

## CRAIGIEBUCKLER AND SEAFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of monthly meeting held on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2017 at 7.30 pm in the Douglas Lounge, Craigiebuckler Church.

### **Present**

Cameron Campbell, Robert Frost, Ainsley Mitchell, Dana Blyth, Karen Reilly, Caroline Walker, William Sell, Allan Davidson (Friends of Walker Dam), Steve Robertson (Friends of Johnston Gardens), Cllr Jennifer Stewart, Cllr Martin Greig, Yvonne Heald (resident), Mr Neil Greig (planning applicant) and one other resident.

### **Apologies**

Aileen Brown, Joe McCallan, Rhona McCallan, Cllr John Cooke, and Cllr Claire Imrie.

### **Matters arising out of the Minute of the last Meeting**

Socially isolated elderly residents – For the over 55s there will be 3 film afternoons in December, which will almost take them up to Christmas. The over 55s is the Seniors Club, run by Hilary Forbes.

Here are the details of the Community Fun Afternoon which were provided by the Church.

“Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2.30pm – 4.00pm

Following our successful Fun afternoon earlier this year we are planning a festive themed event. We hope to have lots of activities for young of all ages including festive food tasting, wine tasting, hot chocolate, crafts, table decoration demonstrations, treasure hunt, bouncy castle and the Bon Accord Silver Band”.

Note from the Church:-

“At 4o'clock we shall switch on the Christmas Tree lights and will sing Christmas Carols round the tree accompanied by the Bon Accord Silver Band (weather permitting) otherwise in the hall. Come and have a fun afternoon. Admission is free. Watch local notice boards for more information.”

Community Festive Fund - Our application has been successful and we have been granted £245 by Aberdeen City Council, which puts us in a position to donate towards these Festive Season Events.

## **Police Report**

The police report was given by Constable Wightman and Constable Buchan.

During the reporting period, there were 3 reported crimes of theft by housebreaking in the West End. Bicycles were stolen. People were on a property with intent in Ferryhill. Investigations are on going. There were 10 reported incidents of antisocial behaviour in Ferryhill. There were reported incidents of antisocial behaviour in Mannofield and two of vandalism. There were 3 incidents of vandalism in the West End.

## **Correspondence**

There has been a recent communication from a supplier offering defibrillators for sale. The prices vary between £600 and £700. To donate defibrillators to the church and the Springfield Road Co-op would cost £1,300 to £1,400. We would do this if a grant was available from the Council. The email was from Primary Care Suppliers.

Allan Davidson suggested that William should contact the Health Service procurement to find out how we could be supplied with defibrillators.

William said, "Obviously we can't afford to pay for defibrillators at this time. As I said earlier, perhaps a grant from the Council would be available for us. I have discussed this with Aileen. We are very keen to donate the defibrillators to the Church and the Co-op. There is a contact number and an email address. I suggest that I email them to see what is affordable for us."

## **Discussion with City Councillors**

Johnston Gardens- Steve Robertson, who represents volunteers in "Friends of Johnston Gardens", informed us of the award which the organisation had received from "keep Scotland Beautiful".



The toilets in Johnson Gardens have been recently upgraded. The upgrade was done by volunteers.

Organising a rota for the opening and closing of the toilets is challenging.

New notice boards will be put in place in the Summer.

Councillor Jennifer Stewart reported that the Council had received lots of calls which were concerned about leaves not being removed. Councillor Stewart had received complaints about the time taken for the Council's contact Centre to answer phone calls. This was the result of staff shortages, but the situation will improve soon.

Jennifer has asked the Council to erect a sign in Kingsgate to raise public awareness about the flood water retention area because flooding can reach pavement level.

The Guy Fawkes fireworks display was a success.

The Christmas Festival starts on 17<sup>th</sup> November.

There have been lots of concerns about payments to carers. The Council is changing the financial position causing delays in payments.

Jennifer detailed the planning history of the Hill of Rubislaw site. The 2006 application could still go ahead, i.e., 6 storey block with parking spaces.

The quarry development (heritage centre) is in difficulties because its construction will cause 96 trees to be felled. This is going to a Lands Tribunal.

## **Planning Report**

The planning report was presented by Robert. The report included details of what is proposed for the Hill of Rubislaw Quarry residential development. The developer of the quarry's residential development objects to the planned heritage centre.

Planning applications currently are :

(1) Application by the residents of 22 Kinaldie Crescent to subdivide the curtilage of 22 Kinaldie Crescent and demolish their garage for the purpose of building a house, which will be accessed via the driveway of their present home.

(2) An application by Ben Reid Garden Centre to build a farm shop on their premises.

(3) An application to open a coffee shop at the former Morrison's self service shop on Seafield Road.

Allan Davidson (Friends of Walker Dam) expressed his concern about application 1 because artificial light emanating from the proposed new home would adversely affect the wildlife habitat of the Walker Dam. Allan also pointed out that the reflective properties of the white rendering finish of the planned house was also bad for wildlife habitat. A representation to Aberdeen city council will be compiled by William.

It was agreed that, because of the extent of new housing development in the Countesswells area, there is a need for application 2. A representation will be submitted to Aberdeen City Council which expresses this perceived demand for the proposed garden centre development.

The premises of the former Morrison's self service shop on Seafield Road have been boarded up for two years. The proposal to open a coffee shop on the vacant premises (3 above) was discussed. Concerns were expressed about the volume of traffic on Seafield/Countesswells Roads and the numbers of vehicles being parked on the deteriorating cobbled area in front of the shops.

Councillor Martin Greig has repeatedly asked for the cobbles to be removed only to be (repeatedly) told that there is no money available in the Council's budget to carry out the improvement.

It was agreed that the traffic and parking problems are the Council's problems and not reasons for objecting to the proposed development.

William said that the building is an eyesore and that this is an opportunity for something to be done to address that issue.

It was agreed to submit a representation to Aberdeen City Council which expressed the need for the coffee shop. It would encourage footfall in the neighbouring shops.

## **Traffic Report**

It was felt that any coinciding road closures may be the result of an inadequate traffic planning strategy by the Council. Some of the closures are long term because of works by utility companies.

## **Civic Forum Report**

William has corresponded with the Chair of the Civic Forum with a view to resuming his attendance at Forum meetings. He is to attend the Civic Forum meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> November as a representative of this Community Council. In a recent email to the Civic Forum he expressed concerns about the ageing population of this area with respect to community planning.

William Read out the following reply - "This is something that the Civic Forum has continued to advocate very strongly for, as it is important that those of an older age and stage in life are able to continue to live with as much quality and experience of life as possible, which can be achieved with often a little support, but safe in the knowledge that support is indeed available if and when it is needed.

## Community and individual / family support

This has also included representations made to the Health and Social Care Partnership, Community Planning Partnership and Joint Board in Aberdeen as to the importance of a variety of options such as social groups like coffee mornings, walking and physical activity groups, carers' groups, grants for installing mobility aids such as banisters and supports at home, social and affordable transport, safe and accessible pavements and pedestrian options, and much more.

All of which should be made available without cutting back on other services and support which can be of vital importance at times of need or emergency.

Especially as there may be an increasingly older population over the city and throughout the country, that we secure support which enables that quality and experience of life for as long as possible for all."

William also said that it is his intention to represent the Civic Forum at meetings of the Community Health Partnership.

## **Community Council Forum Report**

Robert attended the most recent Community Council Forum meeting. The CEO of ACC and the Lord Provost were present. The CEO gave a presentation on how she would engage with community councils. She explained the challenges of meeting savings targets.

Karen Finch gave a presentation about the complaints procedure.

### **Publicity**

Nothing to report.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Cameron Campbell, Treasurer, informed the meeting that he had received the quarterly statement dated up to 28<sup>th</sup> September. The balance in our account is £843.30. We can afford comfortably to donate £300 to ACC for the Festive Season decorative street lights.

A cheque for £300, made out to Aberdeen City Council, was issued to Councillor Greig.

### **A.O.C.B.**

Allan announced that the Walker Dam hedge planting will commence at 12.00 hours on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> November. There are 420 saplings to be planted.

Volunteers are to meet at the South West corner of the Dam.

A path from Springfield Road to the Dam is an intended project.

### **Date of next Meeting**

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30 pm in the Douglas Lounge, Craigiebuckler Church Hall.