

CRAIGIEBUCKLER AND SEAFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Virtual Meeting at 7.00 pm on Tuesday 6th October 2020

Present: William Sell (WS), Cameron Campbell (CC), Robert Frost (RF), Margaret Meikle (MM),

Dana Blyth (DB), Jim Flett (JF), Robert Frost (RF), Ainsley Mitchell (AM),

Councillor Martin Greig (MG), Councillor John Cooke (JC). Police Inspector Lisa Sim.

Apologies: Councillor Jennifer Stewart, Karen Reilly.

Police Report:

Inspector Sim reported that in the community council area incidents of minor disorder by some Hazlehead Academy pupils have been dealt with through the school and youth justice management.

Some thefts from Hayfield Riding School were attributed to antisocial behaviour by a group of young people been loitering around the stables. This seems to have resolved itself. There was a break in to Hazlehead Academy by youths captured on CCTV, but nothing was stolen.

There have been some issues with youths who were riding quad bikes in the vicinity of the crematorium. The Police are working with their partners to curb this activity.

With the advent of the October holidays, area patrols will be increased.

At the conclusion of her report, Inspector Sim invited questions from the meeting.

CC reported that he noticed that, at the corner of Anderson Drive and Cromwell Road, in the park there were large numbers of youths gathered. He asked if that situation is continuing or not.

Inspector Sim replied that it was a concern for the Police and the residents of Cromwell Road. The park and particularly the rugby stand were attractions for the youths since the beginning of lockdown. The problem has not been completely eradicated, but the number of complaints is a lot less. It will be monitored during the October holiday.

WS thanked Inspector Sim for attending the meeting and providing a clear and concise report.

Adoption of the Minute of the Meeting of 1st September 2020:

Adoption was proposed by CC and seconded by RF subject to the following amendments by MM:

Page 2 - "Discussion with City Councillors" Paragraph 2 – The words, '4 inch' are to be amended to read '10 inch'. The paragraph will then read, 'She explained that rainwater and wastewater from her home flow away through the same ten-inch pipe. This drainage system is common to older properties. During heavy rainfall, the 10-inch pipe does not cope with the volume of the outflow. Consequently, foul water flows back to her garage.'

Page 3, Paragraph 2 – The first two lines should read as follows: 'MM reported that a ditch was left open at the end of her drive for over 10 days. Then there was heavy rain and it filled up with water.'

Page 3, Paragraph 3 should read as follows: 'MM, concerned that a small child or a pet may drown in this open ditch, called the Council. A Council Officer, who was one of the road inspectors, came out within the hour. Boards were put up by the cable company after the Council Officer told them to. The cable company were meant to fill in that hole immediately. It took them a further week to fill in the trench.'

Page 3, Paragraph 6 should read as follows- 'During the recent spell of bad weather, a number of routers in the area had been destroyed. MM had been informed of this event by a postal worker who told her that she had been delivering an unusually large number of routers. The Cable Company had also accidentally cut the BT data cable because the original repair was so poor and close to the surface of the pavement that the cable came apart. The cable has now been properly repaired by BT.'

Treasurer's Report:

CC reported that a second youth group cheque has been presented thus the bank balance is £1,940.92.

As a project of expenditure for the public benefit, as discussed at a previous meeting, CC has researched the purchase of Community Council notice boards. He researched the options of purchasing either a freestanding or a wall-mounted notice board. The freestanding option is considerably more expensive. A board similar to the church's on Craigiebuckler Avenue would cost in the region of £1200, though delivery, erection and site costs would need to be added.

CC had sent a letter to see if the city council would erect a notice board the church at perhaps no cost to the community council.

A wall mounted board would cost around £160 but a suitable site would be required.

Asked about potential lottery funding CC replied that though possible the process was complex and likely to have no result before one year.

Discussion then took place about the possibility of funding other projects if the notice board expenditure was not pursued. The council's special project officer may have suggestions and the treasurer mentioned other options.

CC proposed that in accordance with previous years practice sums of £350 for Christmas decorative street lighting and £230 for Craigiebuckler Church be approved. The church donation would be sent explaining that the donation was to cover the churches tree and lights and any suitable spend in line with present COVID restrictions. CC proposal was seconded by AM.

WS reminded the meeting that the defibrillator was still not 'off the table'.

Matters Arising from the Meeting of 1st September 2020:

Provision of more dog waste bins

It was noted that dog waste could now be deposited in litter bins. Agreeing that the issues of provision and dog fouling needed to be monitored and discussed at future meetings, it was proposed by WS and seconded by JF that if funding costs were reasonable (and the council was willing to play its part) then the community council was prepared to fund the cost of a new dog waste bin. CC seconded by MM stated that the proposal to fund be limited to £180 and this was agreed.

Local Flooding Issues

MM has been chasing Scottish Water religiously since the last meeting and finally got somebody out from the Flood Team. It is going to take her six to eight weeks to give her the report about her garage flooding. She is not very much further forward on that issue. She has registered it officially with the Council despite the fact she did speak to someone at the time. She has the name of the person she was talking to from the Council Roads Department. It was an Officer called Sandy Mitchell who she spoke to in August. She has since gone back to the Council and raised, through their customer service, an official concern about this, and is waiting for the Council's response. She hopes that once she has heard from Scottish Water, she can progress it with the Council. She will

update Councillor Stewart when she has all the information to hand. In respect of the local area, the suds ponds on the Dandara site were almost overflowing during recent heavy rain.

RF reported that the suds pond became exceptionally full. He phoned Dandara at about 7pm on the Saturday prior to this meeting and was told that the suds pond was designed to cope with heavy rainfall, but they were going to send someone out to check it. The levels would be checked again at midnight. The waterflow from the outlet can be manually adjusted. There was no sign that it had overflowed the following morning, but water was flowing down the footpath like a stream from the North end of the site. Water coming down the sloping part of the site flowed towards MM's garden where it disappeared. That indicates that water from the Dandara site is entering people's gardens and combining with the water table to cause them to be flooded. It may be worth arranging a meeting with Dandara to discuss this flooding issue caused by water from their site. When they start building on the higher land to the North of the site, the land will not get properly drained.

MM reported that, as part and partial of the conversation she had with a member of Scottish Water's flood team concerning Dandara and the suds ponds, he is going to get Scottish Water to find out how the suds ponds were supposed to be constructed and whether they are fit for purpose. Someone will be sent out over the next few weeks to do tests to determine what she had said about the suds ponds overflowing and not draining the way they are supposed to. She also asked for a map of the drainage in her area, which she is entitled to have. She hopes the map will include the suds ponds and the green strip going down to Springfield Road plus the streets of Burnieboozle and Pinewood and the plan of their drains, i.e., from Scottish Water's perspective. The more frequent the heavy rainfall, the more frequent the flooding in this area. As the population of this area increases, more people will be victims of flooding.

All members agreed that it is our duty, as a community council, to gain an understanding of the length and breadth of this problem. It was acknowledged that in the future we may receive an increasing number of complaints about flooding hence the need for better understanding.

MM made reference to the lack of response to our posting on Facebook which invited people to contact us via the CC's email address to let us know if they had flooding issues. She suspected the lack of response could be because people don't use Facebook. So, she remained keen to find out how many people in the local area have had flooding issues. Bearing the COVID situation in mind, she questioned whether it would be possible to do a leaflet drop as a way of finding out how many people are having flooding problems.

It was agreed that the Burnieboozle, Pinewood and Macaulay estate were areas affected by this issue and thus should be targeted.

It was noted that the community council had a free three month photocopying allowance of 600 photocopies at the Airyhall library which could be used to print questionnaires about the matter.

Further discussion took place about both SUDS ponds on the edge of the Dandara estate and the activity surrounding the pond nearest Countesswells Avenue. RF volunteered to contact Dandara and arrange a meeting onsite or virtually with someone who would be able to answer all the community council's questions and concerns in regard to flooding, drainage and SUDS ponds operation.

The Proposed Care Home on the Hazlewood Site

Though planning permission was granted three years ago it is not known if the developer is going to proceed with the care home. If the care home plan is abandoned and an alternate scheme is sought then fresh planning permission will have to be sought.

Virtual Meeting Platform

At present we meet using Cisco Webex video link. JF had researched the question of using an alternative platform and WS had circulated by email JF's findings. It was agreed to remain using the same platform.

Correspondence:

WS – All items of correspondence, up to the date of this meeting, have been forwarded to the members.

Discussion with City Councilors:

MG explained that a pedestrian refuge crossing is being installed at the top of Springfield Road due to the view that the distance from one side of Springfield Road to the other was very long. He added that vehicles right turning into Springfield Road from Queens Road will have to skirt around the island refuge. He agreed to enquire if present entry arrangements to Woodburn Avenue will continue.

JF described to councillors his frustration about trying to contact the council about pedestrian difficulties at these roadworks. MG acknowledged that it was council policy for members of the public to use the 0300 numbers and that it was a customer friendly service. Councillors have telephone numbers and email addresses of those officers to whom they can direct queries.

Planning Report:

The main item in Rf's report was the ALDI planning application. It was approved, 8-1 by the Planning Committee on 24 September. MG said that construction will start in the middle of next year and the store will open in March 2022.

The Community Council's representation letter raised concerns about issues such as intrusive car park lighting affecting homes in Pinewood Gardens, increased traffic on Countesswells Road, the safety of children attending Airyhall Primary School, the noise of delivery vehicles and their presence on Countesswells Road, the need for a pedestrian crossing on Countesswells Road, at the entrance to the Robert Gordon's playing field.

MG said that a need was not identified for the pedestrian crossing and JC said that he had put questions to several departments about roads and traffic. In reply, they said that the volume of traffic on Countesswells Road is not high compared to other roads in the city

RF provided details of other planning applications which are current in this area.

The catchment area for Airyhall school runs down the middle of Countesswells road. Anyone to the north with a child would not be crossing Countesswells Road, they would be going to Hazlehead Primary School. The Police could not find any evidence of speeding and there was only one minor accident on the road in six years.

RF – The other issue is the boundary between Dandara's site and the site of the planned store. There could be light pollution from cars intruding on the nearby residences.

RF has heard nothing concerning the Hill of Rubislaw Developer's appeal against the refusal of planning permission to construct a block of flats. He suspects that the appeal process has been

delayed by Covid.

The next item in the report concerned the old Treetops Hotel which is being demolished. When a planning application is submitted to develop that site, we will find it challenging to make everyone aware about what is being proposed for that location, whether it is to be houses or flats.

JF asked if planning permission was required for demolition. MG said planning permission was not required.

WS thanked RF for his report and invited questions concerning it. There were no questions.

AOCB:

In regard to the re-resurfacing of Burnieboozle Crescent, MM had elicited that this was necessary due to an experimental asphalt ingredient mix failure. Two other pilot areas had been similarly blighted.

The failure resulted in poor road surface longevity but the resurfacing was restricted solely to junctions and areas subjected to a lot of wear and tear.

MG had already queried the Council about the costs of the remedial resurfacing of Burnieboozle Place and Crescent, and based on this new information he will extend his enquiries.

There being no further business, WS thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

Date of next virtual meeting is Tuesday, 3rd November at 7.00 pm.