

Craigiebuckler and Seafield Community Council

Minutes of the Meeting which commenced at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 4th July in the Douglas Lounge, Craigiebuckler Church Hall

Present – Councillor John Cook, Sergeant Lewis Dolby, Aileen Brown (Chair), William Sell (Secretary), Robert Frost (Planning Officer), Dana Blyth, Karen Reilly, Caroline Walker, Ainsley Mitchell, Daniel Laird (Manager, First Aberdeen); Residents Yvonne Heald, Prudence King, and Steve Robertson.

Apologies – Joe McCallan, Rhona McCallan, Cameron Campbell (Treasurer), Councillor Martin Greig and Councillor Jennifer Stewart.

Welcome – Aileen welcomed everyone and introduced Councillor John Cook.

Approval of Minutes of the Meeting of 6th June – Proposed by William Sell
Seconded by Caroline Walker.

Police Report – Sergeant Dolby began by reporting the occurrences of acquisitive crime. There were two incidents of theft by housebreaking, one in Mannofield and one in Hazlehead. These were caused by leaving house doors open. The Police Officers who attend Community Council meetings try to emphasise the importance of locking doors. There were two vehicle thefts during the reporting period

Sergeant Dolby explained that the vast majority of crimes of substance abuse are street based. During the recent music festival in Hazlehead Park, twenty five individuals were found with illegal drugs. Passive dogs at the entrances detected them.

Stolen Bicycles – The introduction of Operation Lathe has led to the recovery of twenty five with eleven people charged. Operation lathe will be extended for another fortnight.

Matters Arising from the Meeting of 06 June 2017 – Choked drain in Cragiebuckler Drive: This drain remains choked. During recent heavy rain, a pond formed across the South end of Craigiebuckler Drive. This time the water was clouded by silt.

The Scout Hut was flooded on one occasion of prolonged heavy rainfall because of the choked drain.

Councillor John Cook took note of the location of the drain and stated that he would pursue this issue with the Council.

Matters Arising Continued – Donation to Hazlehead Academy School Library: On the evening of 13th June, Aileen and William visited Hazlehead Academy Library. Aileen presented the cheque for £100 to Claire Scott, Librarian. The cheque was gratefully received. The Librarian now has funds to purchase almost 650 books.

Correspondence – Aileen invited members to raise questions pertaining to items of emailed correspondence.

Latest news about Walker Dam- An early morning (5am) clean up of the burn took place when Allan Davidson – 'Friends of Walker Dam' – and a team of volunteers gathered litter and other objects from it. It looks well again, thanks to Allan and the team of volunteers.

Karen reported that there is an increase in the number of ducklings inhabiting the dam. The improvements to the amenity are very noticeable.

Treasurer's Report – Cameron is on holiday, but will give the report on his return.

Planning Officer's Report and Planning Matters – Robert presented an excellently detailed report which included a narrative of our representation to Aberdeen City Council in respect of Dandara's planning application to construct an 83 bedroom care home at the Hazledene end of their site. Concerns were expressed about the dominant massing of the proposed building; its visual impact – especially when viewed from Hazlehead Park playing field; increased traffic on Hazledene Road (during and after the construction phase) and adverse implications for the environment such as the possibility of Walker Dam being polluted by silt. The site has, historically, been plagued by flooding. Robert explained that the views of local residents, which were recorded during a public meeting on 23rd May, formed the basis of our representation.

The application has been passed to the Development Management Committee, which will be in session on 20th July.

Robert also reported on a number of minor planning applications in our area.

Damage to the publicly owned green space known as the “Coulter By Pass”. - Robert also included a report on the extent of the damage caused by a large tracked mechanical excavator and various other heavy vehicles being driven on this popular amenity. Robert included photographs of the severity of the damage. Concerns were expressed about the reinstatement of the extensively damaged area. The excavations are being carried out at the instigation of Scottish Water in order to establish a new sewage connection behind Springfield Place.

Mention was also made about the publicised improvements, which have been made to Pets Corner in Hazlehead Park at a cost of £750,000.

Karen reported that, on a recent visit to Pets Corner, she could see nothing there to justify the expenditure – except the improved toilets. The pond was green with algae and the place looked neglected.

Forum for Members of the Public – No one had any concerns to report.

A.O.C.B. - Mr Daniel Laird, Manager, First Aberdeen informed us that the 15A evening service is going well and the Council will extend its subsidy for another year. The 15 day service is getting busier. New ticket machines and 'contactless payment' have been introduced.

The 15 and 15A will not be affected by the service changes due in August.

There are no foreseeable changes to those services.

Changes to the bus service to the Crematorium have resulted in its extension to Kingswells.

Aileen mentioned that the bus is too full when school students from Robert Gordon's and St Margaret's are travelling home in the afternoons.

Tickets are being issued for destinations beyond that stated by passengers. This will be investigated.

Dana reported that a drain on Seafield Drive West is blocked. Councillor John Cook said that he would communicate this to The Council.

Councillor Cook also encouraged us to contact him if we know of any other issues in our area.

Next Meeting – Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 1st August at 7.30 pm in the Douglas Lounge, Craigiebuckler Church Hall.