

Craigiebuckler and Seafield Community Council

Minute of the Virtual Meeting of Tuesday 7th March 2023

Present

William Sell (WS), Margaret Meikle (MM), Cameron Campbell (CC), Robert Frost (RF), Keith Watson (KW), Craig Melville (CM), Karen Reilly (KR), Jane Ormeroid (JO), Dana Blyth (DB), Inspector Nick Searle - Local Policing Team (NS), Sergeant Ricky Burr – Local Policing Team (RB), Ward Councillors - Martin Greig (MG), John Cooke (JC), Ken McLeod (KM), 1 Local Resident.

Apologies

Councillor Jennifer Stewart.

Police Report

Inspector Nick Searle was welcomed to the meeting by WS. The inspector explained the duties of the police team in this area. MM asked the inspector about the procedures for using the 101-dialling system. Inspector Searle explained that there is an online form on the police website which she could complete.

KR asked the Inspector if Foreign Nationals are allowed drive in the UK provided they have a licence issued by their own country. She had witnessed the poor standards of driving which seems typical of Foreign National drivers in Aberdeen. They seem to have no idea about the rules of the road.

RB will get in touch with the Road Policing Unit and get back to her. She was also advised to report incidents of dangerous driving.

RB continued the police report.

Anti-social behaviour. Suspicious activity had been reported as occurring beside the Gordon Highlander Museum.

Hazlehead Park Lodge had been broken into.

Youths have been congregating on the roof of Woodend old hospital.

Road Safety. The Road Policing Unit are monitoring several streets in the city. 10 drivers were caught and charged. Anti-social behaviour orders were also issued.

ANPR (vehicle numberplate recognition) was effective in the seizure of an uninsured car on Queens Road.

Acquisitive crime. A motorbike was reported stolen from premises on Provost Graham Avenue. RB advised that motorcycles should be secured with a good chain. There have been numerous break ins to sheds and garages. Two males

are sought for those crimes. They were using a light-coloured scooter.

Thefts. two incidents of petrol thefts were reported whereby the offenders drove off without paying for their petrol. Those crimes have been linked to stolen cars.

Adoption of the Minute of the Meeting of 7th February 2023

Proposed by RF

Seconded by MM

There being no amendments, the minutes were adopted.

Matters Arising from the Meeting of 7th February 2023

Coronation Commemorative Tree – CC reported that he has estimates from a garden centre which will provide him with the comparative costs of trees which may be appropriate for planting on the Church site. A member of the garden centre staff will visit the site and arrange to supply a suitable tree for the location for the on-site location. 50% will be taken off the cost.

Website: Report of the Subgroup meeting of Friday 3rd March

Attendees – WS CM RF KW MM.

Websites were discussed. No firm decision was reached.

Karen Finch, Community Council Liaison Officer at Aberdeen City Council's legal department was consulted by WS. She will research the merits of any proposed websites.

Core Path System – MG reported that more funding is to be made available for the core paths. A lot of resurfacing work has been completed. He has had excellent feedback on the paths project.

Renaming the Culter Bypass - MG will get in touch with Steven Shaw about this subject.

CM asked MG if notice boards could be erected at the entrances to the paths. MG will speak to Steven Shaw about that subject.

MM reported that there are other paths that have been identified for improvement, for example at Walker Dam. That would be a worthwhile improvement project.

MG agreed and mentioned parts of the path that have deteriorated.

JO suggested contacting the Friends of Walker Dam group.

MG named a contact with the group.

WS suggested that a laminated notice, secured to the wooden guard rail of the bridge over the Weir at Walker Dam, and featuring a QR code which, when scanned with a smartphone, would provide a convenient link to the history of the dam, as published on the City Council's website.

Mg will follow this suggestion up.

Correspondence

WS stated that all items of emailed correspondence were forwarded to the members.

Discussion with City Councillors.

CM reported that changes to the 15 and 15B bus services are not clear on the relevant maps. The route map shows buses travelling over buildings, for example. He had a bad experience before Christmas when he waited for a bus that never came.

MM also related another bad experience which she had while waiting for a #15 bus.

JC reported that he has had several queries, concerning the bus operator, pertaining to confusing route illustrations. Bus stops have not been updated with their bus numbers. The operator is not good at getting back to councillors.

Planning Report (screen shared)

RF reported that there are only two new planning applications for the reporting period; a garage replacement and tree work where the tree affected a boundary wall. Two outstanding planning applications are those launched by the James Hutton Institute (for a new access road to Countesswells Road), and by the developer, Malcolm Allen (for homes on the site of the former Treetops Hotel).

The planning application for the Treetops site is a complicated issue. The affordable flats did not comply with Council policy for affordable housing. The affordable housing aspect of the application will be going to a site at Braeside. Therefore, no date has been decided for Malcolm Allen's planning application to come before the Planning Committee because it is linked to an application to build affordable housing at the Braeside site.

CC Reported that the large tree within Couper's Pond has been cut back, but the stump is still there. He also commented, addressing the Councillors, that the retaining barrier to the Treetops site has been blown over. Therefore, the site is not secure.

MG informed the meeting that permission had been given by the Council to remove the tree from the pond.

AOCB

There being no further business, WS thanked all present for their attendance and declared the meeting closed.

Next Virtual Meeting: 7.0 pm on Tuesday 4th April 2023.