

DRUMOIG RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

MINUTES of the INAUGURAL MEMBERS GENERAL MEETING

held at the Drumoig Hotel on Wednesday, 23rd January, 2019 at 7.30 pm

The Interim Chairman, John Cuthbertson, opened the meeting by welcoming the attendees, and outlining the agenda for the meeting.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Mrs M. Fraser, Mr & Mrs Nelson, Mr Rust, Mr Anderson, Mrs Ford, Mr Thomas, Mr & Mrs Tennant, Mr Anderson, Mr & Mrs Birse, Mr & Mrs Jackson-Hutt

There were 51 residents (49 members) in attendance.

1 Interim Chairman's Report

The Interim Chairman, John Cuthbertson, referenced the Annual Report 2018, which summarises activities in the community over the year. This had been emailed to members, and is more generally available on the DRA website.

He highlighted the contribution made by the previous Chairman of Drumoig Community Trust (DCT), Rob Pirie, in the 8 years he had served as Chairman, prior to his resignation in February 2018, in the face of criticism from a small part of the community. He said that this contribution had been appreciated by the members and thanked Rob for it.

John said that hopefully events of the last year were behind us and it was time to move on, especially as over 92% of Drumoig households were members of the DRA.

He gave the background to the resignation of the DCT Directors, the inability of the DCT to operate without Directors, the establishment of an Interim Committee to run a reinstated DRA, until the planned DCT AGM in January 2019, the communications with Companies House on the impasse with the DCT, and the procedures to dissolve the DCT which had completed on 22nd January 2019 – all of which had been communicated to members throughout 2018.

The result was this Inaugural General Meeting to formally reconstitute the DRA, and to move on.

John then took time to highlight some of the main events and activities covered in more detail in the Annual Report 2018.

New Housing Development

Housebuilding just off Pickletillum was underway. Full details could be found on the website of the development company, Morendy. www.morendy.com

Website

The excellent DRA website is a good source of information for residents and public alike about activities and facilities around Drumoig. The Interim Chairman thanked Chis Edwards for devoting her valuable time to updating the website and making it more user friendly. He encouraged members to visit the site if they have not already done so.

Social events

The Interim Chairman mentioned the various social events that would be covered in more detail in the Social Events Report later on the agenda.

LPG

The Interim Chairman gave the background to the collective contract pricing of LPG for residents which has resulted in pricing significantly lower than standard tariffs from the two suppliers Avanti and Flogas. New contract negotiations will be held with gas companies in August of this year.

Superfast Broadband

With the improvement from Openreach in fibre infrastructure in parts of the community over the past year, and the push from the DRA to make this available, some customers of broadband service were now able to take advantage of much higher speeds to their premises.

Data Protection

In 2018 GDPR was introduced, and like all organisations we had to ask the membership for positive consent to hold their email addresses for communication purposes. Over 100 members consented and remain on the members' mailing list. A few withheld consent and we have had to remove their email addresses, and they do not therefore receive any email communications. At the same time the Privacy Policy available on the website was introduced.

Past Chairman of the DRA

The Interim Chairman paid tribute to Gordon Taylor from Forgan Drive who sadly had passed away in the past year. Gordon had been the first Chairman of the DRA back in 2000 and had made a valuable contribution to the establishment of the initial DRA. He would be fondly remembered by all who knew him.

The Interim Chairman summarised by saying that it had been a difficult year for the Interim Committee, but that there had been many positives, particularly on matters concerning the environment and the social and community life of the area.

He thanked all members of the Interim Committee, particularly the Interim Secretary, Alec Burden, who had devoted an incredible amount of his time to work behind the scenes for the DRA, and to David Gillan, who had joined the Interim Committee, and gave them the benefit of his past experience. Subject to the Election of Office Bearers, John looked forward to continuing on the Committee in the next year.

He concluded by thanking all the members of the DRA for the support in the previous year and looked forward to retaining that support in the next year.

The Interim Chairman then asked for questions and a resident, not a member of the DRA, started to speak to the meeting. The Interim Chairman pointed out that the person was not a member, but that they would be allowed to speak to the meeting nevertheless.

2 Interim Secretary's Report

The Interim Secretary, Alec Burden, opened his report by saying that the Interim Committee were very appreciative of the positive support they had received from members.

There had been 7 Interim Committee meetings and a considerable number of emails as well as external correspondence handled since its creation.

There had been the need to ask again for consent to hold and use emails for members' communication. 9 members had withheld consent, and therefore could not be sent any DRA emails.

Companies House had dissolved the DCT and removed it from their register. We had asked them to delay this until DCT members could formally agree this at the AGM that had been scheduled for January 2019, but they said that their processes did not allow them to wait until then, but that the outcome would be the same. The Interim Committee therefore decided not to try to find a way of calling an Extraordinary General Meeting for the sole purpose of winding up the DCT. The dissolution process had completed on 22 January 2019, and email updates had been sent out to members who had transferred to DRA membership.

There had been a complaint to the DRA's bank that they had not corresponded with the registered address when they had received reports of irregularities. The bank had admitted that they could have handled the situation better, but the matter is now closed.

Email is an important communication channel for updates and information to those members who wish to receive them, and the secretary is happy to consider any information that could be relevant to them.

The website is a more static channel, but as a public website it is an advert for Drumoig and contains a wealth of information about services and other local facilities, as well as contacts for the clubs and the Association. He thanked Christine Edwards for her efforts in keeping it relevant and soon, thanks to the work of Bob Kelly, it would be more dynamic and accessible on mobile devices such as phones or tablets. Any other ideas to improve it or add to it would be welcome.

A member asked if it was possible to have more than one email address per member household and it is. Anyone who wishes to have this facility should contact the Secretary.

3 Social Events Report

Lil Smith updated the meeting on the activities of the various clubs and other social events throughout the year

Ramblers

The Ramblers had 7 outings in the previous year and another cancelled because of bad weather. Walks are around 5 to 6 miles in North East Fife usually followed by lunch. Dates for the 8 outings in 2019 are on the website.

Book club

The Book clubs is held every 2 months and at present there is an average of 6-8 ladies meeting in the home of the volunteer hostess of the evening. Books for 2019 are on the website. All are welcome

Bridge club

The Bridge club meets in the hotel every Monday between 1.30pm and 4.00pm with a break for coffee at a cost of £3. There are around 14 taking part (though not always seriously) and all are welcome.

Mahjong club

The Mahjong club also meets at the hotel at a cost of £3 on Thursday mornings 10.00am to 1.00pm. There is an average of 12 ladies playing. Beginners are welcome.

Details of the clubs and club contacts are on the website.

Summer Fayre

What can be said about the Summer Fayre? Despite a glorious dry summer, on the day of the Fayre the heavens opened. However, there was a wonderful response from people donating such things as books, plants, cakes, and drinks. The rain did not deter the large number of people who supported it. It is hoped to have another Fayre in the 2019 summer.

Drop In For A Drink (DIFAD)

During the summer, the Interim Chairman, John Cuthbertson, suggested that we try a new venture – DIFAD – to be held in the hotel Friday evenings 5.00pm to 7.00pm. It is a good way to meet up with your neighbours and have a blether. This has proved enormously successful with usually 25-30 residents turning up with the proviso that you buy your own drinks. The hotel normally provides nibbles and the event before Christmas was particularly well attended by over 50 residents. Information about DIFAD can be found on the website in the News and Events section.

There were no questions resulting from Lil's report.

4 Wildlife Forum Report

Christine Edwards presented a summary of the various activities undertaken by the Drumoig Wildlife Forum throughout the previous year.

There had been 2 talks well attended by residents: one in May on bird migration given by Professor Will Cresswell from the University of St Andrews, and the other in September on a variety of topics from Colin Edwards of the Forestry Commission. There had also been a guided walk round Morton Lochs given in July by Tom Cunningham, the Reserve Manager.

Other activities had include the erection of 28 bird boxes, and 1 for owls, a moth trap exercise and video capture of local wildlife.

Details of activities planned for 2019, along with much more information on the Wildlife Forum, are available on the website,

Christine thanked all residents who had participated in the activities and reported wildlife sightings. The 2018 used stamp collection for the RNLI was now closed and the 2019 collection would be on behalf of the RSBP Albatross Task Force.

5 Presentation of Accounts

The Interim Secretary, Alec Burden, presented the statement of Drumoig Residents Association Interim Accounts: June 2018 – December 2019, handed out to participants when they registered attendance.

The accounts showed, allowing for outstanding items, an increase of £22.00 in the funds available to the DRA at the start of 2019, from the opening balance of £3279.00 to £3301.00.

The Summer Fayre generated over £300 of income. It is intended to use that towards the next Summer Fayre.

The Wildlife Forum attendees donate to the event costs and the donations to whichever charities the speakers represent.

The draft constitution to be discussed later, had provision for setting both a joining fee and if required, an annual membership fee. It was recommended that the joining fee be set at £10 per household, and that given the relatively healthy credit balance there would be no need for a membership fee for 2019.

A member pointed out that historically, the DCT had significant costs for the production of physical newsletters which had been superseded by the Website.

6 Proposal to reconstitute the DRA

The Interim Chairman, John Cuthbertson, explained the rationale behind formally reconstituting the Drumoig Residents Association.

The DCT Directors did not want to see the community left without an active members group, but realised their resignation would probably result in the dissolution of the DCT. They had proposed an interim committee to reinstate an interim organisation based on the old DRA, until it could be formalised at the diarised AGM of the DCT. This AGM could not take place with the dissolution of the DCT. However, the Interim Committee believed that it was in the best interests of members, and the community as a whole, that the community organisation going forward should be based on the organisation that had been formed in 2000 and had operated until its merger with the DCT in 2016. This had resulted in the calling of this Inaugural General meeting to formalise this.

The proposed constitution for the DRA had been emailed to members, had been available on the public website, and had been included in the handout for this meeting.

7 Adoption of a Constitution for the DRA

The Interim Secretary, Alec Burden, tabled the new Constitution for the DRA. This was based on the previous constitution of the DRA, prior to its merger with the DCT.

Alec highlighted the changes that had been incorporated.

These included modification of the eligible boundaries to recognise the new Morendy development, the use of on-line banking and dual access, the communications processes and the need for GDPR compliance and a Privacy Policy, and the non-tolerance of abusive behaviour.

All interim members will become members.

It was recognised that the umbrella social groups have individuals' email addresses on the website to facilitate contact directly from the public website and that this was acceptable to the individual organisers.

The meeting was asked to approve the constitution, proposed by Frank Fox, seconded by Michael Duncan. It was approved overwhelmingly.

8 Election of Office Bearers and Committee Members

The nominations for the DRA Committee were put to the meeting.

Chair: John Cuthbertson Proposed: Alec Burden
Seconded: Heather Knight
Elected overwhelmingly

Secretary: Ian Wilson Proposed John Cuthbertson
Seconded: David Gillan
Elected Overwhelmingly

Treasurer: Bob Kelly Proposed: Ian Wilson
Seconded: Lil Smith
Elected Overwhelmingly

Committee: Heather Knight Proposed: Rob Pirie
Seconded: Michael Duncan
Lil Smith Proposed: Rob Pirie
Seconded Michael Duncan:
Rosemary Davidson Proposed: Moira Fraser
Seconded: Kay Hepworth
All elected Overwhelmingly

9 Any Other Competent Business

There were no items raised.

10 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting, the first Annual General Meeting, will be on 22nd January, 2020