

CRAIGIEBUCKLER AND SEAFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minute of Meeting of 04 December, 2014.

Welcome and Apologies.

William Sell (Chair) welcomed Harriet Brace (Evening Express), Yvonne Heald, Community Councillors: Christine Boylan (Vice-Chair), Allan Davidson (Treasurer), Robert Frost (Planning Officer), Ainsley Mitchell and Eric Murdoch.

Apologies were tendered by Councillor John Coral, Aileen Brown, Rhona MacCallan, Joe MacCallan, Karen Reilly and Athol Hendry.

Approval of Minutes of meeting of 05 November 2014.

Approval proposed by Christine Boylan and seconded by Ainsley Mitchell.

Police Report.

William received a telephone call from Sergeant Ian Davidson advising him that the Police were unable to attend.

Matters Arising.

Applications for Eco City Award: Christine attended the award ceremony on our behalf. Unfortunately, neither of our applications were successful. The award winners were:- Northfield Academy (litter clear up), Torry Group (allotment growing of vegetables) and Friends of Westburn and Victoria Parks. At the venue, Christine was approached by Council Officers, Sandy Scott and Steven Shaw who wish to encourage us in respect of our endeavours with the Grove Nursery and Walker Dam projects. Councillor Jenny Laing informed Christine that she had been contacted by letter from a former resident who wanted to see the Walker Dam restored to its former glory.

Friends of Walker Dam: The project of restoring the Walker Dam and surrounding pathways was discussed. It is apparent that the dam requires to be dredged. At present, silt from the Hazlewood construction site is being washed into the dam causing discolouration of the water. Allan recommended that dredging should be delayed until construction is completed on the Hazlewood site. However, meantime, something can be done about the paths. Allan said that he would contact Sandy Scott, ACC, about this matter. Allan is setting up a Facebook account and domain for Walker Dam. He has a professional contact in IT. The new website is to be created with a proper title and a link to facilitate contributions from members of the public. The burn leading into the dam needs to be cleared out. Possibly the the Scouts could help with this project. Allan will contact Sandy Scott about this.

Christmas Lights: William has replied to Councillor Martin Greig's request for a £300 contribution to cover the costs associated with installing the lights on Springfield Road. He has informed Councillor Greig that we have agreed to contribute £300. Accordingly, Allan wrote a cheque for £300, payable to Aberdeen City Council, to be forwarded to Councillor Greig.

William will complete an application form to claim a refund of this amount from Aberdeen City Council. Payments are appropriated from the Common Good Fund.

Correspondence.

William received an email from Henry Innes in which he tendered his resignation with immediate effect. Henry stated that he will be unable to attend our meetings when they revert to the first Tuesday of every month because they would clash with his commitment to attend practices of the choir of which has a long-standing membership. William thanked Henry for his service in the Community Council. Karen Rennie, Community Council Development Officer, has been informed of Henry's resignation.

Treasurer's Report.

Allan reported that the balance of our account is £981.95.

This will be reduced to £681.95 by the January meeting because the aforementioned cheque will be cashed.

Planning Matters.

Planning Application by Carlton Rock to construction a 250 bedroom hotel and leisure complex in Hazlehead: William reported that he gave our presentation at the Pre-Determination Hearing on Friday 14 November by the Planning Development Management Committee. The presentation was intended to detail both the disadvantages and advantages inherent in the proposed development in a fair and balanced way. This aim was not lost on the Convenor and most of the membership. However, at question time, William was under the impression that two members did not appear to take full cognisance of the intended balanced ethos of the presentation. One member informed William that he “was talking like a developer” even though he had expressed our disappointment that the main access to the site of the development was the residential street, Hazledene Road and detailed road safety issues that would be caused by the increased traffic generated by the development – especially concerning Hazlehead Academy as well as traffic diverting through the streets of Craigiebuckler and Woodburn to access Queens Road.

A decision on the application will be taken by the full Council in December.

Planning Officer's Report.

A very high quality report was provided by Robert. This report, which was circulated to the membership, included illustrations of artists' impressions of the proposed 250 hotel development in Hazlehead and an account of our representation at the aforementioned departure hearing. It also contained photographs of the greenfield site of the development on the two fields adjacent to the unclassified section of road, linking Hazledene Road to Countesswells Road and currently closed to through traffic.

Robert reported that he had detected a mistake in the ward allocation of a domestic planning application proposed for 82 Springfield Road. He contacted the Council Planning Department who corrected this error and re-established the final date for submitting representations.

Scottish Water have, at long last, completed work on diverting the water mains supply at the south end of the Hazlewood site to the principal water main. There were some challenging problems with this project, all of which are detailed in Robert's report. Work connecting the outlet from the South retention pond to the surface drains was completed on 02 December. Work has now started on the remaining plots in Zone H.

The main access road off the new roundabout on Countesswells Road has now been opened. This should mean that the residents of Countesswells Avenue should no longer have to suffer the noise and disturbance of the site traffic.

The first house in Zone H is now occupied. Robert rightly suggested that we should make ourselves known to the new residents of Hazlewood.

Robert and William attended a meeting of the Countesswells Liaison Group in the Cults Hotel during the evening of Tuesday 25 November.

Attendance:- Representatives of Heron Properties; representatives from Bieldside and Kingswells Community Councils and Mr Alex Orr of Orbit Communications, who arranged the meeting.

An update was provided by Heron Property pertaining to changes that they propose for improving the road accesses to and from the development. Their proposals differ from (and were stated to be an improvement on) those of the other two members of the consortium who were not represented at the meeting.

Heron are preparing to realign the Jessiefield access road to the A944 away from Hazlehead Crematorium Garden of remembrance by Approximately 30m.

This is the eastern access road which they state will be aligned to enhance the Garden of Remembrance and respect the adjacent woodland and path by screening them with trees. A roundabout forms the junction with the A944. The eastern access road is linked to the western access road within the development at a point which connects them to the distributor roads. The western access road joins the A944 at the Kingswells roundabout at Bellfield.

Heron Properties and the other two members of the consortium will submit separate planning applications in respect of their differing plans for the access roads. The applications will be sent to Aberdeen City Council just before Christmas.

A.O,C.B.

There being no further business, William thanked all present for attending and closed the meeting at 9.30 pm.

Date of next Meeting.

Tuesday 6th January at 7.30 pm in the Douglas Lounge, Craigiebuckler Church Hall.