

## **Craigiebuckler and Seafield Community Council**

### **Minute of Meeting of 1<sup>st</sup> March 2016**

7.30 pm, The Douglas Lounge, Craigiebuckler Church

**Present:** Aileen Brown, William Sell, Allan Davidson, Robert Frost, Ainsley Mitchell.

Cllr Ross Thomson, Cllr Martin Greig, Inspector Ian McKinnon, Police Scotland

Mr Neill Greig (Planning Applicant) accompanied by Legal Representative Ms Sarah Graham.

**Apologies:** Joe McCallan (Committee), Rhona McCallan (Committee), Dana Blyth (Committee), Cllr John Corall, Cllr Jennifer Stewart

**Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of 02 February 2016:** The adoption of the minutes was proposed by Allan Davidson and seconded by Robert Frost.

No member was otherwise minded. Therefore the minutes were adopted as correct.

**Police Report:** Inspector McKinnon reported that acquisitive crime is a main concern – involving garages which are situated in the lanes behind the streets in the West of the city. Eight garage doors were forced open, there was not a lot of property stolen. Some of the garages in the lanes not much used. Therefore the owners are difficult to trace.

A Member of the public witnessed a bike being stolen and informed the Police. The stolen property was recovered and the thieves were arrested. Inspector McKinnon advised that if something doesn't feel right in the street, phone it in. If a crime is phoned in as on-going, the response is always quick.

Aryhall hasn't had many incidents of crime since the last reporting period. The police don't wait to get to crime wave levels. There was a crime wave where a number of cars were broken into. However, blood at the scene of one of the break-ins provided DNA evidence which led to the arrest of one of the perpetrators. If there is nothing to be seen in a vehicle then they could open an unlocked door to have a rummage inside. If the vehicle is locked and nothing is on show inside it, they will move on. If property is left in sight in a locked car, they will smash a window in an attempt to steal it, even though it could be of little value. Inspector McKinnon recommended the installation of cheap contact

alarms on garages and explained how they are activated. There is a possibility of having a crime prevention stand again at B and Q.

**Matters Arising from Meeting of 02 February 2016:** Public meeting with First in Airyhall Community Centre:- Aileen Brown reported that the event was well attended. There was also good attendance by management team of First, headed by Mr David Phillips Managing Director. Councillor Ross Thomson reported that, in addition to First's management team, an officer from the Public Transport Unit. The Council Officer was unaware of the problems that the changes to the bus service had caused the community. Funding has been secured for the evening service and the day route which includes the Mannofield shops. The services have to go out to tender after timetable is drawn up. Councillor Thomson has a further meeting with first after the budget is drawn up. Councillor Thomson said that we need to promote the community transport: raise awareness of service amongst those who are isolated. Aileen Brown said that library room was ample and it was like a social event. Aileen recalled that the event was well planned. Councillor Thomson said cards giving information about community transport are available in Densat Court. Cards will be placed in the library.

Friends of Johnston Gardens: Aileen was impressed by the constructiveness of the inaugural meeting. It was well attended. The main speaker was Gary Walker, Chair of Friends of Hazlehead Park. Mr Walker pledged £1,000 from Friends of Hazlehead to Friends of Johnston Gardens. Aileen came away with the feeling that the work will get done. There will be a link with the Gordons Club in respect of tea and coffee etc. It was a very inspiring meeting which was also attended by Mr Sandy Scott, Aberdeen City Council Parks and Countryside Officer, who was very helpful in giving advice and guidance. Councillor Thomson said that the next step is to organise a walk about with Sandy Scott. If interested in joining, email Councillor Thomson.

Payment for the use of the Douglas Lounge for our monthly meetings: Allan Davidson proposed that we pay from the start of the financial year by remitting one lump sum to the Church as payment for the ensuing twelve months.

The hourly cost is £12 (£24 per meeting). Therefore the annual outlay amounts to  $12 \times £24 = £288$ . The proposal was seconded by William Sell. There being no amendments, the motion was carried.

**Treasures Report:** Allan reported that the bank account amounts to £1396.95. the operating grant is due in mid-April and we will pay the Church.

A picnic in the grounds of the Church is planned for 9th June to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday. We will contribute financially.

**Correspondence:** None.

**Planning Officer's Report and Planning Matters:** Robert reported that there is no update on the development which is proposed for the former Dobbies site. New fencing has been erected at that site. The saga of the planning permission for Dandara's sales pod is ongoing. Planning permission expired on 13th June last year. Since meeting with the Planning officer last Autumn, there has been no evidence of it going to the Planning Committee. The pod remains in use despite having no planning permission. We have looked at the situation again with Cllr Greig, who reported actions to the Community Council. Councillor Thomson said that the Planning Officer responsible had stated at a meeting that the planning application is going through the process. Councillor Thomson informed us that there is a large volume of applications and the Planning Department is short staffed.

Allan noticed changes at the north pond on the Dandara site. The outlet to the burn is blocked off. Robert said that it looks like they are trying to line the pond. Robert will contact the Site Manager to obtain an explanation for the activity at the north end of the site. Building work has slowed down.

There is a planning democracy presentation on 17 March which will be attended by Robert and Allan. This training event will take place in the Council chamber.

**Forum for members of the Public:** Mr Neil Greig thanked the Community Council for the opportunity to discuss his planning application (Planning Application Reference No. 150311 - Subdivision of residential curtilage and erection of a new dwelling house {Detailed planning Permission}). The proposed development is on an elevated site which forms part of the garden ground of 22 Kinaldie Crescent and overlooks the Walker Dam.

Aileen Brown reported that she had visited the site and commented on the number of mature trees, which appeared to be at risk from being felled in order to facilitate the development. The trees pre-date the proposal for development and therefore should not be removed by the developer. Mr Greig said there is a lot of guidance available in respect of trees on development sites. He also stated that he had no intention to damage trees or the core path. Mr Greig stated that he would replant trees on the Walker Dam site. Allan Davidson said that it's a wildlife area and asked Mr. Greig if he was fencing off the site. Allan asked, "How do you delineate the boundary of your site?" Mr. Greig replied to the

effect that the boundary could be marked off by a kerb. Allan then raised questions concerning the site plan in relation to Walker Dam green space. Mr Greig explained that the boundary cannot be legally breached and the line of the site was identified on the plan.

Aileen Brown suggested that further discussion should be deferred until the next meeting when a member of the Planning Department would be present to provide guidance. William was instructed to invite Mr Gavin Evans, Planning officer responsible for the proposed project, to our April meeting. Mr Greig explained that the main issue is with the protection of the trees. The tree protection conditions to be complied with were explained. Allan Davidson asked about their protection of the tree roots during the construction of the proposed access to the site. Agent Sarah Graham explained that a membrane will be in place prior to event of the construction traffic.

It transpired during discussions that the planning application is not likely to be heard by the Planning Committee before April. AD raised the possibility that there could be a legal obstacle to the driveway going through the amenity area.

**AOCB:** Ainsley Mitchell received a complaint regarding a box under bus shelter. A hole had been left open in shelter for 10 - 12 days. Ainsley said that the box is a hazard because of its jagged condition. it is under the bench. Cllr Ross Thomson will follow this up with the Council. Robert Frost and Ainsley Mitchell are going to the Forum meeting and will report back. Allan Davidson is going to the Treasurers' Planning Meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> March.

**Date of Next Meeting:** Tuesday 5th April, 7.30 pm in the Douglas Lounge.