

Craigiebuckler and Seafield Community Council

Minutes of Meeting of 7th June 2016

7.30 pm, The Douglas Lounge, Craigiebuckler Church

Present: Aileen Brown (Chair), Councillor Martin Greig, David Adam (Depot Operations Manager for First, Aberdeen), Dana Blyth, Karen Reilly, Ainsley Mitchell and William Sell.

Apologies: Cllr Ross Thomson, Cllr John Corall, Robert Frost, Rhona McCallan, Joe McCallan, Cllr Jennifer Stewart, Caroline Walker.

Guest Speaker: Mr David Adam, Depot Operations Manager, First, Aberdeen:- Mr Adam explained that part of his remit is to speak to communities about First's bus services. He then informed the meeting that First Bus have been awarded the tender for the evening service. Mr Adam then explained the new evening and Sunday timetables and bus routes. The evening service times are a continuation of the day timetables. The last bus will leave Guild Street at 10pm on Sundays. From Monday to Saturday, it will leave at 11pm. The services could have run more frequently if more funding had been available. Mr Adam provided leaflets for the Community Council to deliver to residents informing them of the new service arrangements. The council is funding the service because of social need as opposed to commercial enterprise.

Approval of Minutes of Meeting of 03 May 2016: The adoption of the minutes was proposed by Karen Reilly and seconded by Allan Davidson. No amendments were proposed. Therefore the motion to adopt the minutes was carried.

Police Report: Sergeant Emily Hesp and Constable Stacy Harper:- Garages and sheds are still being broken into. On occasions people responsible have been caught. There is not a high volume of these incidents, but they are still on going. Garages down lanes are particularly vulnerable. Advice has been given to garage owners about the security of their property. Some of lanes are not overlooked and this encourages opportunists.

Officers will be attending the public celebrations for Her Majesty the Queen's birthday.

Ainsley asked if bicycles are still being stolen. He was informed that, unfortunately, they are being stolen from open garages or sheds; quite often by opportunists.

Matters Arising from Meeting of 03 May 2016: Meeting with Stephen Shaw, Aberdeen City Council:- Allan reported that he had met with Stephen Shaw to discuss

a proposed alteration to the direction of the core path. Allan and Stephen cleaned up the burn which flows into Walker Dam. The core path will be looked at and Stephen Shaw will be back in touch.

Aileen complained about the worsening pothole situation in the area of the Community Council. This was noted by Martin Greig. In the opinion of the meeting, the repairs were inadequate and of short duration. Karen said that Council were relying on traffic to consolidate the patches of tar. William said that unless the patches were compressed by a heavy roller, they were just a waste of tar.

Correspondence: William read out the following emailed items of correspondence:-

- ✦ Papers for the Forum meeting on 16 May sent by Isobel Mcleod .
- ✦ Community Empowerment Act. Focus Group requested by Karen Rennie
- ✦ From karen Rennie:- “Planning Aid Scotland and the possibility of them coming back to Aberdeen to deliver more training around Planning and specifically around material considerations and Planning Gain.”
Allan and Dana expressed their interest in furthering their planning training if Planning Aid, Scotland returns to Aberdeen.
- ✦ In reply to an email from a resident inquiring about the commencement of First's evening service, Councillor Ross Thomson wrote: “On Tuesday this week the proposals for the subsidised services were approved by the Communities Housing and infrastructure committee. After that decision First Bus were sent a letter advising them that they have been awarded the tender for the evening service. First have advised this will begin on 13th June, subject to approval from the traffic commissioner.”
- ✦ On 25th May William emailed Martin Greig about the rogue parking on the new single yellow line at the Craigiebuckler Avenue/Springfield Road junction. Martin promptly replied as follows: “Thank you for this information and photos. It is very frustrating that the lines are being ignored. I will chase up as it is important that drivers firstly observe the rules and secondly get out of the habit of parking here.”
- ✦ On 26th May Martin further emailed me to say: “The wardens say they will take action on this. I will provide more details asap. Many thanks.”
- ✦ Dated 31 May. Invitation by John Wilson AWPR Managing Agent. Letter forwarded by karen Rennie. Circulated to all members:-
- ✦ “Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route/Balmedie to Tippetty Project (AWPR/B-T) Project update:-

- ⤴ A presentation on the AWPR/B-T project, which will be followed by an opportunity to ask questions, will take place on Tuesday 21 June
- ⤴ between 6.30pm to 8.30pm in the Council Chamber, Aberdeenshire Council, Woodhill House, Westburn Road, Aberdeen, AB16 5GB
- ⤴ A representative from your Community Council is invited to attend and find out more about the construction of the project.”
- ⤴ Rubislaw Park Nursing Home extension – email from Resident: “I was very surprised (and disappointed) that planning approval had been given without any of the neighbours having been notified. This is surely wrong? Will your Council raise this issue with Aberdeen Council or should I do that directly?”

- ⤴ I replied to the effect that this matter would be raised at our Community Council meeting. Aileen attended the meeting and reported that people had a number of concerns, e.g., parking and increased traffic. 17 people attended the meeting. Only two people received notifications.
- ⤴
- ⤴ The following emailed report was provided by Councillor Ross Thomson:-
- ⤴ “Despite the upheaval of the last few weeks and now finding myself going to and from Edinburgh I have still been working on local issues within our community.

Friends of Johnston Gardens:

- ⤴ You might recall that at the beginning of the year I held a public meeting to try and establish a Friends of Johnston Gardens Group, particularly given the successful Friends of Hazlehead, Walker dam and Denburn which are on our doorstep. I had a very good turn out at the meeting and I'm really pleased that good progress has been made with the Friends holding their first volunteer day two weeks ago where we had a good turnout on a Saturday morning and undertook some planting. It was really good fun. The committee has a meeting organised for 13th June, 7pm at airyhall Primary Community room 1.

If you are interested in getting involved please don't hesitate to drop me an email or to come along to the meeting on the 13th June.”

Bus Service

As you know I was successful in getting the Council to financially support a shuttlebus service in the Craigiebuckler/Airyhall area and to re-instate the Evening service that was lost in 2012. The services should be up and running in June and I have organised a public meeting for Saturday 18th June, 2pm to 4pm at Airyhall School to present the new services to local people and for the Council's transport unit to take any questions. From the public meeting I organised in October to the public meeting I will hold in June we have made great progress and have a constructive solution to a very real problem.

Teacher vacancies:

We still have crippling teacher vacancies in our schools. Angela Constance came to the North East in September last year as part of the Council's education summit to hear from seven individual councils, from Orkney and Shetland down to Moray and Aberdeenshire, all united in concern over the future of our children's education. The message could not have been clearer. We needed to see urgent action from Scottish Government to address a problem that was already at crisis point. That was eight months ago, and I am now told that education officials have heard nothing from civil servants at Holyrood since. People across the North of Scotland will rightly be asking why, after serving up warm words in countless TV, radio and newspaper interviews, the Education Secretary appears to have turned a deaf ear to our problems that are affecting schools across the North East, Highlands and Islands.

I have now written to John Swinney, seeking a renewed focus on this issue.”

Karen commented that the teacher shortage problem will sort itself out because of downturn in the oil industry Former oil workers will diversify by training as teachers..

Martin explained that financial assistance is needed to encourage teachers to this area because the cost of living is still high.

✧ Email forwarded by Karen Rennie, Community Council Liaison Officer, Aberdeen City Council. Dated 02 June 2016.

✧ “Her Majesty The Queen’s 90th Birthday
Service of Thanksgiving and Celebration, 12 June 2016”

✧ To mark Her Majesty’s official birthday weekend, a special service of thanksgiving and celebration will be held in Aberdeen at the city’s “Mither Kirk”. The Lord Provost and other public representatives will be in attendance and it is hoped that your organisation would be represented.

- ⤴ The service will be held on Sunday 12 June at the Kirk of St Nicholas Uniting, Back Wynd, Aberdeen, starting at 3.00pm.
- ⤴ This is a general invitation for anyone who wishes to join the congregation for this special occasion. Please do pass on the invitation to anyone you think may be interested in attending. There is no need to RSVP.

Yours faithfully

Councillor George Adam Lord Provost of Aberdeen.”

- ⤴ From Karen Rennie re Community Consultation re the consultation on Digital City and the Digital Platform:-

- ⤴ “I hope that this helps to clarify the issue relating to the digital platform and the involvement of Community Councils. This has come about following a few questions as to why the programme was not happening as was described at a Forum meeting and then followed up with various emails.”

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Sent:Aberdeen City Council Customer Service Manager on 03 June 2016 09:20

To: Karen Rennie

Subject: FW: May Fest Query - Community Consultation on Digital City & the Digital Platform”

- ⤴ “I have been copied into some of the emails this week concerning the involvement of the Community Councils in helping to move forward the Councils Digital ambitions. I thought it would be useful for me to reply to you and to ask that you forward onto the relevant Community Councils leaders.
- ⤴ Picking up on the email threads and the background, then it is clear that the recent communication (circa End of March) has caused some confusion and perhaps a sense of us not wanting to involve the Community Councils in the project. Please let me apologise for that confusion (that was certainly not the intention) and reassure you that as the project progresses, we will be seeking the input and thoughts of a number of customers, community groups and other interested parties. This certainly includes the Community Councils.
- ⤴ The digital project is quite a large and complex one that involves a lot of detailed planning, procurement and best practice approach. We are still going through the tender / procurement stage and so don’t even know the company /
- ⤴ platform that we will be working with to enable us to deliver our digital ambitions. It is therefore prudent to ensure we approach the project in a timely manner and involve the right people / groups at the right stages. In essence, we want the Community Councils to be engaged and provide us with their views

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- ✧ and thoughts and this will be better focussed on the actual services that will be part of Phase 1 of the digital rollout. (These are detailed below). This way we can maximise their input (and that of other representative groups) and make sure that we value their input but also don't waste their time, energy and enthusiasm.”

The services that have been identified for Phase 1 of the digital customer service delivery programme include:-

Waste and Recycling
Environmental Services
Roads
Street Lighting
Trees, grounds and parks maintenance
Environmental Health
Trading Standards
Complaints
Compliments
Comments/Suggestions
Members Enquiries
MSP enquiries
FOI
Accord Card
HR Service Centre enquiries
School and nursery applications

- ✧ Emailed report received from Councillor Jennifer Stewart at 18.03 on 7th June.
- ✧ Jennifer's report conveys good news about the issue pertaining the closures of Hazlehead and Kincorth swimming pools. Along with her group colleagues she was successful in referring their motion to full council. It will be discussed in full council at the end of the month. Their petition against the closures is still on line on Facebook and can be signed. It is at “Save Hazlehead and Kincorth Pool.”
- ✧ Along with Councillor Greig, Jennifer had a productive morning in Johnston Gardens planting bulbs, supporting the community and working hard to enhance the area. Martin and Jennifer are continuing to support “Friends of Johnson Gardens” and doing all they can to help.
- ✧ Jennifer also reported that she is still working on the matter regarding our complaint concerning the failure of a Council Planning Officer to respond to our Planning Officer's inquiries pertaining to the planning consent status of a

“temporary” sales office on the site of a major housing development.

- ▲ Jennifer is also working on many local issues; traffic and parking still being of concern to some residents. She also expressed her thanks to our members for all their hard work.

Martin explained the motion that Jennifer and he proposed to the committee detailing their opposition to the pool closures. They also wanted Sport Aberdeen to keep the pools open and have a public consultation. The whole quantity of pool users are not being recorded either. The committee voted 7/7 for and against but the Convener had the casting vote and voted against. However they managed to get it referred to full Council.

Treasurers Report: Allan reported that he had received the operating grant of £747.66. We no have a total of £1315.41 in the bank.

Planning Officer's Report and Planning Matters: Received by email and read out by William.

“I have sent an email to Gavin Evans of the planning department asking for an update on the sales pod planning application as we have heard nothing from the planning department. If I don't hear anything I can email senior planners but maybe we should write a letter of complaint to the Chief Executive? Martin Greig did this but didn't get a satisfactory response.

Martin also forwarded a drainage map of the survey the flooding team carried out. The grassed area "Culter bypass" is classified as Significant Damp Areas, they say Dandara is not responsible ie no direct effect and indications are the problem is caused by soil type, along with an increase in the water table level. This is causing the area to become wet and remain wet for longer periods of time. There has also been an increase in the run off along local paths and neighbouring properties which will be contributing to the problem. The best solution to resolve the issue would be the inclusion of land drains and to connect these to the existing watercourse. The Flooding Team can support and assist with design, but unfortunately would not be able to fund the works as the issue although inconvenient does not present a flood risk.

Maybe we can ask for a grant or get another department to fund the work.”

The planning report was given by William. Members commented on the reason given by the Council for the lack of need for Dandara to have current planning consent for their sales pod.

Extension to Rubislaw Nursing Home:- Aileen reported that there will be 16 new beds when the development is completed. A meeting, which took place in the Home and was chaired by the Director of Nursing, had an attendance of 17 Residents, all of whom had concerns about the capacity of the neighbouring roads infrastructure to accommodate the inevitable increases traffic and parked vehicles.

Martin Greig explained that it was thought that there would be safety issues, but fears have been allayed. There will be another meeting on 16th June in Rubislaw Nursing Home. All concerned residents should attend this meeting so that further issues with the effects of the development, during and after construction, can be aired. The roads infrastructure in the vicinity of the development is likely to be adversely affected by a marked increase in vehicular movements (e.g., large vehicles utilised for deliveries to the home as well as those used in connection with delivering materials to the site of the development).

Visitor parking at Rubislaw Nursing Home will increase as a result of its enhanced capacity. Consequently this will compel visitors to park in neighbouring streets such as Springfield Avenue. Those streets are narrow and already lined with parked vehicles to the point that residents have experienced difficulties in parking in their driveways or, conversely, negotiating vehicular access to the public road from their driveways. Furthermore, the planned restaurant and amenities at Rubislaw Quarry are likely to compound the parking problems in those streets because there will be nowhere else for customers to park their cars.

Forum for Members of the Public : There were no members of the public present.

A.O.C.B. Donation to 'Friends of Walker Dam':- Allan has identified two locations around Walker Dam for erecting notice boards, which will provide information to members of the public. Their costs will be 6-800 pounds. Allan also gave examples of the type of information they would provide. The notice boards can be bought through the Council at a discounted rate. The Council will also provide a financial contribution towards their costs.

Dana proposed that we contribute £300. The proposal was seconded by Aileen . Their being no amendments, the motion was carried.

Parking in Springfield Avenue:- To be discussed at next meeting because situation has changed since it was requested to put this issue on the agenda for this meeting.

Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 2nd August at 7.30 pm in the Douglas Lounge, Craigiebuckler Church Hall.