



## Crathes Drumoak & Durris Community Council Monthly Meeting

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2024

### **APPROVED** APRIL MEETING MINUTES

#### 1. INTRODUCTIONS & APOLOGIES

**Present:**

Community and Aberdeenshire Councillors:

David Edgar (DE)– Chair and Durris rep  
David Morrish (DM) – Crathes rep  
Shaun Falcus (SF) – Durris rep  
Mark Ansell (MA) – Treasurer and Durris rep.  
Jules Wood (JW) – Drumoak rep  
Nicola Chambury  
Ewan Reid – on-line

**Not present:-**

Eveline Crossan – apologies sent  
Lynn Coull (LC) – Drumoak rep - apologies sent  
Anne Shearer (AS) - Drumoak rep - apologies sent  
Les Oliver (LO) – Crathes rep - apologies sent

Councillors:

Cllr Alan Turner (in person)  
Cllr Wendy Agnew (on-line)  
Cllr Sarah Dickinson (on-line)

**Not present:**

Cllr Ann Ross (on-line) – apologies sent  
Cllr Yi-Pei Turvey – apologies sent  
Cllr Dawn Black – apologies sent  
Cllr Eileen Durno

Others: Gerry Moorhouse

**Minutes:-**

Sharon Hauxwell (SH)

The meeting was declared quorate (minimum, at current CC membership is 3).



**2. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES AND CC UPDATES**

**a) Approval of Minute of Meeting (March 2024)**

SF – proposed MA seconded.

**b) Actions & Matters Arising from March meeting not mentioned below**

Olympic Rings – quote for plaque – stonemason in westhill - £1500 incl VAT but MA confident can probably try and get through the Midhill fund.

**3) SECRETARY’S REPORT and CORRESPONDENCE**

12<sup>th</sup> March – feedback – NC will look at this

NC

20<sup>th</sup> March - Aberdeen International Airport – looking at changing airspace – we will be affected.

Coops – need to complete a form

NC/EC/ER

**4) Police Reports**

Nothing major that affects us.

**5) COMMUNITY UPDATES**

**a) Road Safety Subgroup**

Speed camera – news that a new camera has been installed to try and stop speeding on the South Deeside Road. Cllr Dickinson will try and look into this a bit more to try and establish the reason for the location.

Cllr  
Dickinson

DM reported that work on the A93 at Crathes junction will start in May – will last approx. 6-8 weeks in order to install a 4-way traffic lights system. DM will try and put something together that we can communicate through social media to warn community.

DM

Cllr Turner reported that he had questioned Aberdeenshire Council regarding the frequency of their meetings – this will remain to be quarterly.

Cllr Dickinson will ask at next Ward meeting (if anyone there from roads) about the Slug road and report back to SF. It was the roads department that was mean to have spoken to Dunecht Estates.

Cllr  
Dickinson

**b) Park Quarry/Nether Park Quarry**

AS not present at meeting to report.

**c) Park Bridge**

MA reported the following from a meeting he attended with DE:-

*We had a very good meeting this morning- Alan Wood, Donald, Alan Turner, David E and myself. As we have experienced, Alan Wood is extremely good at facilitation, and ensuring all participants are 'happy'.*



## **Responding to community needs**

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*Alan W suggested three items for discussion- Consultants Report, What has happened since, and What happens next.*

**Consultant's Report-** *Donald repeated the report's findings/summary issues- problems with decking, spandrels, and primary members, spans. Weakness due to lack of bracing- fails at 3 ton loading (this is prescribed safety criteria)*

**What has happened Since-** *not a lot; however, all options are still on the table-quote. AC duty bound as bridge grade A listed. No mention of any maintenance work undertaken.*

**What Happens Next-** *Scoping of requirements will be requested from report provider, in order to make the bridge safe for 3 ton limit, with ballpark cost figures. (we referred to inaccurate/unnecessary reporting of 2 cars on the bridge at the same time), Alan Turner did comment that the safety factor may be 'conservative'; over cautious\*\*. (both David and myself did detect some support from Alan)*

**\*\*Cllr Turner responded to this point:-**

In the meeting (with Alan Wood, Donald M, Mark, you and I), I queried if the safety factors used in the assessment for the loading conditions were "conservative" or over cautious. My recollection is that the answer, was that the industry accepted factors vs the loading conditions and materials were used. i.e. Hence not over cautious.

At the CDDCC meeting we discussed this point, Shaun asked on utilisation factors and mentioned his own work experience (not from bridges). I said that by how I had phrased the question, to the officers, and their response, I had felt that was covered. However, I also did ask him to submit a written question to the officers. (Which is mentioned in the minute too)

**Budgets and Funding.** *AC's Capital Plan grant reduced by 20% this year. Park Bridge is currently 14th in the priority chart, with Banff (£3M), Aboyne (£2.5M), and Abington (£2.5M) making up the top 3. So AC need £14M before getting to Park! So in simple terms it doesn't look promising.*

*However there was a useful discussion on assessing community benefits v cost v ease of remedial actions; and the resulting effect on the priority position, so a glimmer of light; and more importantly Park's £750K is still allocated!\*\* AC are focussed on a 10 year bridges plan, and this continues to be reviewed every 6-9 months.*

**\*\*Cllr Turner responded to this point:-**

"I believe what is being referred to here is the paper on Bridges Prioritisation. In that paper, for a particular bridge, a prescribed workscope is shown together with a cost estimate. i.e. This is not though a budget / financial allocation. "

*We brought up Scottish Heritage funding and this is a possibility with a 25% contribution that can be applied for (by AC). Also possibility of assistance from Transport Scotland.*



*So we await the estimated figures for the necessary work to bring the bridge up to the 3 ton loading. Finally we requested that Donald provides a timescale for producing this additional work, and that he informs CDDCC.*

At the meeting tonight, Cllr Turner wanted it noted that the numbers above are not actual budgets but best estimates – until they actually get full quotes in. A scope of works will now take place to provide an actual figure for Park Bridge which will then determine where Park Bridge will appear in the list. And also, the requirements of the bridge in terms of vehicle/access requirements.

The reason Banff went to the top is it is classed as a lifeline bridge.

SF to speak with AS/MA and DE to draft an email regarding the scope of works. Cllr Turner encouraged this to be done as soon as possible.

**d) Community Parth Network. Kirkton of Durriss – Woodlands of Durriss Core Path Connection.**

DE reported that he is waiting on Ethos consulting coming back to them with information. MA spoke with Stuart Young today. He was not keen on footpath from school to 30mph sign. Has agreed to speak with Bob Booth. Was keen to look at creating a path from woodlands wood to the new houses.

DM reported he has been in email correspondence with Stuart Young also. He doesn't have a timescale for replanting. Emails regarding tree felling community members clearing trees themselves.

**e) Proposed Hill of Fare Windfarm**

DM reported that he had attended a meeting with the 6 CC's last week. They have agreed that they will divvy up the area committee's – believe windfarms will not appear on agenda until May. We will deal with K & M. DM will write to them asking to address them at the meeting. Cllr Dickinson advised that the request needs to go to the area office, the Friday by 12noon before the Tuesday of the meeting the following week. 30<sup>th</sup> April is next meeting – agenda will be in public domain from 23<sup>rd</sup> April. May meeting papers will be in public domain by 14<sup>th</sup> May, meeting is on the 21<sup>st</sup> May.

Infrastructure will make a recommendation after the area committees have taken place.

**g) Proposed new 400KV Overhead Line SSEN**

LC and DE have been meeting monthly with 13 CC who are affected by the proposed line. Next meeting is on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> April in Stonehaven. Agenda is to get some feedback on consultations. Questionnaire that is open and live from all the CC involved. Looking to create a legal Charter for all of the CC that could potentially be used in Government setting.

MA and AS sit on the Deeside against Pylons team. Have a huge amount of skills and resources within the team. Have formed a legal team. 25<sup>th</sup> April – coach full of people to join forces and protest. Walk the line protest – visibility of people objecting – 2<sup>nd</sup> June. One GP on the team – created a very impressive letter, with 18 GP's supporting her objections based on the health effects. Planning expert been appointed to assist the group.



Cllr Turner – confirmed there has been a significant number of objections. Cllr Agnew also confirmed there has been a lot. Cllr Dickinson – has received approx. 150 emails – would also say this is significant.

DM/MA/LC/DE are meeting next week to look at all of the feedback they have had to date in order to start and generate a formal response.

Gerry – highlighted that a lot of the banners that have been put up and starting to fall down – makes it look like no longer interested – MA will update the Deeside against Pylons group. **MA**

**6) FINANCE**

**CDDCC Finance Update**

We have £3568 in our account, with no outstanding bills for payment.

**a) Applications**

**Mid Hill Applications Received**

The following applications have been received this period.

**67 Crathes Hall Outside Car Park Lights**

A total of £4631 has been applied for to fund new outside lights for the car park- bollards or lamp posts; and internal switches and lighting to be upgraded to improve catering for events. All agreed to contribute £1000 towards this. DE also suggested we try and establish what type of lights they are providing. If this is the type of lighting that would benefit buses etc we may be willing to contribute more towards the end of the financial year if any funding left. **MA**

**68 Crathes In Flower**

A total of £1350 has been applied for covering £1100 for planting/seeding/weed suppressant fabric, and £250 for lights and batteries for the planters. Whilst we have funded lights and batteries previously, these unfortunately have limited lifespan. All agreed to £1000 towards this as well.

After paying our recently approved £1000 to 66 Banchory Green Power project, we have £10565 remaining in our Mid Hill fund

Olympic Rings – are we happy for MA to put in an application for the plaque? All agreed to this. **MA**

**7) PLANNING & PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

**a) Planning in our Community (Organic Growth etc.)**

**b) Validated**



**Formation of Private Way**

Doucer Den 2 Durriss Forest Banchory

Ref. No: APP/2024/O545 | Received: Fri 05 Apr 2024 | Validated: Fri 05 Apr 2024 | Status: Awaiting decision

**Alterations and Extension to Dwellinghouse** 

57 Sunnyside Avenue Drumoak Aberdeenshire AB31 5EF

Ref. No: APP/2024/O487 | Received: Wed 27 Mar 2024 | Validated: Mon 01 Apr 2024 | Status: Awaiting decision

**Alterations and Extension to Dwellinghouse** 

Balfour Cottage Durriss Banchory AB31 6BL

Ref. No: APP/2024/O280 | Received: Fri 23 Feb 2024 | Validated: Mon 01 Apr 2024 | Status: Awaiting decision

MA will look at the Formation of Private Way in more detail.

**Approved**

**MA**



## Responding to community needs

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Reference	APP/2024/0333
Alternative Reference	100663321-001
Application Received	Mon 04 Mar 2024
Application Validated	Mon 04 Mar 2024
Address	Durriss Forest Durriss Stonehaven
Proposal	Formation of Private Way (Forestry)
Status	Decided
Decision	Prior Approval Not Required
Decision Issued Date	Mon 18 Mar 2024
Appeal Status	Unknown
Appeal Decision	Not Available
Local Review Body Status	Not Available
Local Review Body Decision	Not Available

Reference	APP/2023/1809
Alternative Reference	100632020-003
Application Received	Tue 26 Sep 2023
Application Validated	Tue 03 Oct 2023
Address	Bogenraith Equestrian Ltd Durriss Banchory Aberdeenshire AB31 6DS
Proposal	Erection of 5 Modular Units for Short Term Letting Accommodation
Status	Decided
Decision	Approved
Decision Issued Date	Wed 27 Mar 2024
Appeal Status	Unknown
Appeal Decision	Not Available
Local Review Body Status	Not Available
Local Review Body Decision	Not Available

MA – emailed Paul Macari’s PA to try and set up another meeting.

### c) Place Plans

NC and EC are working on this. Working with other groups – Banchory. Done some preliminary community engagement. Have a plan of action. Would like it done by the end of the year if possible. Try and have engagements over the summer. Have meetings with Crathes, Drumoak and Durriss separately. Would like more help with this from members of the community. DE suggested perhaps hosting a public summer event –the Olympic Rings at Durriss/Glebe – new BBQ stands – have a launch event and look at possibility of recruiting help?



**8) Aberdeenshire Council Updates**

None to report.

**9) Strategic initiatives**

**a) Green Initiatives**

**b) Vacant Positions, Recruitment and Communications**

**10) AOB**

**a) May Meeting – Wed 8<sup>th</sup> May Drumoak Bowling Club** – LC to make the booking **LC**

**b) Bike Shelters** – SF will chase for an update **SF**

**c) Kirkton of Durriss Soakaway** – Cllr Agnew has not had any further reports about the smell so cannot get anyone out until there is no further reports of a smell. All agreed it can be removed from the agenda and put back on if and when warmer weather returns. **SH**

**d) Flooding in Drumoak** – leave until next meeting as Cllr Black not present.

**e) Gerry Moorhouse** – provided a hand out – Mounth Route. History very old – Right of way – however if not used this can be taken away. Section through the forest has become very overgrown – he managed to get through but very difficult – needs a lot of felling in order to have access to the path again. Has spoken to the forester and there are no resources. Has approached Neil Taylor – he would help provide tools/risk assessments etc but would need volunteers. Currently have about 5 volunteers already but will probably need at least 12 to make an impact. Scotways are taking an interest in it – will put more signs once they get it cleared. Spoke to Aberdeenshire access officer – aware of the situation – if need some support may be able to help. DM requested a GPS map if possible, to get a full understanding of where it is. We will put an advert on social media to look for volunteers – can put Gerry's Moorhouse mobile number on this.

**f) Ley's Estate – Banchory Tourism**

Idea of grouping Banchory Tourist attractions together to promote the village. Going to connect Loch of Leys through to the Barn and then through to Crathes Castle. Looking for volunteers to help with path work – if can prove community engagement can apply for funding.

Approached us because of the Crathes Castle element.

Sustainable Tourism – becoming much more popular.





## ***Responding to community needs***

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Other than volunteers, what is he looking for from our area involvement – is he just looking for us to advertise? We cannot take on as a project but can help with advertising. NC to go back to confirm. **NC**

**g) Mailing lists/GDPR – put on agenda for next meeting** **SH**

*Meeting closed at 21.45 hrs.*