

Craigiebuckler and Seafield Community Council

Minute of Meeting of 03 March, 2015

Commenced at 7.30 pm in The Douglas Lounge, Craigiebuckler Church.

Welcome

William welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies

Apologies were tendered on behalf of Brian Bryce, Rhona McCallan, Joe McCallan and Councillor Jennifer Stewart.

In attendance

Karen Reilly, Robert Frost, Ainsley Mitchell, Eric Murdoch, Christine Boylan, John Boylan, Aileen Brown, Athol Henry (Resident), Allan Davidson, Councillors Martin Greig, John Corall and Ross Thomson.

Approval of Minutes of meeting of 03 February 2015

Proposed by Allan Davidson, seconded by Ainsley Mitchell. There being no amendments, the minutes were adopted.

Police Report

The report for the West End Policing Area was given by Sergeant Murray King. Since the last reporting period 9 calls pertaining to quality of life had been received and 5 drugs offences had been committed. The quality of life calls had increased by 6 on the last reporting period.

A number of insecure cars had been entered in various areas in the West End. Craigiebuckler and Burnieboozle were free of this type of crime, possibly because of additional patrols in their streets. Sergeant King advised the meeting that, if an issue is identified, the Police will resource it being dealt with.

Aileen reported, from her attendance at the Community Council Forum meeting, that some Community Councils never have a police presence. Sergeant King replied to the effect that he would communicate that to the Area commander. Councillor Greig stated that we were lucky in respect of having police attendances at our community council meetings compared with other areas in Scotland.

William intimated that the Police report had been emailed to all members.

Matters Arising from Meeting of 03 February 2015

Walker Dam – site meeting with Steven Shaw, Environmental Manager, ACC:- Allan reported that Steven Shaw said that he was very happy to back Friends of Walker Dam. The Douglas Lounge has been booked for the public meeting of 24 March at 7 pm.

At the meeting, Steven Shaw will provide information about what is to be done for the Walker Dam, e.g., paths for wheelchairs; notice boards to be put up to show what is happening.

Allan informed the meeting that the Walker Dam is a place of scientific interest. There is the possibility that a bridge or viewing platform will be erected at the Springfield Road end of the dam.

Plans pertaining to the possible future community use of the Grove Nursery were also given.

Ainsley spoke to ex-councillor Mrs. Jill Wisely to see if there were any monies available from her time in office that could be appropriated to these projects, but she didn't know of any being available at the present time.

Allan reported that 600 flyers were now ready for distribution.

On the subject of the Grove Nursery, Allan said that he hoped to have a Council Officer at the meeting on 24 March.

Councillor Corall said that it will be put to big and varied use and will involve groups from areas. Educational application would be an example of a group use.

Christine said that she saw the Community council as being the promoters.

Proposed Controlled Parking Zone – Streets Surrounding the Hill of Rubislaw :-

Councillor Martin Greig reported that a public consultation will take place which includes maps of the parking zones, beginning on 11 March. The outcome will be brought before a Council committee.

Aileen intimated that there is a slight improvement in the availability of parking for residents, but the spaces in the streets are being used for park and ride.

Aileen also mentioned the possibility that the planned Rubislaw Quarry restaurant will add to the parking problems that plague the residents of the streets that surround the Hill of Rubislaw because customers will park in the evenings outwith the times when the permits are in force.

John Boylan replied that people will park in anywhere that there is a space.

Correspondence

Council Tax Liability on Unoccupied New Properties: This subject was researched by Councillor Jennifer Stewart who received a letter from the Council to the effect that empty new built houses are not designated as liable for council tax.

Insurance Cover for the Community Council: The certificate from Zurich was passed to Allan Davidson, Treasurer.

ACC Acknowledgement of Consultee Response:- This document pertained to the proposed link road between the site of the planned 3000 homes Countesswells development and the Jessiefield Junction on the A944.

Our certificate from ACC for our participation in the Eco City Award scheme was shown to the meeting.

William Sell read out a draft of our proposed letter to Scottish Water for approval. This letter opines that leaking old mains water supply pipes are the cause of the boggy condition of the public open space behind Burnieboozle Place and Crescent. The letter was unanimously approved and is to be sent to Scottish Water and Aberdeen City Council. Robert Frost reported that a firm had surveyed this area of ground and that there are fresh water pipes there. It is unlikely that Scottish Water will have the resources to deal with the problem. Robert also said that any leaks should be investigated.

Treasurers Report

Update from Mr Allan Davidson:- Reimbursement for outlay on Christmas Lights: A cheque for £300.00 has been received from Aberdeen City Council.

There is now £981.85 in our bank account. An audit will be carried out within the next two weeks.

Planning Matters

Countesswells Development – Proposed Upgrade of Jessiefield Junction and Construction of All-Vehicle Access Road. This subject was dealt with under “Correspondence”.

Planning Officer's Report

Mr. Robert Frost:- Hazlewood housing development: Zone H is nearing completion. 3 houses have been built in Zone A, “The Grange”. There are no plans to build on the Zone nearest to Burnieboozle Crescent as yet. Building work seems to be slowing down. Christine recalled that Zone A can't be occupied until Hazledene Road is up to adoptable standard. Eric pointed out that the road is sub-standard and disputed the reasoning that the road would be wide enough. A temporary pond has been created at the south end of the site to augment the capacity of the retention pond. There are concerns about water entering the gardens of the houses bordering the site. This was raised with Dandara. Robert asked Chris Graham what would happen to field drains when the core path is resurfaced. Dandara and Aberdeen City Council have to reach an agreement about how the core path is to be finished. A post and wire fence has been erected around half of the south retention pond.

Railings on Burnieboozle Crescent: These were repaired, some time ago, by straightening where they were bent when removed by the developer's staff. They are now rusting where they were straightened. Robert obtained a verbal agreement from Chris Graham that they would be painted.

Aberdeen Transport Strategy: Robert advised that there is still time to comments to the consultation about, for example, public transport to the airport.

A.O.C.B.

Christine Boylan proposed that the Community Council makes a donation in lieu of rent for the Douglas Lounge for the sum of £250.00, seconded by Aileen Brown. There being no amendments, the motion was carried.

Christine reported that a sub-group of Aberdeen Community Council Forum (ACCF) had been set up to consider the current Community Council boundaries in light of new housing developments, changes in industrial premises and additional retail premises within their areas.

She explained that The Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland is responsible for:

- carrying out reviews of the boundaries of local authority areas:
- carrying out reviews of electoral wards for local authorities.

as well as determining councillor numbers by categorising each council on deprivation and population distribution.

A public consultation on councillor numbers was completed on 21 August 2014 and the Boundaries Commission expect to consult with councils on their proposals for ward boundaries early this year, and will consult with the public on proposals later in 2015.

Currently, in Aberdeen City there are 13 Wards and 43 Councillors. There is a proposal by the Boundaries Commission to increase the number of councillors by 2.

While this process was ongoing, last year, two Community Councils sought permission to revise their boundaries and a paper was compiled and presented to committee by the Community Council Liaison Officer.

William and Christine on behalf of Craigiebuckler and Seafield Community Council were involved in this process.

However, a councillor for Aberdeen City Council had made a recommendation that the number of Community Councils be reduced from 30 (although only 26 are established currently) to 13, to match the council wards.

This information was relayed to ACCF and it was agreed to take a pro-active stance by setting up a short-life sub-group, supported by the Community Council Liaison Officer, to prepare a development plan and to seek views from individual Community Councils on how their current area/boundary fits with new and future initiatives thus allowing them to represent, ably and competently, the views of residents in their areas.

Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 7th April at 7.30 pm in the Douglas Lounge, Craigiebuckler Church Hall