan's Football Pitch**

AR sent information regarding this issue, as DM wasn't present at the meeting the issue will be discussed further at a future meeting where he is present. (not discussed)

3) SECRETARY'S REPORT and CORRESPONDENCE

a) Reports

● **Key points from meeting in August**

The main points discussed are covered below.

b) Actionable Correspondence

- **11 Aug** Response received from Lauren Duthie (Police) re diversion signage on the A93, following accident.
- **13 Aug** Planning Appl on Gushety Park has been withdrawn.
- **30 Aug** K&M briefing documents received on CCs and AC contacts. Emma Storey is our contact.
- **30 Aug** response from Planning on Tree planting at Clune Cottage- no impact; now closed.
- **3 Sept** Marr Forum invite to Climate Change, commented on by PR.
- **4 Sept** Cllr Agnew informed us re Covid Recovery Fund, and individual claim ceiling of £2K. LC will look into claiming Glebe signage.
- **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. **Action PR**
- **5&7 Sept** P&J informing CC on publishing article from 1 individual in favour of keeping Park Bridge closed. AS replied on this, especially inaccuracy of statements reported- not reality. All agreed.
- **6 Sept** DE provided information on new Book Bothy in Kirkton of Durris hall carpark.

4) POLICE REPORTS (This item was discussed as No 3 on the agenda)

a) August Reports

PC Camus provided a summary of both the K&M and Marr reports, highlighting the main points. The accident at Park was again raised, with the issue of the diversion signage. PC Camus clarified the timing of the Park accident, and also the subsequent requirement for ASC to uplift the signage- which is the Council's responsibility.



There has been a continuing decline in antisocial behaviour reported- details in reports.

b) Speeding Checks

AS raise the new issue of speeding on the western approach to Drumoak, with the 40 signs not being adhered to, and the resulting danger for vehicles joining the A93 at the Park Shop junction.

Following the speeding checks and reports produced for the Kirkton of Durriss speed check work, PC Camus provided the statistics on speeds recorded and that this will lead to prosecutions. He also mentioned that a similar reporting element has been introduced for K&M area, to log issues and address the wider speeding problem, including the Durriss straight where checks are also being made.

Agnew mentioned that she had received no supporting feedback from other Councils on how they manage similar situations but she is pursuing this, and also the need for byelaws to be in place to permit police enforcement of rules. Cllr Dickinson stated that there is no need for any additional byelaws.

Cllr Agnew also mentioned that a Covid Relief Fund could pay for signage – it was agreed that LC would look into this. **Action LC.** LC is progressing with the signs, and any assistance in erection will be welcome.

d) Kirkton of Durriss Speeding (DE/PC Camus)

Cllr Dickinson continues to chase up the Roads team through the Ward Meeting, to firm up on their final decision. A further speed check system has also been installed by Roads.

5) COMMUNITY UPDATES

a) Crathes Hall (MH)

Moira Hamilton (Crathes Hall Trust) provided an update on the hall, reporting that usage has returned to pre-covid level, and The Crathes Fly will recommence in October. Regarding the ‘new hall’ project, £1696 has been raised, and funds continue to be raised. A change in the hall’s constitution now permits ‘memberships’ to be introduced for all; and the hall trust would welcome the support of CDDCC in their ongoing work. National Trust for Scotland have been approached by the Hall to purchase from them the Station Wood, which adjoins the hall, for the purpose of community use.

e) Drainage in Kirkton and Woodlands of Durriss

DE reported that the landowner Deryck Forbes, is now progressing remedial work on the land behind and above the affected houses.

MA gave an update on communications received regarding the run-off water affecting the property of Nicki Hare-Scott on the Woodlands Estate, and her attempts to gain assistance from ASC Planning and/or Infrastructure Services. Both Services had referred Nicki to the actual land owners of the new building plots generating the water run-off problem. MA has emailed Nicki again to offer further help from CDDCC if required.

CCs unanimously agreed to support the Crathes Hall Trust in their project, and also their plan to purchase Station Wood.

f) Milton Football Pitch access (DM)

See 2a above

b) Park Quarry (AS)

AS attended a quarry meeting/survey to discuss noise levels. This should actually be an independent survey, but is and has been carried out by the operators. The outcome is that noise levels are currently acceptable to the communities. DE mentioned that higher levels of noises are actually being generated by the Joss quarry across the Dee.

g) Banchory Town Forum (PR)

PR attended the last meeting – there was little to report as the main groups in the town need to agree their strategy.

c) Glebe Park Signs (LC)

LC provided an update on the progress of getting the signs erected at the Glebe, and has provided detailed emails on progress and difficulties. Cllr

6) FINANCE

Bank account activity / balance

MA stated the latest bank account figure of £7,256, which includes the recent ASC annual grant; and also echoed PR’s previous comments that this money is there for the community, so please spread the word that the CC can help with funding.



MA provided an update on the RBS bank account, and our efforts to previously try to switch bank accounts, which were unsuccessful, and that our focus now is to remain with RBS and move to online banking. This has been an arduous task with the need to clear the historic mandate of account signatories who are long departed, made worse by RBS' poor communication. MA and PR continue this process.

Midhill Wind Farm funding

Drumoak Primary School Nursery application has been sent off to Fred Olsen. Crossroads Nursery application has been paid,

The latest application received is from the Crathes Hall Trust for £1,000 to fund a valuation of Station Wood (see above) MA circulated the evaluation sheet previously, and this application was unanimously supported by the Community Councillors.

7) PLANNING & PLANNING APPLICATIONS

a) Applications from August-September 2021

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

The Crathes Gardens 'extension' to which the CC had objected, was approved 'with conditions'.

MA described the new application for 2 houses in Denside of Durriss. These will replace a derelict house and barn which have been in this condition for over 20 years; no objection was thought necessary.

The erection of 2 houses south west of Glashmore, Drumoak was discussed, with observations that further applications for this site may be forthcoming.

No objections to any new applications were suggested.

8) Strategies

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

a) Green Initiatives/Climate Change

PR urged all to submit issues for publishing on our website. Discussion followed on various topics including 'upcycling' and the repair of items rather than replacement with new. Cllr Ross mentioned the Magpie facility at the Crows Nest

recycling site, and also the charity shops in Banchory; Cllr Agnew mentioned the work ongoing by the Furniture Lodge in Stonehaven. Cllr Dickinson mentioned 'Somebody Cares' based in Aberdeen, and 'Blythswood Care', who have links with 'Far and Wide Charity Shop' in Stonehaven, and also collect larger items.

LC referred to a contact at the Crows Nest who witnesses reusable items being 'dumped'. All agreed that a list of similar up/recycling outlets will be useful.

PR attended the recent Marr South seminar with 4 presentations by – Aberdeenshire Council's Sustainability & Climate change Officer outlining the councils methodology, then Aberdeenshire Rangers presented on their activities, Alford Men's shed and Huntly town presented the challenges they face. Slides will be circulated when received.

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) Minute Secretary

Following the advertisement on social media, PR reported we had 2 applicants, and their details had been circulated. AS & DM volunteered to help PR with interviews.

b) Home Fire/Smoke Detector Regulations

MA had raised the approaching deadline of fitting 'smart' alarms in households by early 2022. All agreed that there should be more help/guidance from government on installations, and avoiding vulnerable households paying inflated costs. **Action PR** to put the advice on our website

- Next meeting October 13th

The meeting closed at 21.35 hrs