

CRAIGIEBUCKLER AND SEAFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of monthly meeting held on Tuesday 5th December 2017 at 7.30 pm in the Douglas Lounge, Craigiebuckler Church.

Present

Aileen Brown, Cameron Campbell, Robert Frost, Rhona McCallan, Joe McCallan, Ainsley Mitchell, William Sell, Cllr Martin Greig,

Apologies

Dana Blyth, Cllr Jennifer Stewart, First Bus Representative.

Minutes of the last Meeting:-

Proposed: Robert Frost

Seconded: Ainsley Mitchell

Matters arising out of the Minutes of the last Meeting

Craigiebuckler Church Seniors Club - Donation by this CC. - William telephoned Janice Gill, Senior's Club, who accepted his offer to donate £35 towards their Festive Season celebrations.

Ms Gill was pleased to accept the offer. Therefore William proposed that a cheque for £35 is made out to Craigiebuckler Church and forwarded by the Secretary to Janice Gill. William will also forward a receipt for Janice Gill to sign and a return envelope.

Proposed: Rhona McCallan

Seconded: Aileen Brown

The CC has also offered to fund the annual Craigiebuckler Church Christmas Tree and we await their response. Notional cost £176.00.

Police Report

Cllr Greig summarised the report on behalf of the police intimating that there were relatively low levels of crime and nuisance reports in the area for the preceding month. Continued vigilance was required particularly as we approach the Christmas period.

Correspondence

All email correspondence had been forwarded to members and there were no matters arising.

Treasurer's Report

Cameron Campbell, Treasurer, informed the meeting that the balance in our account is £843.30. The proposed donation of £300 to ACC for the Festive Season decorative street lights was still to be accounted for.

Discussion with City Councillors

A row of mature trees behind the gardens on the South side of Springfield Avenue have been felled by a contractor employed by Aberdeen City Council. The contractor

took access from Springfield Road, over the grassed area leading to the trees, and left a churned up mess of mud and debris.

The once-private back gardens of residents' homes can now be viewed, in plain sight, from Springfield Road. We believe that the trees should have been pruned, but not felled.

It is hoped that the Arboriculture Officer of Aberdeen City Council halts the felling of the remaining trees and arranges for the area to be reinstated.

Cllr Greig advised he would investigate and contact Richard Nicholson for more information.

Cllr Greig thanked the CC for their donation towards the provision of the decorative street lights.

Closure of Airyhall School Car Park: A resident wrote:

"I have just heard that Airyhall Primary School have decided to close the school car park to parents and carers from next Monday. I live on Countesswells road, and I know how dangerous this road is. Having the car park closed is a ridiculous idea. It is forcing parents to park here and have their children exit cars onto the road. This road is too busy with commuting traffic as well as lorries for the Dandara and Stuart Milne building sites. Is there anything that can be done about this? A child may be killed if this is allowed to happen."

Cllr Greig had discussed the situation with the head teacher and was sympathetic to the problem. Several other schools in Aberdeen had taken similar action and it was all due to the selfish and dangerous practices of a few parents when dropping off their children. Despite warnings the just did not change their bad habits. The use of cctv to identify the miscreants and fine them may be one answer.

Unfortunately the knock-on effect to the junctions and roads around the school may not stop dangerous parking in the surrounding area.

Cllr Greig advised that the CC boundaries revision report was coming to council on Monday 11th December and the inclusion of Hazlehead in our CC area did not appear to be on the cards.

Planning Report

The planning report was presented by Robert.

1. Hill of Rubislaw Development:

Further plans were to be issued in November, but so far no details submitted.

2. Planning Application for 22 Kinaldie Crescent:

The CC had completed its response and its concerns regarding the effects on wildlife at Walker Dam.

3. A letter of support had been sent to the council planning department regarding the application by Ben Reid Garden Centre to build a farm shop on their premises.

4. The application to open a coffee shop at the former Morrison's self service shop on Seafield Road had provoked a few objections regarding parking, noise and potential cooking smells.

5. Two other applications for single storey extensions were also submitted for Kildrummy Road and Woodburn Crescent.

Traffic Report

Road closures are worsening the already congested traffic situation in this area. Springfield Road is becoming almost inaccessible for traffic turning right from Craigiebuckler Avenue at its junction beside the Church. It is our opinion that the traffic management on Queens Road and Springfield Road is woefully inadequate. There is no strategy to tackle the congestion at the various pinch points.

Cllr Greig agreed to investigate further and ask what changes, if any, are proposed.

Civic Forum Report

William attended the meeting of 28th November.

The attendance was 10, including the Chair and Vice-chair. That was rather disappointing considering that there are 20+ Community Councils in the City.

It was reported that the CEO of ACC attended the last meetings of both the Civic Forum and The Community Council Forum.

The Civic Forum is about giving Citizens a voice in decisions about community planning and the City's master plan.

Some difficult decisions have had to be made by the City Council, which is looking at reducing funding for extracurricular activities in schools. This is a contentious subject, particularly when it is well known that such activities contribute to mental health.

Community Councils and other community groups are Civic Leaders and civic leadership is about how we can give more people a voice.

My observation on that comment is that we can't provide a voice for a public who take no interest in Community Councils.

There is a shortage of teachers and schools will be getting less money from the Council until more teachers are recruited.

The Civic Forum needs to know more about the new Council directorates if they want it to work with them.

The financial cut to the youth festival was mentioned at the meeting.

The Big Noise is about getting young people involved in music and playing musical instruments with all the benefits for their health and wellbeing.

It was reported that consultations on designs for Union Terrace Gardens are still on-going.

The website for the Civic Forum is civicforumaberdeen.com

The Forum meets on the last Tuesday of the month. The next meeting is 30th January 2018.

Publicity

Nothing to report.

A.O.C.B.

The Review of Community Council Governance:

This review is nearing completion and will be made available to Community Councils.

Parking at Hazlehead Park:

Robert asked Cllr Greig if he could pursue the erection of a sign advising motorists of additional parking down towards the football pitches as it appears not many are aware of this facility when the main car park is full.

Date of next Meeting

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