

## **CRAIGIEBUCKLER AND SEAFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Virtual AGM and Regular Meeting of Tuesday 2nd March 2021

**Present:** William Sell (WS), Robert Frost (RF), Ainsley Mitchell (AM), James Flett (JF), Cameron Campbell (CC), Karen Reilly (KR), Margaret Meikle (MM), Dana Blyth (DB), Caroline Walker (CW), Councillor John Cooke (Cllr JC), Councillor Martin Greig (Cllr MG), Sergeant John McOuat Police Scotland LPT and 2 Residents.

**Apologies:** None

**Police Report:** Sergeant John McOuat – During the reporting period there was one call regarding a breach of COVID Regulations.

ASB – There were a few calls in response to the throwing of snowballs and youths ringing doorbells then running away. Police spoke to the youths about their anti-social behaviour.

In response to complaints about eggs being thrown at homes, Police spoke to shop staff in premises where eggs were sold to children.

Acquisitive Crime. A building on Groats Road was broken into.

Cyber Security – Advice about keeping safe online is available on the Police Scotland website.

Cllr MG reported that groups of youths have been gathering to sledge at Walker Dam.

Sergeant McOuat informed the meeting that this matter had been dealt with by the Local Policing Team. Cllr MG thanked Sergeant McOuat for dealing with that.

There also had been youth-related incidents (including fire raising in Hazlehead Park.

Sergeant McOuat expressed his hope that the lighter evenings would cause a reduction in anti-social behaviour.

AM reported a situations of chaotic parking in Woodburn Gardens which made the road to be difficult to negotiate because of parked cars.

This was caused by people who visit Walker Dam at weekends.

WS thanked Sergeant McOuat for his report.

This regular meeting was adjourned until after the Annual General Meeting.

## **Annual General Meeting**

**Chair's Report:** Our last meeting in the Douglas lounge was on the 3rd of March 2020.

The gift of a defibrillator for community use was offered by Abras Limited. The Donor agreed to provide us with a price for all the accessories so that the costs could be debated at a future meeting. Unfortunately, possibly because of the pandemic, this never came to fruition.

The April meeting was cancelled because of the pandemic. It had already been agreed to donate sums of money to several named youth organisations. This took place unhindered by the restrictions associated with the pandemic.

Since May the Community Council have met virtually, although this made the requirement to be open for public attendance challenging, all subsequent meetings have been well attended by members and councillors. Members of the public have also been in attendance.

All the meetings have included the vexing issues of flooding of residential properties. These issues have been conscientiously followed up by Ward Councillors Martin Gregg and John Cook.

Meetings have also included complaints regarding the poor state of the newly resurfaced Burnieboozle Crescent.

During the May meeting the chair announced the co-option of Margaret Meikle as a member of this Community Council.

Regular reports throughout the past year have been provided by the Treasurer and the Planning Officer.

All Office Bearers have remained in post throughout the past year. There are vacancies for two community councillors.

Meetings by video conferencing will continue for the foreseeable future. It is my hope that the Community Council will continue beyond the October elections.

**Treasurer's Report:** CC reported that the available cash to date is £1,360.92. The accounts are being checked by the appointed person. There has been little expenditure since the last audited accounts. We do not yet have an expenditure figure for the Springfield Meadows and the Johnston Gardens projects.

**Planning Officer's Report:** RF - The biggest planning application for 2020 was the Hill of Rubislaw Quarry development of 245 flats and 254 car parking spaces. Following the Applicant's public consultation on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2019, the planning application was submitted on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2020. The Community Council held a public meeting at Harlow Academy on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2020. The application attracted over 400 objections. Aberdeen City Council's Planning Committee voted unanimously to reject the application. In June 2020, their rejection was appealed. The appeal was upheld by the Scottish Government in November 2020.

The other major planning application was by ALDI who proposed build a retail store at Countesswells Road. A public consultation online was held in May 2020. The applicant submitted this application on 30<sup>th</sup> June. It was approved on 24<sup>th</sup> September.

There were minor planning applications throughout 2020.

The Proposed Aberdeen Local Development Plan (Proposed Plan), Proposed Delivery Programme and associated background documents were approved by Full Council on Monday 2 March 2020. It was agreed that the Proposed Plan, Proposed Delivery Programme and Environmental Report would be published as part of a statutory period of representation in public.

**Selection of Office Bearers:** All office bearers agreed to remain in post for the remainder the Community Council's term.

WS announced the completion of the AGM.

### **Resumption of the Regular Meeting.**

**Adoption of the Minute of the Meeting of 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2021:** Proposed by MM and Seconded by CC.

**Matters arising from the meeting of 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2021:** Local Place Plan by Community Councils and their Communities. As previously agreed, this item will remain on the agendas of all future meetings until the end of social distancing.

**Environmental Projects:** WS - As mentioned at the last meeting I met with the gardens Superintendent and the Gardener in Johnston Gardens regarding the planting of trees to enhance the gardens with Autumn colours. I was told that they had no space for more trees.

Today I met with the Arboricultural Officer from Aberdeen City Council in the green space referred to as Springfield Meadows with the view to planting a number of stand-alone trees. After pacing the length of the green space, the possibility of establishing a path down the middle of the park from Springfield Rd to Craigiebuckler Dr was discussed. The land is of an irregular width with a wet area to the South of the path. This could be planted with trees. The area North of the path could become meadow. The area between Craigiebuckler Dr and Countesswells Rd is narrower and more wet. Already there are a number of thriving oak trees. There is also scope for planting a few more in both areas of green space.

A good species for tolerating wet ground is Alder. The idea of tree planting on the Springfield Meadows has met with the approval of ACC's Environmental Manager.

A design plan for the project will be required. I suggest we donate nothing until we agree the design plan,

JF - As agreed at the previous meeting, we need to get the drainage problems solved before we plant.

Cllr MG – There lacks the resources for a hydrological survey of the land. There is no money to employ the teams.

JF - We have been promised a compliance report about Dandara regarding flooding. This has been pursued by Councillor Cook and Councillor Greg since December.

RF asked if the Flooding Team could advise us about dealing with the flooding of the park. He also suggested contacting Scottish Water to find out the type of water flooding the park, e.g., sewage.

Cllr MG will ask the Flooding Team for plans of drainage.

Councillors have been asked to press for reports about drainage (a) from Scottish Water and (b) ACC concerning Dandara's compliance with the conditions of their planning permission in respect of flood prevention.

**Correspondence:** The items of correspondence throughout the previous month have been forwarded to all members.

**AOCB:** There being no further business, WS thanked all present for their attendance.

**Date of Next Virtual Meeting:** 7.00 pm Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> April

**Correspondence:** The items of correspondence throughout the previous month have been forwarded to all members.

**Discussion with City Councillors:** Flooding issues were discussed at great length with the ward councillors. Reports by experts on the subject are awaited.

As a result of the councillors' actions, Dandara have committed to providing council officers with a written update on the Hazelwood development drainage situation. From this, it is hoped that matters of planning compliance are settled or steps for further action are outlined or determined.

JC stated that Scottish Water will inform the council as and when Scottish Water takes phased responsibility for the Hazelwood site drainage.

**Planning Report:** RF reported on flooding issues affecting the core paths. WS thanked RF for his hard work in connection with the incidents of flooding.

**AOCB:** MM discussed the worsening surface condition of the Queens Road, Hazledene Road junction with Cllr MG. It is listed for resurfacing.

RF reported on the long time it takes for the Council to act on reports of faulty streetlights. Some were reported last year.

Cllr MG will find out the reason.

Cllr JC – in 2019 the Council cut the budget for streetlight repairs.

There being no further business, WS thanked all present for their attendance.

**Date of next virtual meeting:** 7.00 pm Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March