

Craigiebuckler and Seafield Community Council

Minute of the Virtual Meeting of Tuesday 3rd October 2023

Present

William Sell (WS), Margaret Meikle (MM), Cameron Campbell (CC), Robert Frost (RF), Craig Melville (CM)

Ward Councillors - Martin Greig (MG)

Apologies

Councillor John Cooke, Councillor Ken McLeod, Keith Watson

WS asked for volunteers to take the minutes. RF volunteered for this meeting.

Police Report

None

Adoption of the Minute of the Meeting of 5th September 2023

Proposed by RF

Seconded by CC

There being no amendments, the minutes were adopted.

Treasurer's Report

CC reported that the balance is £1,173.88 and since then one sum has been spent:

£143.98 to reimburse WS for Zoom which has replaced Webex for hosting our online virtual meetings.

Our accounts have now been audited, and the 2021-2022 accounts are now available for publication on our website.

The cost of funding Christmas lights on Springfield Road is £300.

The Community Festive Fund has not been finalised yet but there is a larger amount to be shared this year, increased to £20,000.

Craigiebuckler Church is organising a Festival of Light which will be held on the afternoon of Sunday 3 December, various activities need to be funded.

A discussion took place on whether additional Christmas lights could be funded by local companies, such as Aldi, Ascona, RGC.

After discussion a decision was made to defer a decision on funding Christmas lights until our November meeting as the Community Festive Fund will be rolled out by then.

A decision was made to purchase two boxes of dog poo bags at a cost of £30.30

Ideas are required for other projects to be funded by the CC. This topic will be discussed at the next meeting. One example could be funding flower bed containers.

Correspondence

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

Councillor Cooke was unable to attend the meeting, but he forwarded information regarding the Council budget consultation. This goes live next week and as many people as possible are being encouraged to take part.

The Union Street regeneration project and the new bus gates were discussed.

Matters Arising from the Meeting of 5th September 2023

Core Path System – The data from the survey has been compiled by CM and this will shortly be published on our website.

Friends of Walker Dam group – no contact with Alan Davidson

Dog Fouling notices - Official Council signs are faded and require replacement, but there is no budget to replace them.

Noticeboards at the entrances to the core paths – there is no Council budget to purchase or maintain these. CM is investigating an alternative solution, i.e., an i-beacon.

The James Hutton Institute have put up noticeboards. Consequently, there will be space for Community Council posters and notices. There is also a noticeboard outside Craigiebuckler Church that the Community Council can use.

Discussion with City Councillors.

MG will follow up issues concerning the Hazlewood Dandara development. The north SUDS pond, which has not yet been fully completed may be adopted by Scottish Water as the City Council don't have the expertise to take this on. The core path beside the SUDS pond and Countesswells Avenue still needs to be upgraded, and vegetation cleared, and trees pruned. The north end of the core path beside the SUDS pond has been tarred by the Council which is a big improvement.

Groats Road is in a poor state of repair, but it is not due to be resurfaced. The Council have inspected the road and assessed it for safety defects. The road will be monitored and re-assessed.

No right turn sign on Hazledene Road/Queens Road junction- The sign has been cleaned and will be re-angled. Tree branches will be cut back to improve visibility on approach to the sign.

Signage to alert/direct the public to the new Woodlands Care Home in Hazledene Road was discussed. - Parking issues are to be investigated by City Wardens to monitor the parking provision.

Garden waste permit renewal – When MM attempted to renew her garden waste permit in the Council office at Marischal College, the credit card payment machines were not working. MG will follow up this as the card payment machines have been faulty for at least ten days.

Transport – Local Bus service - A lengthy discussion took place about the poor bus service in our area. The lack of an evening service was highlighted. The Council subsidy was removed due to the lack of a budget. It was pointed out that the evening bus service, when it was run, was not well used by local residents. MG agreed to contact First Bus regarding statistical evidence of passenger numbers on our local bus service.

Planning Report

Draft 2023 Development Plan Scheme and Participation Statement: -

The consultation on the Participation Statement aspect of the Development Plan Scheme is a new requirement by virtue of the 2019 Planning Act.

The Development Plan Scheme sets the timetable for the next Local Development Plan. It is hoped this will be adopted in 2028.

The Participation Statement asks how best to engage with stakeholders, so in effect – for Craigiebuckler and Seafield Community Council - what are the most effective forms of engagement to help shape the 2028 Aberdeen Local Development Plan?

The Palm Court, 81 Seafield Road. - Planning application for an extension of an external seating area, which will result in the loss of six parking spaces. Concerns have been raised by local residents regarding the consequential exacerbation of the problem of on-street parking in the surrounding streets.

AOCB

With reference to the upgraded cycle / pedestrian path between Craigiebuckler Drive and Macauley Drive, CC asked if there will be line markings to identify which area is to be used by cyclists and pedestrians.

CM mentioned that a litter bin has been relocated along the ‘Culter Bypass’ adjacent to Craigiebuckler Terrace.

CM asked when the grass will be cut along the ‘Culter Bypass’ – MG stated that he receives complaints when grass is cut and when grass isn’t cut – CM pointed out that most local residents wanted the grass cut when they were asked this question during the Community Council residents’ survey.

RF stated that he attended the recent CAN (Come and Network) day organised by the Council for community group volunteers. One workshop, which covered social media, decided that a three-pronged approach is best – using Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter (now known as X). This suggests that our Community Council should set up Instagram and Twitter(X) accounts to engage with more local residents.

The new library survey should be advertised on the Community Council website and Facebook page to encourage as many people as possible to take part.

WS thanked all present for their attendance and declared the meeting closed.

Next Virtual Meeting: Tuesday 7th November 2023 at 7.00 pm